

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Taste, Smell in Water Harmless, Temporary Condition

SUFFOLK, Va. (October 22, 2008) – Some Suffolk Water Utility customers living near the downtown area may have recently notice a variation in the taste or smell of their tap water. This temporary condition is an infrequent result of seasonal changes in surface water sources and is no hazard to consumers. Customers who may notice an earthy taste or smell in their tap water should not be alarmed.

Suffolk officials advise the taste and odor is the result of recent environmental factors in the lakes that feed into the City of Portsmouth Lake Kilby Water Treatment facility, which provides potable water to the downtown and southern areas of the City. Temperature changes have resulted in the lakes' strata turning over and some increased algae growth.

The Suffolk Department of Public Utilities advises that the City of Portsmouth Water Treatment Facility is aware of the aesthetic change in the treated water and measures have been implemented to assist in correcting this seasonal issue. It is anticipated that the earthy taste and smell should dissipate over the next several days.

Despite the fluctuations in the taste and smell of the water, Suffolk's tap water continues to meet all regulatory standards, and it is stressed that the City of Suffolk's Water is safe to drink.

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