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Dear Mound Residents,

As a City of Mound Resident, you are receiving this letter as a notice regarding the city's municipal drinking water supply which serves all residents, households, and local businesses within the City.

The City of Mound and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) routinely conduct water analysis testing to monitor water quality. Recent testing indicated the city's drinking water supply complies with the Safe Drinking Water Act primary drinking water standards. However, the testing indicated elevated levels of manganese greater than the MDH recommended health advisory guideline levels.

What is Manganese:

Manganese is a naturally occurring element found in rocks and soil and is usually present in Minnesota ground and surface water. Your body needs some manganese to stay healthy but too much can be harmful. Elevated levels of Manganese can pose a health risk to sensitive populations. The city has 2 wells that are tested for manganese, and both have tested above the MDH health advisory guideline of 300 parts per billion (ppb). Manganese concentration in the City of Mound source water ranges from 470 ppb to 750 ppb. Learn more by visiting the MDH webpage for manganese at <http://bit.ly/MDHmanganese>

Minnesota Department of Health Guidelines for Manganese:

Manganese is an unregulated compound in well sourced water and does not have an enforceable standard. However, the MDH recommended health guidelines include consideration of the following:

- If you have an infant who drinks tap water or drinks formula made with tap water, a safe level of manganese in your water is 100 ppb of manganese or less
- The safe level for consumption for anyone over the age of 12 months who drinks tap water is 300 ppb of manganese or less

City Solution:

The city is currently working with our engineering consultants and MDH to determine possible short-term and long-term treatment options to reduce the manganese levels in the city's drinking water. The city has undertaken a formal engineering study effort to determine the treatment solutions that will be most cost effective to address the noted levels.

Recommended Actions:

There are several things residents can do to reduce manganese levels in the water.

- Ensure that the filter in your refrigerator water dispenser replaced according to the manufacturer's recommended intervals
- Purchase a water filter pitcher, a filtering unit to attach to your faucet, or whole home filtering system. These systems require the filter media replaced according to the manufacturer's recommended intervals
- Working with a residential water treatment company such as Culligan or Kinetico, to install a point of use water system certified for manganese removal
- Purchase bottled water for consumption that is labeled "purified" for drinking, cooking, and preparing infant formula.
- More information is available from the Minnesota Department of Health about Home Water Treatment <http://bit.ly/MDHhomewater>