



Westlock Regional Water System

Changes in your Water

On **Tuesday, January 31, 2012**, the Westlock Water Treatment Plant will begin the commissioning process to switch the current water treatment process from using chlorine to chloramine disinfectants. This process is expected to take 2 to 3 days. It is expected that the chloraminated water will be fully into the distribution systems in Westlock, Clyde, and Vimy by February 10, 2012. At any time after January 31, 2012, chloraminated water could be present in your distribution system. Please plan accordingly if you are required to do so.

The current water treatment process uses chlorine disinfection, to ensure the water is free of pathogens. In a regional water system the water must travel farther and therefore ammonia will be added after disinfection (a safe, proven process called chloramination). Water treated in the Town of Westlock will be sent to the Town of Westlock, Village of Clyde and Hamlet of Vimy.

Chloraminated water is safe for drinking by people and animals, and for cooking, bathing, laundry, gardening and all other household uses. It can be used safely by women who are pregnant, for mixing baby formula and

for cleaning cuts, scrapes and wounds. Chloramines do not accumulate in the human body.

However, just as with chlorine, these special groups must remove or neutralize chloramines:

- Kidney dialysis patients
- Owners of aquariums, reptiles, amphibians or backyard ponds
- Restaurants and supermarkets with live seafood tanks
- Processors of photographic materials
- Businesses or laboratories requiring high-purity water

Chloramines cannot be removed by most water-softening equipment, domestic filtration equipment, boiling water, adding salt or exposing water to air. Chloramines can be removed from aquarium water or backyard ponds by inexpensive water conditioners or activated carbon filtration. If you are a dialysis patient with questions about chloramine removal, call the Westlock Regional Healthcare Centre at 780-349-3301.

For more information contact your local municipal office or visit the Westlock Regional Water Services Commission website at: westlockregionalwater.com

