



82 W. Monticello Drive Camano Island WA 98282

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February 16, 2023

Dear Camano Water Association members and customers:

On the 14th of January, Camano Water Association was alerted to a discoloration issue with our water by a concerned CWA member. Upon investigation, it was found that the issue itself had been caused by an overfeed of sodium potassium permanganate into our treated water from a solenoid injection pump. Sodium potassium permanganate (SPP) is a standard element of our treatment process and serves as an oxidant with which we can reduce the amounts iron and manganese in the water we treat. It is also worth noting that SPP is an NSF (formerly the National Sanitation Foundation) 60 rated solution that is safely (and regularly) utilized within the water treatment process.

Upon notification of the water issue, the pump was immediately taken offline, and to prevent more pink water from entering into the distribution system, we needed to also flush the reservoirs within our system. After cycling approximately 200,000 gallons of water from the various tanks, and then refilling them, we were ready to begin flushing the distribution system by January 16th. The distribution system flush allowed us to remove another 200,000 gallons of discolored water from the system.

Once the situation was under control, we were in contact with the Dept. of Health regarding our response to the problem. Having explained the way that we chose to tackle the problem, the DoH was satisfied with both the timeliness and specific mitigation tactics of our response. While CWA has not experienced this issue before, we are using the situation to help define our priorities moving forward. The immediate change we will be making is to add a permanganate analyzer to our treatment system. Once integrated, the device will be monitored and controlled through our Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to prevent any issues like this from occurring in the future.

Please contact the Camano Water Association office at (360) 387-9136 or info@camanowater.com for more information. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Board of Trustees
Camano Water Association