



Vauxhall & District Regional Water Services Commission

Noticeable Water Taste/Odour Issues

UPDATE #4: Noticeable Water Taste/Odour Issues

The Vauxhall and District Regional Water Services Commission is providing a status update with respect to the ongoing taste/odour issue in Vauxhall, Enchant, and Hays.

Upon further testing, the Vauxhall Water Treatment Plant (WTP) can confirm that there were elevated levels of Geosmin (GSM) and 2-methylisoborneol (2-MIB) in the raw water reservoirs. GSM and 2-MIB are naturally occurring compounds responsible for the poor taste and odour. Surface water can experience seasonal elevated levels of GSM and 2-MIB when aquatic vegetation dies and begins naturally decomposing. GSM and 2-MIB are some of the most difficult compounds to remove during water treatment.

These organic compounds do not pose a health risk or require further treatment from a health standpoint, but the human nose is extremely sensitive to GSM and 2-MIB, which can be detected by some people at very low levels (as low as 5 parts per trillion). For residents who are sensitive, we recommend using an activated carbon water filter pitcher, such as a Brita, to help absorb the GSM which may further reduce the taste and odour that some are experiencing.

Our next steps moving forward, the Vauxhall WTP will be piloting an algaecide addition project in the spring to help mitigate algae growth. The algaecide will be certified to meet NSF standard 60, which is the standard for drinking water treatment.

We recognize the inconvenience and appreciate the ongoing patience and support water users have shown as we continue to work through these challenges doing our utmost to address the situation. The Vauxhall and District Regional Water Services Commission continues to work with its engineering consultant drinking water specialists and the Alberta Environment drinking water specialist within the region.

For any questions or to submit feedback, please use our online tracking system:

<https://www.mdtaber.ab.ca/p/service-tracker>

Category Type: Utility Services

Request Type: Potable Water

This will help us to better track, monitor and respond accordingly.

Learn more about seasonal changes in taste and odour of tap water here:

[mdtaber.ab.ca/p/changes-in-taste-and-odour-of-tap-water](https://www.mdtaber.ab.ca/p/changes-in-taste-and-odour-of-tap-water)