

**PUBLIC NOTICE ISSUED May 8, 2018**  
**VILLAGE OF SHANNON – Water System ID No. IL0150300**  
**\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER\*\***  
**Sample Period: January 2018 through March 2018**

The Village of Shannon has levels of Combined Radium and Gross Alpha at Well No. 4 (Tap 4) and Well No. 1/Well No. 2 (Tap 3) combined that exceed drinking water standards. The purpose of this Public Notice is to let you know that our water system has violated a drinking water standard for the first quarter of 2018. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have the right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

The Village routinely monitors for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) are currently requesting the Village perform quarterly testing for combined Radium-226 and Radium-228 along with Gross Alpha Particle Activity at both public Well supplies in the Village of Shannon. The standard maximum contaminant level (MCL) for combined radium is 5.0 picocuries per liter (pCi/L) and the standard MCL for combined Gross Alpha Particle Activity is 15.0 (pCi/L). It is important for you to understand that it takes 30-45 days for the samples to be analyzed by the State lab for combined radium and gross alpha. Well No. 4 is currently producing 60 percent of the Village Water Supply, and Well No. 1/Well No. 2 combined is also currently producing the other 40 percent of the Village Water Supply. Since the last Public Notice dated January 30, 2018, testing results for combined radium have been as follows:

- 1st Quarter State Sample on February 14, 2018 for Well No. 4 (Shannon Tap 4)
  - Radium 226/228 at 6.0 pCi/L providing a running annual average of 6 pCi/L.
  - Gross Alpha Particle Activity concentration at 6.6 pCi/L with a running annual average of 10 pCi/L.
- 1st Quarter State Sample on February 14, 2018 for Well No. 1/Well No. 2 (Shannon Tap 3)
  - Radium 226/228 at 4.15 pCi/L providing a running annual average of 6 pCi/L.
  - Gross Alpha Particle Activity concentration at 22.5 pCi/L with a running annual average of 15 pCi/L.

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?** - This is not an immediate health risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Per published information, certain minerals are radioactive and may emit radiation known as alpha radiation. Some people who drink water containing Radium-226 and Radium-228 and Gross Alpha emitters in excess of the MCL over many years may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO?** - You do not need to use an alternative water supply, such as bottled water. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective action. However, should you have specific health concerns, you should consult with your doctor. If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly you may be at an increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about this drinking this water.

**HOW TO REDUCE YOUR RISK?** - You may decide to use bottled water for drinking and cooking. You may also choose to install a water softener or a home treatment unit. For example, ion exchange or reverse osmosis devices for homes can reduce radium concentrations.

**WHAT HAPPENED?** - Radium is naturally occurring and certain rock types have naturally occurring trace amounts of radioactive elements. It should be noted that when Well No. 4 was put on line in 2013, the combined radium levels were below 4.0 pCi/L. Well No. 1/Well No. 2 combined radium has been at the MCL level since 2004. Routine sampling of these production Wells found the radium levels had become elevated. Quarterly monitoring will be required by USEPA and IEPA until the water system is brought back into compliance.

**WHAT IS BEING DONE?** - On November 7, 2017, the Village Trustees approved a construction loan from IEPA for all water system project bids. The projects include a new Well House Building, including permanent combined radium treatment equipment, a new Well No. 5, various water main and hydrant replacement/looping, elevated tower painting, and decommissioning of Well House No.1 and Well House No.4 for the Village of Shannon's public water supply. This two-year project will be started in December 2017/January 2018 as weather permitted with well construction. Well House and Treatment Construction with Site Modifications started in April 2018. Village wide water main work is scheduled to start as weather stabilizes. These projects will continue to the end of 2019 for all phases to be completed. As part of the overall financing plan, a new rate structure was put in place in January 2018 by Village Trustees to fund this overall water project with Village user fees as required by the loan. If you have any questions, please contact the Village during normal business hours for assistance. In the interim, the Village of Shannon is continuing to work with USEPA, IEPA, and Fehr Graham to ensure we maintain the most reliable and safe drinking water to the residents of Shannon.

\*For more information regarding combined radium or gross alpha in drinking water, you can visit the IEPA website at [www.epa.illinois.gov](http://www.epa.illinois.gov). Please contact our Village Engineer, Adam Holder of Fehr Graham at 815-235-7643, or Shannon Public Works Director, Jason DeMichele at 815-541-5540, if you have specific questions or concerns regarding the radium or gross alpha concentrations/issue.

\*Please feel free to share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.