



January 20th, 2020

Amana Society, Inc. memo to shareholders regarding nitrates in the water.

On January 6th, the Cedar Rapids Gazette published an article titled *Amana wells tested high for nitrate*. The article stated that in spite of some elevated readings, the Amana Society Service Company was still providing safe drinking water to the community. Nonetheless, the article raised some concerns as some relevant information was omitted.

It's important to note that the nitrate levels below 10 milligrams per liter is considered safe and at no time did nitrate levels in water delivered to the public exceed this level. The Amana water system is fed by 6 operating wells. The water from each well is constantly changing and is often impacted by rain runoff and snow melt. It's not uncommon in farming communities like Amana where fertilizer is applied to the fields to have small amounts of chemicals impact the wells. Thus, each well is tested frequently to ensure chemical levels are within safe standards.

In May 2019 one of the routine tests turned up high nitrate levels in one of the wells. The well was immediately taken out of service. In December, two additional wells tested high and again were taken out of service. The Amana Society Service Company sent its customers a notification letter, posted an alert on both its website and Facebook page, and proceeded to call customers.

The Amana water system is supplied through 6 wells but can meet the needs of the community using as few as two. The water supplied to the public is always a blend of the wells that feed the system and that blend always had nitrate levels well below 10 milligrams per liter.

We have since had many discussions with the DNR and other experts about what can be done to further reduce any instances of this in the future. We are considering planting trees or grasses in a buffer zone between the farm fields and the wells. Plant and tree roots are known to act as a filter and this aligns well with Amana Society's desire to continually pursue sustainability. Additionally, the engineering firm HR Green recommended pumping water out of the wells and onto the ground causing the well to replenish with "new water." This was done at one site and the nitrate levels that had registered 14 were reduced to approximately 7.

In addition, the DNR has contacted the Amana Society about doing a field study:

"We would like to conduct some surface geophysical techniques to image the subsurface in the vicinity of the wells. This will help to constrain our understanding of the subsurface materials and water flow. Our techniques are minimally invasive and involve inserting stainless steel stakes (1/2" in diameter and 10" in length) into the ground along



transects/lines. The stakes and all other equipment used would be removed at the end of the field workday. We are looking to conduct the work within the next couple weeks when the ground is frozen."

This study will be completed at no charge to the Amana Society and our hope is it will provide additional information that will help us reduce instances of future elevated nitrate levels.

The Amana Society takes this issue very seriously and to reiterate, the water supplied by the Amana Service Company to the community meets acceptable safety standards. We have been and will remain proactive in working with experts in the field on ways to always improve what we do in the interest of safety in the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Greg Luerkens".

Greg Luerkens

Note: This memo is for informational purposes and for the private use of the Amana Society shareholders and is not intended for public use.