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Shreveport Water Department Reports Improvement in Water Taste and Odor

The City of Shreveport’s Water and Sewerage Department reports that the recent taste and odor issues affecting the city’s drinking water are improving. The earthy taste and smell, caused by Geosmin—a harmless compound produced by algae in Cross Lake—have been diminishing since the lake was treated with copper sulfate on Friday.

Residents should already be noticing an improvement in water quality. The Water and Sewerage Department will continue to conduct sample testing and taste evaluations at the water treatment plant to ensure ongoing progress. The lake is expected to be treated again at the end of the week.

“We appreciate the patience of our customers as we worked through this issue,” said William Daniel, Director of Water and Sewerage. “Now that the copper sulfate treatment has been applied, we are seeing a steady reduction in Geosmin levels, and the water’s taste and smell are returning to normal.”

Geosmin is a naturally occurring compound that gives water an earthy odor and taste but poses no health risks. The city routinely treats Cross Lake with copper sulfate from March to November to manage algae growth. However, the last treatment in late November depleted the 2024 supply. Delivery of the new order was delayed by January’s winter weather in South Louisiana but arrived late last week, allowing treatment to proceed.

If customers are still experiencing odor or taste issues, contact the Department of Water and Sewerage at 318-673-7600. For updates, visit our website at www.shreveportlawater.gov/

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