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**City of Broken Arrow Announces Change in  
Drinking Water Disinfectant**  
*Chloramine conversion to take place May 15*

**Broken Arrow, Okla. (March 15, 2013)** – The City of Broken Arrow will implement a vital element of its long-range water supply plan May 15, 2013 when the secondary disinfectant used to safeguard the city’s drinking water is converted from chlorine to chloramine.

Chloramine, a proven and effective disinfectant that has been used throughout North America for nearly 100 years, is formed when a small amount of ammonia is added to chlorinated water. Chloramine is generally used in larger water distribution systems because it produces a more stable disinfectant than chlorine. This stability results in a longer-lasting residual disinfectant capable of maintaining a more effective concentration at the furthest reaches of a city’s distribution system.

According to City officials, converting to chloramine for secondary disinfection is the next step in implementing Broken Arrow’s long-range water supply plan, which was originally adopted in 2006.

“This plan positions the City of Broken Arrow for the future with respect to our community’s water needs and our corresponding water supply,” said Kenneth Schwab, Director of Engineering & Construction. “Nearly a decade ago, our city leaders began to envision the City of Broken Arrow as a major regional water supplier. The use of chloramine as the secondary disinfectant proves to be the best alternative to meet this goal.”

He said the conversion to chloramine will also help Broken Arrow meet the EPA’s stricter Stage 2 Disinfection Byproducts Rule, which went into effect in 2012.

The Broken Arrow Municipal Authority (BAMA) currently purchases treated chlorinated drinking water from the Oklahoma Ordnance Works Authority (OOWA). However, the City of Broken Arrow is constructing a new \$65 million, state-of-the-art water treatment plant scheduled

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for completion in July 2014. Once commissioned, the plant will utilize microfiltration membrane technology for the main treatment process coupled with chlorination for the primary disinfection process. The plant will use chloramine as the secondary disinfectant in the distribution system.

Chloramine has been used as a disinfectant in community water supply systems throughout the United States for almost 100 years. Denver first used chloramine in 1917 and still uses the disinfection process today. Many large cities already use chloramine, including Portland, St. Louis, Boston, Indianapolis, Dallas, Houston, Kansas City, Philadelphia, Miami, San Diego and San Francisco, while others like Los Angeles are planning to switch to chloramine.

Many of the larger communities in Oklahoma also utilize chloramine as their secondary disinfectant, including Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Norman, and Stillwater. In the Tulsa metropolitan area, the communities of Owasso, Sand Springs, Bixby, Jenks and Glenpool have recently converted to chloramine as a secondary disinfectant in their water treatment process.

“We have done extensive testing and determined that chloramine is the best secondary disinfection method available to help us continue providing water that is safe for our customers and that complies with the new federal standards,” said Schwab. “We don’t expect residents to see any noticeable change in their water service.”

The City will be working with several specific groups of water customers to assist them with this transition. Kidney dialysis patients and renal center staff will need to make adjustments for chloramine in the water as they currently do for chlorine. Fish owners also will need to neutralize the chloramine in fish aquariums, tanks and ponds.

As parts of its education campaign, the City of Broken Arrow will be holding informational meetings throughout the city for residents. The meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m.:

- March 28 (Ward 3) Cedar Ridge Christian Church, 4010 W. New Orleans St.
- April 11 (Ward 2) Liberty Church, 7777 S. Garnett Rd.
- April 18 (Ward 1) Heritage United Methodist Church, 5300 E. Kenosha St.
- May 2 (At Large) Nienhuis Community Center, 3201 N. Ninth St.
- **RESCHEDULED May 9 (Ward 4) Indian Springs Baptist Church, 7815 S. Elm Pl.**

Residents may call the City with questions at 918-893-6800, email [watersupply@brokenarrowok.gov](mailto:watersupply@brokenarrowok.gov), or visit [www.brokenarrowok.gov](http://www.brokenarrowok.gov) to learn more about chloramine and the City’s water supply system.

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