

## **ARSENIC FACT SHEET – BOROUGH OF DUNCANNON**

### **What is Arsenic and Where Does It Come From?**

Arsenic occurs naturally in soil and rock. Arsenic from soil and rock can dissolve into groundwater and enter drinking water wells. For most people, food and water are the biggest sources of exposure to arsenic. Some arsenic in the environment comes from human activity. Arsenic was an ingredient in some pesticides and was used as a wood preservative for wood foundations, decks, and children's outdoor play structures.

### **Is Arsenic Dangerous?**

Drinking water with low levels of arsenic over a long time is associated with diabetes and increased risk of cancers of the bladder, lungs, liver, and other organs. Coming in contact with arsenic can also contribute to cardiovascular and respiratory disease, reduced intelligence in children, and skin problems, such as lesions, discoloration, and the development of corns.

### **Why is the Borough Issuing Arsenic Warnings?**

The Borough is required to test for arsenic as part of its regulatory permit with the PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). During routine testing, one of the Borough's wells, Well #4 located on Carver's Hill, produced slightly higher results than the Minimum Contaminate Level prescribed by DEP. The Borough is required to notify the public in this case.

### **How much Arsenic am I Exposed to in my Drinking Water?**

The water produced from Well #4 is mixed with water from Well #1 and distributed throughout the water system. This water further mixes with water from other sources, effectively diluting the concentration of arsenic. The water that is delivered to vast majority of the Borough contains less than the regulatory amount prescribed by DEP due to the layout of the water system.

### **What is the Borough Doing?**

The Borough has applied for a permit from DEP to install an arsenic treatment system at Well #4. The permit is under review and the equipment has been ordered. We anticipate the treatment system will be installed and operational by the end of 2022. Supply chain issues have delayed the delivery of some of the treatment components.