



April 17, 2013

Honorable Craig Thurmond
Mayor, City of Broken Arrow
City Council Chambers, City Hall
220 South First Street
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74012

Honorable Mayor Thurmond,

RE: REJECT Chloramine Disinfection

Please don't allow yourselves to be tricked into the use of chloramine as a secondary water treatment reason for you to make this change. While I appreciate City Council's desire to comply with US Byproducts Rule, as it has been represented to you; the City of Broken Arrow has never violated there is concern you might, the City of Broken Arrow is eligible for a waiver for at least two years Capital Improvement Project, such as your new Surface Water Treatment Plant.

The arguments in favor of the use of chloramine are extremely outdated and quite frankly dangerous new evidence being published by a team of water treatment experts and medical doctors that you need to consider before you begin the process of causing unnecessary harm to your constituents. The use of chloramine is cheap and easy. Deploying the state of the art designed treatment plant in 2013 to meet this regulation... why would you consider anything else, especially chemicals that do harm? The use of chloramine may allow Broken Arrow to more easily blend its water supplies with wholesale water from other areas, but it also introduces other problems for your consumers; financial and property damage, as well as, medical and alternatives... why wouldn't the City of Broken Arrow attempt chlorine dose adjustments rather than using chemicals to its drinking water?

A far better approach might be to work with Tulsa Municipal Utility Authority to help them seek alternatives to avoid the poisoning of its citizens; this can be done in Tulsa by enhancing coagulation, improving filtration and using activated charcoal. You will be told these options are more expensive, but in truth they are ultimately more cost-effective with additional benefits. Bottomline, enhancing coagulation, improving filtration or using activated charcoal removes more chemicals and toxins from the water than what you are doing now. If these chemicals are not to be used, they will have nothing to react with and can attack bacteria like it is supposed to. Your future Water Treatment Plant will have a much easier time at removing these precursor chemicals than all of these technologies.

I want to call your attention to the March 2010 edition of the AWWA Journal (American Water Works Association) - the water industry's premier publication - which has an extensive article on alternative disinfectants. The ONLY benefit listed is reduction of haloacetic acids (HAAs) and trihalomethanes (THMs). Under the list includes, "*N-Nitrosodimethylamine (NDMA) formation, Iodoacids, potential to form cyanide, and as strong a disinfectant, more complicated to produce (avoiding di and tri chloramine), less efficient, causes nitrification problems and toxic to fish.*" The author concludes, "*precursor control - versus switch to alternative disinfectant - is the preferred primary approach to compliance.*" Why haven't you as a City Council considered these alternatives?

What you have been told is, "everyone else is doing it... and, USEPA says it is safe", both parts of which I have told you is... the USEPA and water industry leaders are predicting the end of chloramination within 10 years. Why? Because it costs more, is toxic and provides your citizens with less protection than they need. I encourage your reexamination of these facts and direct your professional staff back to open discussion rather than simply brushing them aside. These concerns are real. If you have any questions, please contact me. Perhaps the most efficient way for us to communicate is to email me at: eb@brokenarrowok.com. I will be reaching out to your staff. Thank you and I look forward to a chlorine free Broken Arrow.