



West Fargo

WATER SUPPLY PROJECT

A new water supply is coming...

The City of West Fargo is truly “A City on the Grow!” Our population has grown very quickly since the year 2000. Unfortunately, the aquifer that has supplied the City’s water cannot continue to meet the needs of our growing population, which is currently estimated at over 30,000 people. The City of West Fargo decided in 2015 to begin purchasing water from the City of Fargo as it is the most economical option for the City and its residents.

Construction of the interconnection project began in March 2016 and West Fargo residents can expect the new water supply to arrive this summer. Public Works developed the following list of frequently asked questions about the West Fargo water supply project to share with utility customers. If you have additional questions about the water transition, you are welcome to call West Fargo Public Works at **701-433-5400** on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When will West Fargo’s water officially transition to the new source?

- A. The City of Fargo will begin pumping water into West Fargo’s water distribution system starting **June 1, 2016**. Throughout the month of June, a final flush of the system will be completed before the new water supply is distributed throughout West Fargo.

Q. Did the City of West Fargo consider any other water supply options?

- A. The City of West Fargo looked into several options before deciding in 2015 to begin purchasing water from the City of Fargo in 2016 because it is the most economical option for the City and its residents

Q. How will the water be delivered to West Fargo?

- A. Water will be delivered to the West Fargo distribution system through underground pipelines that connect Fargo drinking water infrastructure to West Fargo drinking water infrastructure. Pumps will allow West Fargo to maintain its water pressure at a similar level to its existing pressure. The City of West Fargo’s water pressure and flow capacity will not change substantially, but water supply capacity for existing and future needs is ensured.

Q. Are there any health or safety concerns associated with switching to the new water source?

- A. There are no health concerns associated with the transition to Fargo’s water supply. The water from the Fargo Water Treatment Plant is safe to consume for the general public as well as vulnerable populations such as the elderly, infants, or those with chronic health problems. The City of Fargo’s most recent Water Quality Report indicates no violations of the EPA’s drinking water limits.

Q. What monitoring will occur to ensure my water is safe to drink?

- A. The Fargo Water Treatment Plant will continue to sample and analyze treated water quality at the Fargo to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Water samples will also be collected by West Fargo distribution system operators to ensure compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements.

Q. Will my water service be disrupted?

- A. Public Works does not anticipate any service disruptions.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What should I expect during the transition to the new water source?

- A. System flushing will occur intermittently between March and July of 2016. Public Works needs to flush the entire system to clean out any pipeline deposits as well as remove water from the City's former water source. The flushing that will occur during the transition is similar to the system flushing the City of West Fargo has completed on a regular schedule for decades.

Q. How will the process of flushing the City's pipelines affect me?

- A. Residents should be aware that flushing will disturb deposits and sediments in the pipelines which may cause temporary water discoloration if water is drawn into household plumbing during the city pipeline flush procedure. Although it may not look appealing, the discolored water is safe to drink and for bathing. To remove the discolored water from your home's pipes, simply run cold water in your bathtub until the water runs clear.

Q. How will I know when the pipelines in my neighborhood will be flushed?

- A. The flushing schedule will be announced via the media, on West Fargo's Facebook and Twitter accounts, and through the City of West Fargo's utility alerts direct call system. Residents can sign up to receive neighborhood-specific utility alerts calls by enrolling their phone number at www.WestFargoND.gov.

Q. What should I do after the pipelines are flushed in my neighborhood?

- A. Water customers should follow the same protocol used previously when the City of West Fargo flushed the pipelines:
 - › Bypass all home filtering systems and softeners.
 - › Run cold water in your bath tub until the water runs clear.
 - › Check your water to ensure it is not discolored before running the dishwasher or washing clothes.

Q. How will the new water quality impact my home or business?

- A. The new water supply will have a lower iron content, which means there is less potential for red sediment being created in the system after the transition is complete to Fargo water. The new water source contains less hardness, so customers with water softeners can adjust their softener setting to use less salt for regenerating the softener. The new water also contains lower total dissolved solids, which means less spotting on dishes, faucets, fixtures, and shower doors when the water evaporates.

Q. How will the new water affect my pipes and faucets?

- A. Water pH and phosphate concentration are adjusted to minimize corrosiveness to metal piping and fixtures.

Q. Will the new water source impact my pet fish?

- A. The new water contains a similar concentration of chloramine (chlorine and ammonia) disinfectant residual as the current West Fargo water, so aquarium owners should use the same dechlorinating techniques. However, the new water pH (8.6 to 9.0) is higher than the current water pH (7.4 to 7.6), so pH adjustment may be necessary.

Q. Can I continue to use my water softener?

- A. Yes. The West Fargo water hardness is 16 grains per gallon, whereas the new water hardness is 7 grains per gallon. Although the new water contains less hardness than West Fargo's current water, many water customers prefer softened water. Typical ion exchange home softeners remove all hardness from water, but the regeneration settings that determine salt usage depend on the feed water hardness. Since the new water contains lower hardness, changing the softener settings for the lower hardness water will enable your softener to operate at its best efficiency, and use less salt than it did when softening the West Fargo water.