



SPIRIT LAKE TRIBE

PRESS RELEASE

Spirit Lake Drinking Water Returns to Safe Levels of Manganese

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fort Totten, ND – *July 9, 2025* – The Spirit Lake Drinking Water System has successfully returned to safe levels of manganese, allowing for the lifting of the previous “Do Not Drink” recommendation, which was issued on May 27, 2025. Residents may now confidently use tap water for making ice, infant formula, beverages, and preparing food that will be consumed.

Following the detection of elevated manganese levels, a temporary filtration unit was installed on June 24, 2025, to address the issue. Monitoring results from the treated drinking water now indicate manganese levels that are below the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) short- and long-term health advisories.

While the recommendation to refrain from drinking tap water has been lifted, the Spirit Lake Water System continues to operate on the temporary filtration unit, which is maintaining water production at a reduced capacity of 690,000 gallons per day, compared to the normal output of 1,000,000 gallons per day. As a precautionary measure, the community is asked to conserve water until a permanent filtration unit is installed, expected in August 2025. Water distribution efforts will continue for all community members under the rural water system, with further announcements regarding water availability forthcoming.

Chairwoman Jackson-Street expressed gratitude for the collaborative efforts that made this achievement possible. “We are deeply thankful to the agencies, organizations, individuals, and tribes who provided essential assistance, whether through technical support or by donating water. I especially want to acknowledge Roger Yankton, Jr. and the Incident Command team for their diligence throughout this emergency. Their commitment demonstrates that through collaboration, we can overcome challenges as a community,” she stated.

Roger Yankton, Jr., Spirit Lake Water Resource Director, highlighted the importance of continuous monitoring and adjustments that contributed to the positive outcome. “Our team has been working tirelessly to manage and improve the water quality. The temporary unit is performing at an improved rate, and we are consistently testing the water to ensure it remains within safe levels,” he noted. “We appreciate the community’s patience and understanding during this process.”

Joseph Silveria, Director of Fort Berthold Rural Water, also emphasized the importance of inter-tribal cooperation during this challenging time. “Tribes helping tribes is crucial, especially when it comes to water resources. We are committed to providing assistance to ensure that everyone has access to clean water,” he stated.

The Spirit Lake community is encouraged to remain vigilant and to conserve water as the system transitions to the new permanent filtration unit. Together, the Spirit Lake and surrounding communities have shown resilience and commitment to maintaining safe and accessible drinking water.

For further updates, please contact the Spirit Lake Water Resource Department and/or Public Relations.

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