



MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Zaroni, City Manager

FROM: Michael Murphy, P.E., Chief Operations Officer, Corpus Christi Water

COPY: Mayor & City Council

SUBJECT: **Corpus Christi Water Permanganate Supply**

DATE: January 26, 2023

The City of Corpus Christi manages a diverse water supply system that includes river water from multiple basins. Corpus Christi Water (CCW) utilizes an oxidant called permanganate, which is used to control taste, odor, color, and biological growth, and to remove iron and manganese usually found in rivers before the distribution of treated water.

Many utilities around the nation use permanganate to improve the taste of treated water. The use of permanganate is not a regulatory requirement by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), and its use in water treatment is generally aesthetic with no effect on the safety of drinking water.

Carus Chemical Company is contracted to provide permanganate to CCW. The primary manufacturer of permanganate for the Western Hemisphere is Carus Chemical Company in La Salle, Illinois. Recently, Carus experienced a warehouse explosion followed by a fire that consumed its manufacturing facility.

City staff is working with industry leaders to identify and secure alternate sources of permanganate. The shortage of permanganate around the state and nation will be very significant. The Carus warehouse explosion undoubtedly will cause a national shortage. The safety of CCW's treated drinking water supply is not affected.

We are organizing to address this issue from a business production and communication standpoint. More information will be issued over the coming days and weeks. A news article about the warehouse explosion of the treatment plant is attached as a PDF for your viewing.