

This is an excerpt from a Hawaiian Village (a Sarpy County Sandpit Lake with a central water system) SID report pulled from their website. It provides some insights into the stinky water issues.....

ABOUT YOUR WATER:

Over the years I have fielded a few complaints about our water having a distinct smell. When asked about it, our Waste Water and Well Operator Rene Nelson, of Urban Utilities, had this to say:

Stinky Water

Nebraska water systems along the Platte River all experience various levels of iron and or manganese. Stinky water may occur from time to time in an unchlorinated system. That's just the way it is. Stinky water is the result of anaerobic bacteria. While the odor is repulsive, stinky water caused by hydrogen sulfide is usually not harmful as a health risk in the low concentration that may occur from time to time in distribution systems and households. Often the homeowner assumes the stinky water is originating from the well, while in reality their household practices create the stinky water within their own home.

Water heaters contain magnesium anodes to protect the tank in the event of a breach in the lining. If the problem originates in the water heater, removing the anode will usually eliminate the stinky water but will void the warranty. Replacing the magnesium anode with a zinc anode will also solve the problem while retaining the warranty. The bacteria die at a temperature of 140 degrees F. Increasing your water heater temperature to 160 degrees F. for several hours will also solve the problem.

Whole house filters can also cause stinky water. Most homeowners assuming the stinky water is originating from the well will install a whole house filter with a carbon element. A carbon element is organic just as is a cotton element (food for bacteria). These two types of elements should not be used unless serviced on a very regular basis or the supply water is chlorinated. If a homeowner insists on a whole house filter, a synthetic element should be used on an unchlorinated system to prevent bacteria. Common water softeners will remove some iron and manganese. Most are not suitable for Hawaiian Villages elevated level of iron/manganese. Regular cleaning of the resin bed will help remedy stinky water from this origin.

Is occasional stinky water better than chlorinated water? When water is chlorinated by-products are formed. These by products are called Trihalomethanes (THM's). Check our lenntech.com/water-disinfection/disinfection-byproducts-health.htm. This person would prefer drinking good old fashioned well water even if it stinks!