



*City of Broken Bow*  
*Public Works Authority*  
*Kullli Chito Environmental Authority*

9/22/25

We are aware that some residents have recently noticed discolored water in their homes. Please rest assured that, despite any changes in appearance, your water remains safe to drink. The City of Broken Bow is dedicated to delivering clean, high-quality drinking water, and we want to inform you about the proactive steps we are taking to address your concerns and enhance water quality. The discoloration is due to manganese, a naturally occurring element and essential nutrient that can sometimes give water a brown or black tint. While the manganese levels found in our area do not pose a health risk, they may cause stains on laundry or household plumbing. Factors such as seasonal lake turnover and increased boating activity can temporarily raise manganese levels, affecting water color. Fortunately, these conditions are typically short-lived, and manganese levels stabilize as the lake settles.

To ensure water safety and clarity, we follow guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The EPA recommends manganese concentrations below 0.05 mg/L for clear water and has set a health advisory level of 0.3 mg/L for prolonged exposure. Our most recent tests show that local manganese levels are well below the EPA's health advisory threshold, so your tap water remains safe.

We are also proud to report that our Water Treatment Plant is fully compliant with all federal and state drinking water regulations, consistently meeting or exceeding every required standard to guarantee the safety and quality of your water supply.

Our Water Treatment Plant staff conduct daily water quality checks, and monthly samples are sent to a state-certified laboratory for thorough analysis. In addition, the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) regularly inspects our facilities to ensure we meet all state requirements.

To address temporary water discoloration, we are implementing additional strategies such as adding sodium permanganate to help remove manganese, aerating the raw water tank to enhance treatment, and applying polyphosphate to stabilize and clarify the water supply. We will continue ongoing monitoring and process improvements to ensure you receive safe, high-quality water. If you experience discolored water in your home, running your tap for several minutes may help clear your pipes. Using a home water filter certified for manganese reduction can also help. We



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recommend laundering white or delicate clothing only when the water is clear to avoid staining. If discoloration persists, please contact our office for further assistance.

Thank you for your understanding as we work to provide the best possible service. The City of Broken Bow values transparency and continuous improvement, and we will keep you informed throughout this process. Please don't hesitate to reach out—we are here to help.

Sincerely,

Jennie Woods  
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