

Nia Evans

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I am writing to give feedback on the quality of water from our private well in the north end. My kids refuse to drink the tap water because of a metallic aftertaste that appears after the utility flushes the hydrants. My white sinks and tubs develop stubborn stains that no ordinary cleaner removes. Sediment collects at the bottom of our water pitcher within a day, and the filter turns dark in weeks. News about PFAS, the so-called forever chemicals, has made me wonder what is actually in our water. I would like to see regular testing for manganese and iron, since they seem to cause most of our staining. Pregnant women and infants are the most vulnerable, so safety margins should be strict and well communicated. Aging pipes are likely the main cause of discoloration, and replacing them should be a funded priority. Treatment plant upgrades have been delayed repeatedly, and residents are left to cope with the consequences. Repeated pressure drops during the summer months suggest that the distribution system needs serious investment. Sampling locations should include older neighborhoods and not just the sites that are easiest to reach. The cost of constantly replacing the water heater and appliances because of scale adds up to a hidden tax. I installed a reverse osmosis system under the sink, but I resent paying for a fix that the utility should have handled. Neighbors in our apartment complex talk about this issue constantly, and almost everyone has a story about odd-looking water. Thank you for listening; the quality of our water touches every part of daily life.