

Leila Ito

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As a resident of my street for six months, I feel the water quality issue deserves far more attention than it gets. Guests have commented on the taste of the water, and I am honestly a little embarrassed to serve it. I once filled a clear glass and found tiny particles floating in it, which really worried me. Laundry that should come out white sometimes ends up with orange or gray stains. News about PFAS, the so-called forever chemicals, has made me wonder what is actually in our water. Radon and uranium in groundwater can be a hidden problem, and I do not think residents are informed enough. Several neighbors have reported stomach upset that they suspect is linked to the water, though nobody can prove it. Many of the water mains in the north end are more than seventy years old and break far too often. Dead-end lines in the riverside district allow water to sit for long periods, which hurts its quality. Sampling locations should include older neighborhoods and not just the sites that are easiest to reach. Any rate increase should be tied directly to measurable improvements in water quality and reliability. Thank you for taking the time to read this, and I hope the feedback leads to concrete action.