

Water softeners to be a 'personal choice' following switch to Great Lakes water

WAUKESHA — Once Waukesha makes the transition from groundwater to Lake Michigan water in late August/early September, water softeners won't be necessary. Nevertheless, in a video posted online by the city, Waukesha Water Utility General Manager Dan Duchniak and Clean Water Plant Pretreatment Coordinator Tim Young say it will be up to the individual whether or not they keep their water softener.

"The new Lake Michigan water will be at least 60% softer than the water we have now, but your softener won't know that," Young said. "At the time of the water switch, you basically have a choice to make. If you want to keep using your softener, it needs to be optimized or adjusted to meet our standards for salt output. Or, you could actually even bypass your softener at that time."

Duchniak reports that many people living in communities that already use Great Lakes water forgo a water softener: "As we know, (the) majority of the customers in the city of Milwaukee, who provides water to 860,000 people in southeastern Wisconsin, do not have water softeners," he said. "And that is a personal choice that people are going to have to make, whether they want a softener or not."

More information about the switch to Lake Michigan water can be found at greatwateralliance.com.