

June 16, 2010

Dear Water System Manager:

The new public notice regulations have been in effect since 2002. This will serve as a reminder of the current requirements-

- Three tiers of violations with different deadlines for issuing public notices (24 hours for Tier 1 violation)
- The Mandatory Health Language has been simplified
- Methods of notice delivery have been modified
- Efforts need to be made to reach as many consumers as possible-Not just billing units

Perhaps the most important feature is the requirement for you to consult with the Drinking Water Program (DWP) when you have a Tier 1 violation/situation. When a Tier 1 violation/situation occurs at your water system, you must contact DWP within 24 hours to determine whether public notice methods in addition to TV, radio, or direct home delivery must be used. (Non-community systems may post their notices.) To contact DWP Monday-Friday, you may call 605-773-3754. On Saturdays or Sundays, you may call 605-280-6831. Tier 1 violations/situations include-

- Acute fecal coliform/E. coli violations*
- Nitrate, nitrite, or total nitrate/nitrite maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations
- Chlorine dioxide maximum residual detection level (MRDL) violation in distribution system
- Failure to take MRDL chlorine dioxide samples in distribution system when required
- Exceedance of maximum allowable turbidity level
- Waterborne disease outbreak or other waterborne emergency
- E. coli positive source water sample taken under the Groundwater Rule-This is NOT a violation but does require a Tier 1 public notice

***MOST SYSTEMS NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THE ACUTE FECAL COLIFORM/E. COLI VIOLATION ONLY.**

Please note that these violations/situations occur when you receive your sampling results from the lab (thru mail or by telephone) or have analyzed your turbidity/chlorine dioxide samples (if your system must do these samples). The DWP receives your results usually after you do. You cannot wait until Monday to consult with DWP if you get your sample results after 5:00 pm on Friday.

If you have a Tier 1 violation/situation, you will be notified by letter; however, this will occur "after the fact" for Tier 1 violations/situations. To assist you with your notice, the Public Notice Handbook is available on the DWP web site at- <http://denr.sd.gov/des/dw/public.aspx>. Information concerning Tier 1 Public Notices has been enclosed. If there are any questions on this matter, please contact me at the Drinking Water Program in Pierre.

Sincerely,



Rob Kittay
Drinking Water Program
Phone: 605-773-4208

Tier 1 (Immediate Notice, Within 24 Hours)

Notice must be issued as soon as practical but must be within 24 hours via radio, TV, or direct home delivery. (Non-community systems may post their notices at conspicuous locations throughout system.) Radio and TV notices must aired a minimum of three times during a 24-hour period. Postings must remain in place at least seven days or until the violation/situation is resolved (whichever is longer). The following are Tier 1 violations/situations-

- Acute fecal coliform violations (Fecal coliforms present on repeat samples OR fecal coliforms present on routine sample followed by any total coliform positive repeat sample)
- Nitrate (10 mg/l), nitrite (1 mg/l), or total nitrate/nitrite (10 mg/l) maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations
- Chlorine dioxide maximum residual detection level (0.8 mg/l) violation in distribution system
- Failure to take MRDL chlorine dioxide samples in distribution system when required
- Exceedance of maximum allowable turbidity level (1 NTU)
- Waterborne disease outbreak or other waterborne emergency
- E. coli positive source water sample taken under the Groundwater Rule-This is NOT a violation but does require a Tier 1 public notice
- Other violations or situations determined by the Drinking Water Program

PWSs must also initiate consultation with the Drinking Water Program within 24 hours. **The Drinking Water Program may establish additional PN requirements during consultation.**

Consultation with DENR for Tier 1 Violations/Situations and Any Daily Turbidity Violation

If you incur a Tier 1 violation/situation, you must consult with the DENR within 24 hours of learning of the violation (either from performing an analysis on-site or being notified by your lab or DENR of sample results). DENR may require additional PN requirements to better serve to customers of your system. Surface water systems must also consult DENR for any daily turbidity violation for remedies to the problem.

Phone numbers to consult with DENR are 605-773-3754 Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm Central Time. After 5:00 pm on Fridays and on weekends, you may call 605-280-6831. This phone number will connect you to a member of the Drinking Water Program staff. If no-one answers this number, please leave a message, and a DENR staff member will return your call.

Example Public Notices

Fecal Coliform Standard for Drinking Water Exceeded

1 has exceeded the fecal coliform/*E. coli* standard in their drinking water system on 2. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

The State of South Dakota and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set drinking water standards and have determined that the presence of fecal coliforms or *E. coli* is a serious health concern. Fecal coliforms and *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

1 is taking the following actions to correct this problem- 3

Please share this information with all the people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For additional information, please contact 4.

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1. Insert your system's name.
 2. Insert the date that your system exceeded the fecal coliform/*E. coli* standard.
 3. Possible corrective actions you may take include-
 - Installation of a continuous chlorinator
 - Batch chlorinating the water system
 - Increasing the coliform sampling
 - Investigating the source of the contamination
 - Increase chlorine levels
 - Making repairs to the system
 - Flushing of main lines
 4. Insert the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person for your public water system.

Nitrate Standard for Drinking Water Exceeded

The nitrate level in the 1 water supply was found to be 2 milligrams per liter mg/L when tested. This notice is to inform the public that the 1 drinking water nitrate level is in excess of the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate, which is 10 mg/L. This sample was analyzed on 3.

The State of South Dakota and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that nitrate poses an acute health concern at certain levels of exposure. Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue-baby syndrome. Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.

DO NOT BOIL THE WATER. Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates. Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they cannot process nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor. Water, juice, and formula for children less than six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Bottled water or other water low in nitrates should be used for infants

1 is taking the following actions to correct this problem- 4.

Please share this information with all the people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For additional information, please contact 5.

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1. Insert your system's name.
 2. Insert the level of nitrate in the water supply.
 3. Insert the date the analysis was performed.
 4. Insert the actions your system is taking to correct the problem.
 5. Insert the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person representing your public water system.

Turbidity Standard for Drinking Water Exceeded

1 routinely monitors your drinking water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. A water sample taken on 2 showed turbidity levels of 3 turbidity units. This is above the standard of 1.0 turbidity units. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil for one minute and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and food preparation until further notice.

Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

We are taking the following actions to correct this problem- 4

We will inform you when the turbidity returns to appropriate levels and when you no longer need to boil your water.

Please share this information with all the people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For additional information, please contact 5.

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1. Insert your system's name.
 2. Insert date(s) of elevated turbidity samples.
 3. Insert the level of turbidity.
 4. Insert actions that your water system is taking to correct the problem.
 5. Insert the name, address, and telephone number of a contact person representing your public water system.

Unsafe Triggered Sample

_____ * _____ Water System has Unsafe Groundwater Samples

In _____ ** _____, our water system had a drinking water routine sample from the distribution system that was positive for total coliform bacteria. As required by EPA's Groundwater Rule, one of our followup steps was to collect samples from any water sources in use at the time of collection of the unsafe routine sample. The sample(s) from _____ *** tested positive for a fecal indicator (*E. coli*). We are now conducting additional sampling of the well to determine the extent of the problem and are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the source of the contamination.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using it. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. You may also use bottled water. Use boiled or bottled water for drinking, making ice, preparing food, and washing dishes until further notice.

Also, if you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice about drinking water from your health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches. Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

Your water system is conducting a thorough investigation to determine the source of the contamination and will be working with the South Dakota Drinking Water Program to implement corrective actions to ensure that our water supplies are protected against contamination. We will keep you informed of the steps we are taking to protect your drinking water and will provide information on any steps you should be taking, until this problem is corrected.

Additional Information- _____

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information, please contact _____

* Name of Water System

** Month and year of unsafe sample

*** Describe number of wells or which wells had *E. coli* detected