

# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

\_\_\_\_\_ [System] Did Not Meet Treatment Technique  
Requirements for ACRYLAMIDE  
DO NOT USE THE WATER

Our system did not meet the treatment technique requirement at our water treatment plant for the reduction of Acrylamide to appropriate levels for our particular system. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

North Carolina's *Rules Governing Public Water Systems* requires that we comply with Acrylamide removal requirements. System reports for the time period of [\_\_\_\_\_] showed that treatment techniques being used have exceeded the allowed dosage of 0.05 percent dosed at 1 milligram per Liter (mg/L).

### What should I do?

Use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

### What does this mean?

The main source of concern for Acrylamide in drinking water is from its use as a clarifier, or coagulant aid during water treatment. When added to water, it coagulates and traps suspended solids for easier removal. However, some acrylamide does not coagulate and remains in the water as a contaminant. EPA has found acrylamide to potentially cause the following health effects when people are exposed to it for relatively short periods of time: damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, weakness, and ataxia, or incoordination, in the legs

Effects from long-term exposure: ***some people who drink water containing high levels of acrylamide over a long period of time could have problems with their nervous system or blood, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.***

### What happened? What is being done?

[Water system to describe situation and corrective actions being taken.] We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame]. EPA requires your water supplier to show that when acrylamide is added to water, the amount of uncoagulated acrylamide is less than 0.5 parts per billion (ppb). Measures to prevent future over-dosage have been performed.

***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:

Responsible Person	System Name	System Address (Street)
Phone Number	System PWSID #	System Address (City, State, Zip)

Violation Awareness Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Notice Distributed: \_\_\_\_\_ Method of Distribution: \_\_\_\_\_

### Public Notification Certification:

The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumer in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

Owner/Operator: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature) (Print Name) (Date)

## Instructions for Acrylamide TT Failure Notice

Failure to meet the treatment technique requirements for Acrylamide is a **Tier 1** violation. Therefore, **within 24 hours** after you learn of this failure you must provide public notice to persons served (C.F.R. 141.202(b)), **and** contact the Public Water Supply Section. You should also inform your local health department and notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately. They also need to be sure the water is not provided to customers. You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers (C.F.R. 141.202(c)):

- Radio
- Television
- Hand or direct delivery
- Posting in conspicuous locations

In addition, **both** community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others **IF** they would not be reached by the first method (C.F.R. 141.203(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations.

You must also perform the following:

- If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.
- Notify new billing customers or units prior to or at the time their service begins.
- Provide multi-lingual notifications if 30% of the residents served are non-English speaking.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for radio or TV notice. If you modify the notice, you must still include the 10 required elements listed in C.F.R. 141.205(a), and the standard language (including the health effects language) in ***bold italics*** must not be changed. This language is mandatory (C.F.R. 141.205(d)).

### **Population Served**

Make sure it is clear who is served by your water system--you may need to list the areas you serve.

### **Alternative Sources of Water**

If you are providing alternative sources of water customers, your notice should say where it can be obtained. Remember that bottled water can also be contaminated. If you are providing bottled water, make sure it meets the drinking water standards by contacting the bottler and asking for the most recent test results.

### **Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. The bullet below describes one action commonly taken by water systems with nitrate violations. Use this language, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We, in conjunction with the State of NC Public Water Supply Section are investigating the water treatment process and evaluating how to prevent this situation from recurring.
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### **Repeat Notices**

You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists. If this is an ongoing violation, you should give the history behind the violation, including the circumstances causing the contamination if known. List the date of the initial awareness, as well as how levels have changed over time. If levels are changing as a result of treatment, you can indicate this.

### **After Issuing the Notice [C.F.R. 141.31(d)]**

Within **10 days** after completing the initial public notification, the Public Water Supply Section MUST receive a copy of the notice you distributed to your customers with your signature and date on the Public Notification Certification (located at the bottom of the notice) indicating that you have fully complied with all the public notice requirements.

**Mail your notice/certification to the Public Water Supply Section, Compliance Services Branch, ATTN: Public Notification Rule Manager, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634.** Retain a copy of these documents for your files.

It is a good idea to issue a "problem corrected" notice when the violation is resolved.  
(10/2004)