

# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected in \_\_\_\_\_(System) (Exceedance of the Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level)

*This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2.0 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system [ \_\_\_\_\_ (name)] has a fluoride concentration of \_\_\_\_\_(insert value) mg/l.*

*Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.*

*Drinking water containing more than 4.0 mg/l of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4.0 mg/l of fluoride, but we're required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2.0 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.*

*For more information, please call \_\_\_\_\_(name of water system contact) of \_\_\_\_\_(name of community water system) at (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ (contact phone number) . Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.*

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 Number	System Address (City, State, Zip)

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 Fluoride SMCL Notice – Tier 3 Violation (Template on Reverse Side)

For any exceedance of the fluoride secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL), you must provide Tier 3 public notice to persons served as soon as practical, but within 12 months after you learn of the exceedance (40 CFR 141.208), using the provided mandatory language and filling in the blanks. Because fluoride at levels above the SMCL can permanently discolor children’s teeth, you are urged to issue this notice **as soon as practical**. Note: If you exceed the MCL of 4.0 mg/l, you must provide Tier 2 notification within 30 days of learning of the violation [40 CFR 141.203(a)].

**Community systems** must use one of the following [40 CFR 141.204(c)]:

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

In addition, you must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method [40 CFR 141.204(c)]. Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the exceedance is resolved. If the exceedance has been resolved, you must post the notice for at least seven days [40 CFR 141.204(b)]. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met [40 CFR 141.208(a)]. Although you may add to the notice, as suggested below, you must leave the mandatory language unchanged.

### **Mandatory Language**

Mandatory language for fluoride SMCL exceedances [40 CFR 141.208] must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in ***bold italics***.

### **Explaining the Situation**

Use the following language, if applicable:

- Fluoride contamination is rarely due to human activity. Fluoride occurs naturally in some areas and is found in high concentrations in the aquifer in our source water; and/or
- We add fluoride to the drinking water to promote dental health.

If the fluoride levels in the water have returned to below the SMCL, be sure to make this clear in your notice.

### **Corrective Actions**

In your notice, you should describe the corrective actions you took or are taking, if any. The bullet below describes one action commonly taken by water systems with fluoride SMCL exceedances. You can use this language, or develop your own:

- We are continuing to monitor fluoride levels. We will inform you if they exceed the limit of 4.0 mg/l.

### **After Issuing the Notice [40 CFR 141.31(d)]**

After issuing the “Notice to the Public” to your customers, sign and date the “Public Notification Certification” at the bottom of the notice. Within ten days after issuing the notice [CFR 141.31(d)], use our online ECERT application located on our website at: <https://pws.ncwater.org/ECERT> to submit your completed Notice/Certification to the Public Water Supply Section. If you do not have access to the internet, mail your completed Notice/Certification to: Public Water Supply Section, ATTN: Public Notification Rule Manager, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634.

It is a good idea to inform your customers when the violation has been resolved.