

# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### \_\_\_\_\_ (System) Has Levels of Fluoride Above Drinking Water Standards

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on \_\_\_\_\_ [date] show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for fluoride. The average level of fluoride in samples taken during the last year was \_\_\_\_\_ mg/L [level]. The standard for fluoride is that the average of samples taken over the last year may not exceed 4.0 milligrams per liter (mg/L).

#### **What should I do?**

**Children under the age of nine should use an alternative source of water that is low in fluoride.** In addition, you may want to consult your dentist about whether to avoid dental products containing fluoride. Adults and children over age nine should consult their dentist or doctor and show him/her this notice to determine if an alternate source of water low in fluoride should be used.

#### **What does this mean?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Fluoride in small amounts helps prevent tooth decay. However, ***some people who drink water containing fluoride in excess of the MCL over many years could get bone disease, including pain and tenderness of the bones. Fluoride in drinking water at half the MCL or greater may cause mottling of children's teeth, usually in children less than nine years old. Mottling, also known as dental fluorosis, may include brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums.*** Although it takes many years of exposure to fluoride for bone disease to develop, mottling can occur after a relatively short period of exposure.

#### **What happened? What is being done?**

Fluoride contamination is rarely due to human activity. Fluoride occurs naturally in some areas and is found in high concentrations in our source water. [Describe corrective action.]

We anticipate resolving the problem within \_\_\_\_\_ [estimated time frame].

***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)

(Template on Reverse)

Since exceeding the fluoride maximum contaminant level (MCL) is a **Tier 2** violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within **30 days** after you learn of the violation (C.F.R. 141.203(b)). You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists. **If you exceed the secondary maximum contaminant level of 2 milligrams per liter but not the MCL of 4 milligrams per liter, you must issue a special notice with different health effects language.**

Community systems must use one of the following methods (C.F.R. 141.203(c)):

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

Non-community systems must use one of the following methods (C.F.R. 141.203(c)):

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

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. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

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. If you modify the notice, you must still include all the required elements, 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)).

### **Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Do not use overly technical terminology when describing treatment methods. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with fluoride violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- We are working with [local/state agency] to evaluate the water supply and researching options to correct the problem. These options may include treating the water to remove fluoride or connecting to [system]'s water supply.
- We have stopped using the contaminated well. We have increased pumping from other wells, and we are investigating drilling a new well.
- We will increase the frequency at which we test the water for fluoride.
- We have since taken samples at this location and had them tested. They show that we meet the standards.

### **Repeat Notices**

You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists. If this is an ongoing violation and/or you fluctuate above and below the MCL, you should give the history behind the violation, including the source of contamination, if known. List the date of the initial detection, 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**

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 inform your customers when the violation has been resolved.

(11/2004)