

## DRINKING WATER WARNING

\_\_\_\_\_ [System Name]'s Source Water Tested Positive for Fecal Indicator

### BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Our water system recently detected a fecal indicator \_\_\_\_\_ [E. coli, enterococci, or coliphage] (see definition below) in our ground water source, \_\_\_\_\_ [source name]. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On \_\_\_\_\_ [give date], we collected a sample from \_\_\_\_\_ [source name]. The sample tested positive for \_\_\_\_\_ [E. coli, enterococci, or coliphage].

#### What should I do? What does this mean?

- **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.
- ***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.***
- 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 from their health care providers about drinking this water.

**What is being done?** [Water system to describe corrective actions. See back of this template for possible corrective actions.]

Upon the State's approval, we will inform you when tests show no \_\_\_\_\_ [E. coli, enterococci, or coliphage] and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within \_\_\_\_\_ [estimated time frame].

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

***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 consumers in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

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

## Instructions for Public Notice - Tier 1 - GWR Fecal Indicator - Positive Source Water Sample – Boil Your Water Before Using

Since detection of a fecal indicator (*E. coli*, enterococci or coliphage) in a ground water source sample is a situation requiring Tier 1 notice, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but no more than **24 hours** from learning of the violation [40 CFR 141.202(b)]. During this time, you must also contact the Public Water Supply Section. You should also coordinate with your local health department.

It is recommended that you notify health professionals in the area of the violation. People may call their doctors with questions about how the violation may affect their health, and the doctors should have the information they need to respond appropriately. In addition, health professionals, including dentists, use tap water during their procedures and need to know of potential microbial contamination so they can use bottled water.

You must use one or more of the following methods to deliver the notice to consumers [40 CFR 141.202(c)]:

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

You may need to use additional methods (e.g., newspaper, delivery of multiple copies to hospitals, clinics, or apartment buildings), since notice must be provided in a manner reasonably calculated to reach all persons served. If you post or hand deliver, print your notice on your system's letterhead, if you have it.

You must also perform the following:

- 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.
- Comply with any additional public notification requirements (including any repeat notices or direction on the duration of the posted notices) that are established as a result of the consultation with the State.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or for publication in a newspaper. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for a radio or TV broadcast. If you modify the notice on the reverse, you must still include all required PN elements listed in 40 CFR 141.205(a) and leave the mandatory language unchanged (see below).

### **Mandatory Language**

Mandatory language on health effects (from Appendix B to Subpart Q) must be included as written (with blanks filled in) and is presented in this notice in ***bold italics***. You must also include standard language to encourage the distribution of the public notice to all persons served, where applicable [40 CFR 141.205(d)]. This language is also presented in this notice in ***bold italics***.

### **Alternative Sources of Water**

If you are selling or providing bottled water, 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 US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or state bottled water safety standards.

### **Corrective Action**

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems that have detected a fecal indicator in their ground water source. Depending on the corrective action you are taking, you can use one or more of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

- We are increasing sampling at our sources to determine the source of the contamination.
- We are working with state officials to implement corrective actions to ensure water supplies are protected against contamination.
- We are providing water from an alternative source until the problem is resolved.
- We have discontinued use of the contaminated well and will rely on our other sources to meet demand.
- We are abandoning the contaminated well and will replace it with a well constructed to standards.
- We are pursuing treatment options for disinfection of the water from this source.
- We have installed temporary disinfection while we pursue long term treatment or other options to eliminate contamination from this source.

### **After Issuing the Notice [40 CFR 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. [Note: A separate Public Notification Certification form that is available on our Web site MUST be submitted if you do not use the notice template with the certification provided.] **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.

Inform your consumers when the violation is resolved.

(7/2012)