**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

**[System]’s [Source] Tested Positive for E. Coli**

**DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST**

**OPTION: Bottled water is available at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

Our water system recently detected E. Coli in our [source]. 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 [# of samples collected for this source] sample(s) from [source] and [# of samples E.coli positive] tested positive for E. Coli. **OPTION:** On [give date], we collected five additional samples from [source] and [# of samples E. Coli positive] tested positive for E. Coli, which confirms the contamination of our source.

**What does this mean?**

\**E. Coli 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 bacteria can make you sick and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems. Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains).

**What should I do?**

**• 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, 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.

• 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?**

[Describe corrective action.]

**Options:**

• We are increasing sampling at our sources to confirm the presence of E. Coli.

• We are developing a corrective action plan to implement to ensure water supplies are protected against contamination.

• 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.

• We are providing water from an alternative source until the problem is resolved.

We will inform you when tests show no E. Coli is present and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

 **OPTION**: Only a portion of our service area, specifically [AREA] is affected by this public notice. Please see find a map illustrating the affected area [attached/enclosed/below].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address]. 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. \**

This notice is being sent to you by [system]. PWSID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_\_.