**DRINKING WATER WARNING**

**E. coliis present in [Water System Name]’s water**

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

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

**OPTION 1:** Our water system recently detected E. coli within the distribution system. Routine sample(s) collected on [date] and repeat samples collected on [date] confirmed the presence of E. coli. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

**OPTION 2**: We did not perform all the required monitoring of the distribution system and cannot confirm that E. Coli bacteria are not in the water as of [date]. On [date], we collected sample(s) from the distribution system, [# of samples TC+/EC-] were just total coliform positive and [# of samples TC+/EC+] were total coliform and E. coli positive, and we failed to take all repeat samples within 24 hours as required under the Revised Total Coliform Rule.

**OPTION 3:** We did not perform all the required analyses of the distribution system sample(s) and cannot confirm that E. coli bacteria are not in the water as of [date]. On [date], we collected sample(s) from the distribution system and [# of samples TC+] were total coliform positive. We failed to analyze all the total coliform positive samples for E. coli as required under the Revised Total Coliform Rule.

**What does this mean?**

• E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

These bacteria can make you sick and are especially a 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). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

**What should I do?**

• **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.

• 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 healthcare providers about drinking this water.

**What is being done?**

[Describe corrective action].

**Options:**

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

• We are completing a comprehensive assessment of our water system and of our monitoring and operational practices to identify and correct any causes of the contamination.

• We are increasing sampling for coliform bacteria in the distribution system to assist in determining the cause of the contamination.

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria are present and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated timeframe].

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 bacteria and other disease-causing organisms 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 [water system name]. PWSID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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