

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Showed Coliform Bacteria in City of Douglas, PWS ID# 02014

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. This incident was a **NON-ACUTE** violation so it is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. During the month of September 2010, we took Twenty (20) routine samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. Two (2) of the routine samples collected return positive. The first (1st) sample detected the presents of total coliform. The second (2nd) sample detected the presents of total coliform and E-coli. Since the standard is that no more than one sample result per month may show the presence of total coliforms and no sample result may show the presence of E-coli, we are required to inform you of the fact by distributing this public notice.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. E-coli is a germ or bacterium that lives in the digestive tracts of humans and animals. There are many types of E-coli and most of them are harmless.*

When a sample result returns positive, this may be an indication that there could be a problem with the systems treatment or distribution system (pipes). It may have also been a contaminated sample "Lab Error" or the technician(s) may have caused the contamination during the process of collecting the sample. Whenever coliform bacteria or E-coli are detected in any sample, follow up testing is performed. **SUBSEQUENT TESTING REVEALED ABSOLUTELY NO CONTAMINANTS.**

What is being done?

The Water system was flushed in the area where a presence of coliform and E-coli was detected and chlorination was increased throughout the water distribution system. Under the **Total Coliform rule** we are required to resample the locations where coliform and E-coli was present within a 24 hour period. Resamples were collected within 4 hours. Where a *positive sample* was collected, *one (1) re-sample* was collected at the below location(s): Original location, Upstream, and Downstream

Under the **Ground Water Rule** we are also required to collect a sample at the Point of Entry (POE), "well head" to check for **E-coli**. A sample was collected at two (2) POEs which supply water to these sites at the time positive samples were collected. **All sample results returned negative.**

For more information, please call City of Douglas Public Works Dept. at 520-417-7361

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 **City of Douglas.**

State Water System ID#: **02014.**

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