

# NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### Richmond County Water System Has Levels of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs) 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. Monitoring results for water samples collected during the time period ending September 30, 2014 show that the contaminant concentration from one or more sampling locations in our system exceeds the standard or maximum contaminant level (MCL) for Total Trihalomethanes (TTHMs). The standard for TTHMs is 0.080 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Over the referenced compliance period, the sample location with the highest average level of Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) had a concentration of 0.084 mg/L.

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

You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

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

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, **some people who drink the water containing trihalomethanes in excess of the MCL over many years may experience problems with their liver, kidneys, or central nervous system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.**

#### **What happened? What is being done? When will the problem be corrected?**

The Richmond County Water System has implemented several corrective actions that have been effective and returned the TTHM level in all areas of the system below the standard for the December 2014 sampling. Those include: reduced chlorine usage, regular flushing of system water lines and close monitoring of water tank levels.

**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)
Matthew Locklear	Richmond County Water System	326 Old Charlotte Hwy.
Phone Number 910-997-8339	System PWSID # NC0377109	Rockingham, N.C. 28380

**Violation Awareness Date: December 22, 2014**

**Date Notice Distributed: January 9, 2015      Method of Distribution: Mail**

#### **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)

## Instructions for Trihalomethane MCL Notice Tier 2 Violation

Since exceeding the trihalomethane 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.

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.

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 the 10 required elements listed in C.F.R.141.205(a), 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 correction 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 chemical or radiological 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 trihalomethanes 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 trihalomethanes.
- We have since taken samples at this location and had them tested. They show that we meet the standards.

### **Repeat Notices**

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 (C.F.R. 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. **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 consumers when the violation is resolved.