



Cottonwood

Mutual Water Company

CULINARY WATER VIOLATION

Dear Culinary Water User,

On Monday, October 14, 2013 the Cottonwood Mutual Water Company was notified of a **non-acute coliform violation**. This was a **non-boil order violation** requiring public notification within 30 days.

Each month we are required to perform bacteriological testing of the water distribution system. On Wednesday, October 9, 2013 bacteriological samples were submitted for analysis. On Friday, October 11, 2013 we were notified that the sample from our middle pressure zone was positive for coliform. We immediately retested at the coliform positive location and took additional samples upstream and downstream of this site. In addition, coliform samples were taken at all water sources. On Monday, October 14, 2013 we received confirmation that we were coliform positive at the original, upstream and downstream sites, but absent for E. coli. Results at our water sources were absent for both coliform and E. coli.

After receiving confirmation of positive coliforms additional samples were taken to determine the extent of the coliform infected area; the State Department of Water Quality was notified; and immediate arrangements were made to disinfect the water at the storage tanks above the school. The water in the storage tanks was disinfected the evening of October 14th and the test results of the additional sampling showed that coliforms were localized to the middle pressure zone only. On Tuesday, October 15th the distribution lines in the middle pressure zone were flushed so the chlorinated water from the storage tanks could move through the distribution system.

On Friday, October 18, 2013 bacteriological samples were again taken throughout the distribution system and the results from this analysis indicated the absence of both coliform and E. coli bacteria. The disinfection efforts were successful. We will again do extensive bacteriological sampling in November to ensure your safety and security.

Coliform bacteria can be introduced into the water distribution system via improper cross connections. Most common cross connections include: back siphonage/backflow, improper disinfection of water lines, boilers, landscape irrigation systems, hoses placed directly into watering troughs, etc.

If you have questions regarding the non-acute coliform violation, or questions regarding improper cross connections please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Johanson

President & Manager

Cottonwood Mutual Water Company