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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

SCWSA Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation. The sites SCWSA samples that were lower than regulations allow are at the furthest limits of our system, where the chlorine residual is lowest. Chlorine residue samples are used to initially determine the presence of bacteria. The regulatory detectable limit is 0.05 mg/L. Our independent lab provides accuracy as low as 0.01 mg/L. The vast majority of our system is always in compliance. At no time was a sample taken for SCWSA in this program showed the presence of bacteria, such as total coliform or E. Coli. Only a few small sections of our system were affected. The sites that were out of range were the following: in Feb 2016, 128 Saluda Waters Rd @ 0.03 mg/L; in Mar 2016, 309 Saluda Waters Pt @ 0.03 mg/L; in April 2016, 128 Saluda Waters Rd @ 0.02 mg/L; in May 2016, 341 Prices Bridge Rd @ 0.04 mg/L and 183 Saluda Waters Rd @ 0.03 mg/L; in June 2016, 1046 Sardis Rd @ 0.01 mg/L and 309 Saluda Waters Pt @ 0.01 mg/L; in July 2016, 128 Saluda Water Rd @ 0.04 mg/L; in Aug 2016 111 Law Enforcement Dr @ 0.03 mg/L, and Sept 2016, 473 Gold Nugget Pt @ 0.0 mg/L and 309 Saluda Waters Pt @ 0.02 mg/L. If you live near any of these areas, you are welcome to call to discuss the specific results in detail.

What is being done?

SCWSA takes non-compliance to SCDHEC regulations very seriously. The day after receiving this information from SCDHEC SCWSA began aggressively flushing waterlines to turn over the water, improving the water age and increasing the chlorine residual in these areas. SCWSA also began daily chlorine residual samples to analyze the effectiveness of our water flushing. It also aided in determining the amount of flushing needed. SCWSA also has added several automatic waterline flushers to keep water turned over around the clock. SCWSA has also met with SCDHEC in person to ask questions and advice. One thing that came out of our SCDHEC meeting is that the regulation provides an additional test if the initial Chlorine Residual is below 0.05 mg/L to demonstrate regulatory compliance and confidence in our water's quality. These efforts have provided successful chlorine residual test results this month including a 0.17 mg/L in Saluda Waters.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. 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 within 24 hours. Tests taken during this same time period did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the water. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

Please share this information with anyone that you know that may have drank this water, especially those who may not have received this notice. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Jason Fell (General Manager) at 864-445-9572. I will do my best to answer your questions. Thanks for your understanding. We are actively working to address this issue. This notice is being sent by the Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority (SCWSA), and our S.C. WATER SYSTEM ID# is 4120001.

Sincerely,

Jason R. Fell
Saluda County Water and Sewer Authority
General Manager