



State of Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

STREET ADDRESS:

Lazarus Government Center
50 W Town Street, Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215

TELE: (614) 644-3020

OH8400712

Putnam Community Water Assoc

12/9/2009



December 9, 2009

CERTIFIED MAIL

PUTNAM COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIATION
545 MASONIC PARK LANE
MARIETTA, OH 45750

Re: WASHINGTON COUNTY
PUTNAM COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIAT
Community Water System
PWS ID: OH8400712
STU ID: 8459542
SMPID: EP001

Nitrate Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) Exceedance

Dear Public Water System Owner:

The PUTNAM COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIATION PWS is in violation for exceeding the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for nitrate in drinking water during the month of December, 2009. The Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) establishes an MCL of 10 milligrams per liter (mg/L) for nitrate. The average concentration was 11.6 mg/L for the sample(s) collected on December 1, 2009 and December 4, 2009.

As a result of receiving a MCL violation, your system is required to take the following actions:

- 1) Issue the enclosed "Drinking Water Warning" notice within 24 hours from notification of the violation as specified by the public notice instructions and verification form.
- 2) Continue monitoring for nitrate at least weekly from the entry point until the sample results indicate that the MCL will no longer be exceeded.
- 3) Reissue public notice weekly using the enclosed "Repeat Drinking Water Warning" notice if nitrate sample results continue to exceed the MCL. The public notice should be updated with the most recent sample results.
- 4) Issue the enclosed "Nitrate Advisory Cancelled" notice when sample results are reliably below the MCL (recommend average of 8 mg/L or less).
- 5) Complete and send a verification form with a copy of the public notice to my attention at the above mailing address each time public notice is issued.

Please contact me at (614) 644-2752 if you have any questions or wish to revise any of the notices.

Sincerely,

Wendy Sheeran

Wendy Sheeran
Compliance Assurance Section
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

Attachments: Public Notices; Public Notice Instructions and Verification Forms

cc: Superintendent/Manager; SEDO; DDAGW; WASHINGTON County Health Dept.

DRINKING WATER WARNING

The PUTNAM COMMUNITY WATER ASSOCIATION PWS water has high levels of nitrate

DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS UNDER 6 MONTHS OLD OR USE IT TO MAKE INFANT FORMULA OR JUICE

Results from water samples collected on December 1, 2009 and December 4, 2009 showed nitrate levels of 11.6 mg/L. This is above the nitrate standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 10 mg/L. Nitrate in drinking water is a serious health concern for infants less than six months old.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO INFANTS.** Infants below the age of six months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. Blue baby syndrome is indicated by blueness of the skin. Symptoms in infants can develop rapidly, with health deteriorating over a period of days. If symptoms occur, seek medical attention immediately.
- Formula for children under six months of age should not be prepared with tap water. Instead, use bottled water or other water low in nitrates when preparing infant formula until further notice.
- **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the nitrate level. Excessive boiling can make the nitrates more concentrated, because nitrates remain behind when the water evaporates.
- Adults and children older than six months can drink the tap water (nitrate is a concern for infants because they can't process nitrates in the same way adults can). However, if you are pregnant, nursing or have specific health concerns, you may wish to consult your doctor.

What happened? What is being done?

Nitrate in drinking water can come from natural, industrial, or agricultural sources (including septic systems and run-off). Levels of nitrate in drinking water can vary throughout the year. We are investigating and taking the necessary steps to correct the problem as soon as possible.

For more information, please contact _____ at _____ or _____
name of contact phone number mailing address

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.