

Environmental  
Protection Agency

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor  
Scott J. Nally, Director



September 14, 2012

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION – ACTION REQUIRED**

Mr. Joe Slepko  
Geauga Parks - Walter C. Best PWS  
Geauga Park District  
9160 Robinson Road  
Chardon, OH 44024

Geauga County  
Geauga Parks - Walter C. Best PWS  
Non-Community, Transient PWS  
PWS ID: OH2873012

**SUBJECT: VIOLATION OF TOTAL COLIFORM MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL (MCL)  
DURING AUGUST 2012 (MONTHLY)**

Dear Mr. Slepko:

Geauga Parks - Walter C. Best PWS is in violation of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Total Coliform established by Ohio Administrative Code (OAC), Rule 3745-81-14. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful bacteria may be present.

As stated in a letter sent September 12, 2012, routine samples were collected from your facility on 8/29/2012 and determined total coliform positive. OAC Rule 3745-81-21 requires four repeat samples to be collected in a timely fashion and on the same day upon notification of the positive routine sample results. Geauga Parks - Walter C. Best PWS did not collect the four required repeat samples and, therefore, are in violation of the OAC. A public notice water use advisory was required to be issued because of this violation. The public notice for the water use advisory must remain in effect until you obtain one complete set of four repeat samples that are determined total coliform negative.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

1. **Investigate and eliminate the cause of bacterial contamination.** Special purpose samples may be collected to investigate the source of contamination or to verify elimination of the problem (these samples cannot be collected to comply with monitoring or MCL requirements; label samples as "special purpose").
2. **Notify the people served by this water system.** Within 30 days issue the enclosed public notice in accordance with OAC, Rule 3745-81-32 by the following method(s) to reach all persons served.
  - Posting in conspicuous locations, such as bulletin boards, restrooms, drinking fountains, vending areas;
  - Mail or other direct delivery to each customer;
  - Send to parents or guardians of children at schools or day care facilities E-mail, newsletters or newspaper;
  -

Northeast District Office  
2110 East Aurora Road  
Twinsburg, OH 44087-1924

330 | 963 1200  
330 | 487 0769 (fax)  
www.epa.ohio.gov

- Posted notices must remain in place for as long as the violation exists, but in no case for less than seven days (even if the violation is resolved). The language in italics on the enclosed public notice is mandatory and must be included, as written. Do not make changes to the public notice without consulting with Ohio EPA beforehand.
3. **Complete the enclosed verification form within 10 days of issuing the Public Notice** and mail it to Ohio EPA - NEDO. Include a copy of each notice distributed, published or posted.
  4. **Collect a set of four (4) repeat samples, until one set is total coliform-negative to discontinue the Water Use Advisory.** Notify the people served by the water system when the water use advisory is discontinued.
  5. **Monitor with at least five (5) routine samples** in the month following a routine total coliform-positive result in accordance with OAC, Rule 3745-81-21(B)(7).

If you have any questions, contact me at 330-963-1149.

Sincerely,

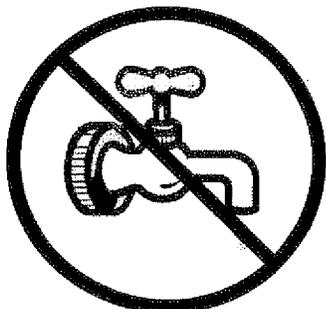


Kathy Metropulos  
Environmental Specialist  
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

KM:ds

Enclosures: Tier 2 Public Notification  
Public Notice Instructions and Verification Form

cc: Geauga County Health Department  
Kim Etters, Ohio EPA, DDAGW-DW, NEDO



# PUBLIC NOTICE - DRINKING WATER WARNING

## Tests show coliform bacteria in Geauga Parks - Walter C. Best PWS water

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We took \_\_\_\_\_ [number] samples for coliform bacteria during \_\_\_\_\_ [month and year]. \_\_\_\_\_ [Number/percentage] of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. No more than [1 sample per month/5 percent of our samples] may show the presence of coliform bacteria during a month.

We were required to collect four repeat samples within 24 hours of notification of any total coliform positive result to determine if *E. coli* or fecal coliform bacteria were present. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems. We did not collect four required repeat samples for a total coliform positive result taken on 8/29/12, and therefore required to go on a boil order alert until four total coliform negative results are obtained.

### What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for at least one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution systems.
- 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.

*Fecal coliform or E. coli, which are bacteria of greater concern, were not detected in the follow-up testing.*

### What is being done?

We are still detecting coliform bacteria. We are investigating and taking the necessary steps to correct the problem as soon as possible.

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

General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

*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.*

PWS ID: OH2873012	Date this public notice was distributed:
-------------------	--

**PUBLIC NOTICE INSTRUCTIONS AND VERIFICATION FORM FOR  
NON COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS WITH TIER 2 VIOLATIONS**

The owner or operator of a non community public water system with a Tier 2 violation or situation shall notify the persons served by the public water system as soon as practical but **no later than 30 days** after the system learns of the violation. Public notice shall be repeated every 3 months as long as the violation or situation persists.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE PUBLIC WAS NOTIFIED BY THE FOLLOWING METHOD(S) INDICATED BELOW, AS DESCRIBED IN THE OHIO ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RULE 3745-81-32:

Required Method of Public Notification	Actual Method of Public Notification
<p><b>Use one or more of the following methods to reach all persons served by the public water system:</b></p> <p>1. Public notice issued by posting in conspicuous locations throughout the distribution system (required to remain posted for as long as the violation exists, but in no case less than 7 days)</p> <p>2. Public notice issued by mail or other direct delivery to each customer and service connection (where known).</p>	<p><b>Describe actual methods used to notify public of the violation:</b></p> <p>1A. Dates of posting _____</p> <p>1B. Locations of posting _____ _____</p> <p>2. Date of mailing/delivery _____</p>
<p><b>Schools and Day-Care Facilities</b> must notify parents or guardians of children being served by methods besides posting, such as a newsletter, e-mail notice, or direct mailing</p>	<p>A. Method(s) _____ _____</p> <p>B. Date(s) _____</p>
<p><b>If the above methods do not reach all persons served</b>, also use any other method reasonably calculated to reach other persons served by the system (e.g. publication in a local newspaper or newsletter, use of e-mail to notify employees or students, or delivery of multiple copies to central locations).</p>	<p>A. Method(s) _____ _____</p> <p>B. Date(s) _____</p>

Please indicate below what public notice was used. **INCLUDE A COPY OF THE PUBLIC NOTICE.**

\_\_\_\_\_ A public notice as provided was issued without changes.

\_\_\_\_\_ A different public notice was issued.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Responsible Person                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name and Title of Responsible Person

Geauga Parks - Walter C. Best PWS  
OH2873012  
Geauga County  
August 2012  
Total Coliform Monthly MCL (Vio. Type 22 on a BA)  
Vio Id: 8080415

<p><b>For Ohio EPA Use Only:</b>  Date PN received: _____  PN acceptable: _____ PN not acceptable: _____</p>
--