



Environmental  
Protection Agency

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

OH6201911 LAKE ERIE UTILITIES COMP

43 09/29/11



Re: Ottawa County  
Lake Erie Utilities Company  
TNC Water System  
PWS ID# 6201911

September 28, 2011

Mr. Jim Arvin, President  
Lake Erie Utilities Company  
P. O. Box 29  
Middle Bass, Ohio 43446

**Subject: Notice of Violation – Failure to meet the treatment technique turbidity requirements in rules 3745-81-71 through 3748-81-75 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) September 2011 – Single Exceedance**

Dear Mr. Arvin:

Lake Erie Utilities Company failed to provide sufficient filtration of its drinking water when the turbidity levels of representative samples of its filtered water exceeded one nephelometric turbidity unit (NTU) on September 3<sup>rd</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, and September 19<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

Failure to meet any requirement of OAC Rule 3745-81-73, Filtration of Water from Surface Water Sources, is a treatment technique violation for which public notice is required under OAC rule 3745-81-32. OAC Rule 3745-81-75 (E) states "If at any time the turbidity in representative samples of filtered water...exceeds one NTU, for conventional or direct filtration or alternative filtration surface water systems, the public water system shall notify the director as soon as practical, but no later than twenty-four hours after the exceedance is known." Lake Erie Utilities Company did not notify Ohio EPA within twenty-four hours after learning of the violation, therefore, Tier 1 public notification is required in accordance with OAC 3745-81-32(B)(1)(g)(i). You are required to provide a public notice as soon as practical, but no later than 24 hours after the system learns of the violation or situation, using one or more of the forms of delivery identified in the table below (Refer to Step 1).

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<b>Actions required as a result of the above violation</b>	
Step 1	<b>Use one or more of the following methods to reach all persons served by the public water system:</b>  1. Public notice issued by appropriate broadcast media (such as radio and television)  2. Public notice issued by continuous posting in conspicuous places throughout the area served by the water system including the ODNR Marina  3. Public notice issued by hand delivery to persons served by the water system  4. Public notice issued by another delivery method approved in writing
Step 2	Initiate an investigation and take the necessary steps to correct the problem as soon as possible.
Step 3	Within <b>10 days</b> of completing Step 1, fill out the attached verification form and send it along with a copy of the public notification issued to the Northwest District Office of Ohio EPA.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at (419) 373-4118.

Sincerely,



Justin Bowerman  
Environmental Specialist 3  
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

/llr

pc: Ottawa County Health Department  
Donald Daley, Uni-Tech Environmental (include enclosures)  
Julie Gillenwater, DDAGW, CO  
Toni Buchanan, DDAGW, CO  
√DDAGW, NWDO File (include enclosures)

# DRINKING WATER WARNING

Lake Erie Utilities has high turbidity levels

## BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

We routinely monitor our water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples taken September 3<sup>rd</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and September 19<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011 showed turbidity levels above the standard of one turbidity unit. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease-causing organisms. We were required to notify Ohio EPA within twenty-four hours after learning of this violation. The first violation occurred September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011. We did not notify Ohio EPA until September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

### 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, washing dishes, brushing teeth, and food preparation until further notice.
- *Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea and associated headaches. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly people may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.*
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

### What is being done?

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

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.*

PWSID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_

Tier 1: Turbidity Notice - Single Exceedance

**PUBLIC NOTICE INSTRUCTIONS AND VERIFICATION FORM FOR TIER 1 VIOLATIONS**

The owner or operator of a public water system with a Tier 1 violation or situation that may pose an acute risk to human health is required to notify the persons served by the public water system. Notice shall be issued as soon as practical but **no later than 24 hours** after the system learns of the violation. Public notice shall be repeated as established during consultation with Ohio EPA.

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>Use one or more of the following methods to reach all persons served by the public water system:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public notice issued by appropriate broadcast media (such as radio and television stations)</li> <li>2. Public notice issued by continuous posting in conspicuous places throughout the area served by the water system including the ODNR Marina</li> <li>3. Public notice issued by hand delivery to persons served by the water system</li> <li>4. Public notice issued by another delivery method approved in writing</li> </ol>	<p>Describe actual methods used to notify public of the violation:</p> <p>1A. Name of station(s) _____                      1B. Date provided to station(s) _____</p> <p>2A. Dates of posting _____                      2B. Locations of posting _____                      _____</p> <p>3. Date of delivery _____</p> <p>4A. Method _____                      4B. Date _____</p>
<p><b>Additional methods established in consultation with Ohio EPA</b></p>	<p>A. Method(s) _____                      _____</p> <p>B. Date(s) _____</p>

Please check if the public notice used was provided by Ohio EPA (other side of this form) or another acceptable notice was used:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A public notice as shown on the other side of this sheet was issued without changes.
- \_\_\_\_\_ A different public notice was issued. **INCLUDE A COPY OF THE PUBLIC NOTICE.**

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

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

PWS Name: Lake Erie Utilities  
 PWS ID: OH6201911  
 County: Ottawa County  
 Monitoring Period: September 2011  
 Violation Type: 43

<b>For Ohio EPA use only:</b>	
Date PN received: _____	
PN acceptable: _____	PN not acceptable: _____