Ohio | Environmental Protection Agency

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

OH6201911 LAKE ERIE UTILITIES COMP 44 08/09/11

OH6201911842782 8

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

August 9, 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)

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 were not less than or equal to 0.3 nephelometric turbidity units (NTU) in at least 95%of the samples analyzed during the July 2011 monitoring period. This is a violation of OAC Rule 3745-81-73(A)(1).

Actions required as a result of the above violation	
Step 1	Within 30 days issue the attached public notice of the violation in accordance with rule 3745-81-32 of the Ohio Administrative Code by the following method(s) to reach all persons served by the public water system: Posting the notice in conspicuous locations throughout the distribution system frequented by persons served by the system, or by mail or direct delivery to each customer and service connection (where known). If the public notice is posted, the notice shall remain in place for as long as the violation or situation persists, but in no case for less than seven days, even if the violation or situation is resolved; and Any other method reasonably calculated to reach other persons served by the system if they would not normally be reached by the notice. Such persons may include those served who may not see a posted notice because the posted notice is not in a location they routinely pass by. Other methods may include: publication in a local newspaper or newsletter distributed to customers; use of E-mail to notify employees or students and parents or legal guardians; or delivery of multiple copies in central locations (e.g., community centers).
Step 2	Initiate an investigation and take the necessary steps to correct the problem as soon as possible.
Step 3	Within **10 days** 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.

Northwest District Office
347 North Dunbridge Road
Bowling Green, OH 43402-9398

419 | 352 8461
419 | 352 8468 (fax)
www.epa.ohio.gov

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

Sincerely,

Justin Bowerman

Justin Bowerman
Environmental Specialist 3
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

/llr

pc: Ottawa County Health Department
Derrick Chennault
Julie Gillenwater, DDAGW, CO
Toni Buchanan, DDAGW, CO
DDAGW, NWDO File (include enclosures)

DRINKING WATER NOTICE

Lake Erie Utilities Company Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

We routinely monitor our water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples for July 2011 showed that 70.7 percent of turbidity measurements were more than 0.3 turbidity units. The standard is no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed 0.3 turbidity units per month. The turbidity levels are relatively low. However, their persistence is a concern.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil the water or take other actions.** We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.

- *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#: OH6201911 Date distributed: _____

Tier 2: SWTR Notice - Monthly Turbidity Exceedance

PUBLIC NOTICE INSTRUCTIONS AND VERIFICATION FORM FOR 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
COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS – 1. Must issue public notice by mail or other direct delivery to each customer and service connection (where known). 2. May also post in conspicuous locations throughout the distribution system (must remain posted for as long as the violation exists, but at least 7 days).	1. Date of mailing/delivery _____ 2.A. Dates of posting _____ 2.B. Locations of posting _____
NONCOMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS – **Use one or more of the following:** 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). 2. Public notice issued by mail or other direct delivery to each customer and service connection (where known).	**Describe actual methods used:** 1.A. Dates of posting _____ 1.B. Locations of posting _____ 2. Date of mailing/delivery _____
Schools and Day-Care Facilities must notify parents or guardians of children being served by methods besides posting, such as a newsletter, e-mail notice, or direct mailing	A. Method(s) _____ B. Date(s) _____
ALL SYSTEMS – **If the above methods do not reach all persons served,** also use any other method 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).	A. Method(s) _____ B. Date(s) _____

Please check which public 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
PWSID: OH6201911
COUNTY: Ottawa County

Violation Type: 44
Monitoring Period: July 2011

For Ohio EPA use only:
Date PN received: _____
PN acceptable: _____ PN not acceptable: _____