



**Environmental Protection Agency**

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Lee Fisher, Lt. Governor  
Chris Korleski, Director

OH6201911

Lake Erie Utilities Company

12/17/2010



Re: Ottawa County  
Lake Erie Utilities Company  
TNC Water System  
PWS ID# OH6201911  
STU # 6252901

December 9, 2010

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 requirements in rule 3745-81-73 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC)**

Dear Mr. Arvin:

Lake Erie Utilities Company fails to provide slow sand filtration as defined by OAC Rule 3745-81-01 and is therefore in violation of OAC Rule 3745-81-73. OAC Rule 3745-81-73 requires a public water system that uses a surface water source to provide filtration which meets the requirements of conventional or direct filtration treatment, or slow sand filtration as defined by OAC Rule 3745-81-01; or demonstrate to the director that another filtration technology can consistently and reliably achieve ninety-nine per cent (2 log) removal of Cryptosporidium, 99.9 per cent (3 log) removal and/or inactivation of Giardia lamblia cysts and 99.99 per cent (4 log) removal and/or inactivation of viruses.

OAC Rule 3745-81-01 (QQQ) states, "Slow sand filtration means a process of passing raw water through a porous granular medium, at a rate of less than one hundred fifty gallons per day per square foot of sand area, with substantial removal of particles by physical and biological mechanisms."

Lake Erie Utilities Company feeds calcium hypochlorite prior to slow sand filtration, which deters the process of substantially removing particles through a biological mechanism. Failure to meet any requirement of OAC Rule 3745-81-73 is a treatment technique violation and public notification is required as set forth in OAC Rule 3745-31-32.

Actions required as a result of the above violation	
Step 1	<p>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:</p> <p>Public notice issued by mail or other direct delivery to each customer receiving a bill and to other service connections to which water is delivered by the public water system.</p> <p><b>If the above method does not reach all persons served, also use any other method reasonably calculated to reach other persons regularly served by the public water system (e.g. publication in a local newspaper, delivery of multiple copies for distribution by customers that provide their drinking water to others, posting in public places served by the system or on the Internet, or delivery to community organizations). If the notice is posted, it shall remain in place as long as the violation exists, but in no case less than 7 days.</b></p>
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.

Mr. Jim Arvin  
December 9, 2010  
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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

/cs

Enclosures

pc: Ottawa County Health Department  
Derrick Chennault, Eastwood Environmental  
Toni Buchanan, DDAGW, CO  
DDAGW; NWD0 File (include enclosures)

# DRINKING WATER NOTICE

## Lake Erie Utilities Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Lake Erie Utilities Company fails to provide slow sand filtration as defined by OAC Rule 3745-81-01 and is therefore in violation of OAC Rule 3745-81-73. Ohio EPA requires water systems that use a surface water source to provide filtration that meets certain requirements to remove particles from the water. Lake Erie Utilities Company provides slow sand filtration, which relies in part on biological activity to remove particles. Lake Erie Utilities Company feeds calcium hypochlorite prior to slow sand filtration, which deters the process of substantially removing particles through a biological mechanism.

### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. A home filter will not necessarily solve the problem, because not all home filters protect against disease-causing organisms.
- 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.

### What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. We do not know of any cases of contamination. However, until improvements are made, there is an increased chance that disease-causing organisms could contaminate the water supply.

*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. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*

### What is being done?

We are 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: \_\_\_\_\_

