



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



February 12, 2013

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION – ACTION REQUIRED**

Mr. Jay Fleming  
Safety Service Director  
City of Van Wert  
515 East Main Street  
Van Wert, Ohio 45891-1870

Van Wert County  
Van Wert City

Community PWS  
PWS ID: OH8100611  
STU ID: 8159424

Subject: Combined Filter Effluent Turbidity Violation - January 2013

Dear Mr. Fleming:

The public water system failed to comply with the treatment technique requirement for turbidity of the combined filter effluent. Turbidity levels of representative samples of filtered water must be less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in at least 95 percent of the samples analyzed each month. According to the Surface Water Treatment Plant Monthly Operating Report for the month of January 2013, the turbidity of the filtered water was less than or equal to 0.3 NTU in 83 percent of the turbidity samples in violation of rule 3745-81-73(A)(1).

Failure to comply is a treatment technique violation that requires a tier 2 public notification in accordance with rule 3745-81-32(C)(1)(a). The public notice must be provided as soon as practical, but no later than 30 days after the public water system learns of the violation (March 2, 2013). The public water system must submit within 10 days of completing the public notification requirements to the Northwest District a completed verification form indicating that it has fully complied with the public notification regulations. The public water system must include with this certification a representative copy of each type of notice distributed, published, posted, and made available to the persons served by the public water system or to the media.

If the public water system fails to correct its violations, then the director may enforce the safe drinking water regulations to attain compliance. An enforcement action may include civil penalties of not more than \$25,000 per day per violation in accordance with RC §§6109.33, or administrative penalties in accordance with rule 3745-81-04.

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If you have any questions regarding this letter, or any other matter involving your water system, you may contact me at (419) 373-3048, or by email [[Ralph.Baker@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:Ralph.Baker@epa.ohio.gov)].

Sincerely,



Ralph J. Baker  
Engineer  
Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

/lr

Enclosure

pc: Don Lippi, City of Van Wert  
DDAGW – NWDO (w/enclosure)

ec: Ralph Baker, DDAGW, NWDO  
Toni Buchanan, DDAGW, CO  
Paul G. Brock PE, DDAGW, NWDO

# DRINKING WATER NOTICE

## City of Van Wert 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 December 2012 showed that 19.4 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.*

PWS: OH8100611 Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_





