

## **Public Notice**

### **Important Information about your Water System**

This is **NOT** an emergency. The water system is **SAFE**. We recently violated the Maximum Contaminant Limit (MCL) for Total Coliforms. We routinely monitor on a monthly basis for microbiological water contaminants by collecting 10 samples through out the system. In March 2008, two of these samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is no more than one sample per month can be positive.

What should you do?

- Nothing, the water system is **SAFE**. However, if you have specific health concerns, consults your physician.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from there health providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is **NOT** an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria that 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.

What happened?

On March 12, 2008, five samples were collected and two returned Total Coliform positive. As required, six more repeat samples were collected for verification and showed negative for Total Coliforms indicating the system is safe. However, regulations states, that more than one Total Coliform positive result in one month is a violation of the MCL. On March 4, 2008 the first set of the ten required monthly samples were collected and showed a safe system.

Also, we are looking into possible human error in the collection procedure and receiving lab procedure as possible causes of cross-contamination of the samples.

For more information, please contact, Ken Mosley, Village of Ruidoso Water Department, at 575-257-0938 or John Pawjalka with the New Mexico Environment Department at 575-258-3272.

Please share this information with all other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice by mail.

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