

# Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Failure to Perform any Level 1 Assessment or a Level 2 Assessment that is Not Triggered by *E. coli* MCL Violations or the Related Corrective Actions – Template 2-21

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

### The City of Deer Park Water System Failed to Perform Activities Required to Address Coliform Bacteria Contamination of the Water System

During recent routine monitoring, our water system tested positive for total coliforms. *\*Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.*

*When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. \*We failed to conduct the required assessment\* by August 6, 2017.*

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

#### What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

#### What does this mean?

Since total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, this is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours. Failure to identify and correct the defects has the potential to cause continued distribution system contamination. Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches.

#### What is being done?

During monthly water testing conducted during June 2017, three water samples out of a set of 30 tested positive for total coliform. Total coliform are naturally-occurring bacteria that are not generally harmful themselves but indicate other, potentially harmful bacteria could be present. Within 24 hours, for each water sample that tested positive for total coliform, three follow-up tests (a total of nine tests) were conducted at the sites of the original tests and at homes three doors away in each direction. All nine of these samples came back negative for total coliform and *E. coli*. As well, subsequent monthly samples – sets of 30 samples collected each month from July-December of 2017 and January-March 2018 – have all tested negative for total coliform and *E. coli*. While the follow-up tests came back negative, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) requires that municipalities who collect fewer than 40 monthly samples must conduct a Level 1 Assessment after any more than two positive tests for total coliform in one month. Staff began the assessment process in July 2017, but it was not completed within the required 30-day timeframe following the negative tests. Due to staff failure to complete the assessment in a timely manner, TCEQ requirements necessitate the public notice herein. Staff now has completed this Level 1 assessment, and it is under review with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. Staff analysis of the Level 1 assessment concludes we have no failures within our water system. Rather, the assessment indicated that attachments on the hose bibs (water spouts) at the test sites were not removed and prevented proper sanitization prior to testing.

For more information, please contact [Nicholas Cook](mailto:Nicholas.Cook@cityofdeerpark.com) at [281-478-7204](tel:281-478-7204) or [PO Box 700, Deer Park, TX 77536](mailto:PO.Box.700@cityofdeerpark.com).

*\*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.\**

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Deer Park. State Water System ID#: 1010007. Date distributed: May 1, 2018.