

PUBLIC NOTICE

UNRESOLVED TOTAL COLIFORM BACTERIA

Tests show Coliform Bacteria In Water at Greenfield Ranchettes (Public Water System # 07492)

Your water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do and what is being done to correct this situation.

We (Grace Environmental) routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. We collected five (5) samples for coliform bacteria during the month of July. Four (4) of those samples showed the presence of coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may show the presence of coliform bacteria.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the 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 which 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.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or E. coli, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately. However, we are still finding coliforms in the drinking water.

What is being done?

We added NSF Approved Sodium Hypochlorite (liquid chlorine bleach) to the storage tank in order to disinfect the system. We also inspected the system facilities including the water distribution main line. We found a leak coming from the main line east of the well site. This is likely to be the cause of the presence of coliform bacteria in the water. A back-siphoning of contaminated water may have occurred during a period of low water pressure. After the disinfection of the system five (5) more samples were collected and one (1) of them again show the presence of coliform bacteria.

What still needs to be done.

We (Grace Environmental) as the certified operator for the water system, recommend that the leak at the main line be excavated and repaired immediately. (Due to the location of the leak, in a livestock pasture with a large amount of animal waste present, as well as being subject to flooding by irrigation, and the irrigation canal itself, the probability of a continued presence of coliform bacteria as well as the possibility of contamination by other potentially-harmful bacteria will remain). In addition, the distribution lines should be continually chlorinated to insure proper disinfection of the system. Because the system currently does not implement a backflow program to protect the water main from backflow from properties with swimming pools and livestock, it is further recommended that a permanent automated chlorinating system be installed. It is also strongly recommended that a proper backflow program be implemented as well as installing blow offs at the ends of the main line to properly flush the line.

For more information please contact: Tom Klinger at 602-672-9985 or Steve Sikora at 602-625-1961 or Carl Valentine (certified operator/Grace Environmental) at 623-293-1597

Please share this information with all other people who drink the water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. This public notice is also available online at www.graceenvironmental.com