Boil Water Notices & Public Notices

John Demaree
DWAWG
Austin, Texas
January 23, 2018
Boil Water Notice Rule revisions

- Rule Revisions effective March 30, 2017
  - Clarifies reporting requirements
    - Notify TCEQ ASAP and at least by the end of the next business day
  - Two Certificates of Delivery (Issue AND rescind)
  - Special procedures and protective measures
    - Boiling is not always the answer!
  - Citation: Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 290.46(q)&290.47(c)&(e)
Special Precautions

- Citation: 30TAC290.46(q)(5)
  - “Special precautions, protective measures, and boil water notices may be required at the discretion of the executive director”
What is a Boil Water Notice

• Precautionary Notice
  • Issued based on indicators that the water quality in the distribution system **MAY** have been compromised
Boil Water Notice By Rule

- 30 TAC 290.46(q)
- If system drops below 20 psi
- *E. coli* is confirmed
- Inadequate disinfectant levels
- Elevated turbidity levels
- Other conditions affecting quality
Acute MCL - BWN Advisory

• If an AMCL for *E. coli*, it is an advisory notice (contamination present!)

• You MUST use one or more: (method(s) reasonably calculated to reach ALL persons served)
  - Posting in conspicuous places
  - Radio and TV (broadcast media)
  - Hand delivery
  - Newspaper, internet, reverse 911, etc.
Procedures to follow for a Boil Water Notice

• Identify violation or condition
• Issue Boil Water Notice
• Remedy condition
• Return PWS to normal operating parameters
• ‘Special’ sample(s)
• Rescind / Lift Boil Water Notice
Issue Boil Water Notice

- Immediately (within 24 hours)
- Use mandatory language
- Submit notice to mass media, direct delivery, and/or continuous posting
- Notice must reach susceptible populations
- Send copy to TCEQ

http://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/microbial/notices/boilwater.html
Notification of TCEQ

- Under the new rules, notify TCEQ of a Boil Water Notice within 24 hours or by the end of the next business day. You then have 10 days to send in the required paperwork.
- This applies to the rescinding of a BWN as well.
Return to Normal Operating Procedures

• Check system:
  • Flush lines
  • Disinfection residuals
  • Distribution pressure
  • Treatment and storage facilities
  • Mechanical equipment
Rescind COD

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Certificate of Delivery of Public Notice to Customers: Rescind Boil Water Notice

Public Water System (PWS) name: __________________________

PWS ID: ___________________ Date Boil Water Notice Issued: ___________________

30 TAC 290.46(q) requires a PWS to notify customers that a boil water notice has been rescinded. A public water system shall not rescind a boil water notice until the public water system has met all the applicable requirements as described in 30 TAC 290.46(q)(6). Indicate “x” for all requirements met and provide documentation with submittal:

- [x] Sufficient water pressures (> 20 psi) are consistently maintained per 30 TAC 290.47(e).
- [x] Affected area(s) have been thoroughly flushed and adequate chlorine residual (free > 0.2 mg/L, chloramine > 0.5 mg/L) is maintained throughout the system.
- [x] Surface Water Treatment Rule Only—Finished water entering the system has turbidity levels consistently below 0.1 NTU.
- [x] Specific actions required by the Executive Director have been met (describe actions).
- [x] Microbiological samples, marked “Special”, from representative sites in system, are analyzed by an approved lab and all results are negative for coliform organisms.
‘Special’ samples

- Collect special microbiological sample(s)
- Negative results required
- Representative of distribution system or affected area
BWN Documents to Send TCEQ

When issuing:

• Boil Water Notice
• Certificate of Delivery (Issue)

When rescinding:

• Special sample results
• BWN Rescind Notice
• Certificate of Delivery (Rescind)
Tier I delivery requirements
30 TAC §290.122(a)(2)(B) & (C)

Community PWS must provide a copy of the acute notice to the local Media:
• Radio
• Television
• Newspaper

If no newspaper is available:
• Deliver acute notice directly to each customer, or
• Post acute notices in conspicuous places within the water system
Notify and Send Documentation to TCEQ at:

E-mail: pdws@tceq.texas.gov
Fax: (512) 239-3666
Phone: (512)239-4691

Mail:
TCEQ
Water Supply Division MC – 155,
Attn: Public Notice.
P. O. Box 13087 Austin, TX 78711-3087

Online access:
http://www.tceq.texas.gov/drinkingwater/microbial/notices/boilwater.html
Tier I posting requirements
30 TAC §290.122(a)(2)(D) & (E)

Non-Community PWS:

- Direct deliver PN to each customer and service connection, or
- Post PN in conspicuous places within the water system for seven days or for as long as the situation exists
Situations that pose an acute threat to public health but do not require a BWN:

- nitrate/nitrite MCL
- chlorine dioxide MRDL

Situations that require a BWN:

- **Revised Total Coliform Rule** acute MCL (*E. coli*)
- Combined effluent filter **turbidity** above 5.0 NTU
- Loss of Pressure below 20 psi

Deliver BWN in the same manner as the Tier I PN
Questions?

John Demaree
Drinking Water Inventory and Protection Team
PDWS@tceq.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 239-4691
Fax: (512) 239-3666