Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) Failure to Perform a Level 2 Assessment Triggered by an *E. coli* MCL Violation or the Related Corrective Actions – Template 2-22

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

[Water System Name] Failed to Correct a Problem Discovered During an Assessment of the Water System after Testing Positive for *E. coli*

During recent monitoring, our water system tested positive for *E. coli*. *E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. We violated the standard for E. coli, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution.

When this occurs, we are required to conduct a detailed assessment to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. We failed to conduct the required assessment by [Enter date the assessment was due].

As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. You were notified of the *E. coli* in our water on [enter date when Tier 1 public notice of the MCL violation that triggered the assessment was provided] and on [enter date] that no additional contamination has been identified and that you do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. Although our recent sampling has indicated coliform bacteria are absent, we are still required to assess the system and correct any defects found.

What should I do?

* You still do not need to boil your water or take 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?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Failure to identify and correct system defects has the potential to cause 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?

[Describe corrective action including when you expect to return to compliance or resolve the situation].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

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 [water system name]. State Water System ID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Date distributed: \_\_\_\_\_\_.