

## Mandatory Language for Monitoring and Reporting Violation

### SURFACE WATER MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR

The **City of Deer Park**, PWS ID **TX1010007**, has violated the monitoring and reporting requirements set by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Section 290, Subchapter F. Public water systems that treat surface water and/or ground water under the direct influence of surface water are required to submit monthly operating reports with operational data of the treatment, disinfection and quality of the water provided to their customers.

We failed to monitor and/or report the following constituents: turbidity.  
This/These violation(s) occurred in the monitoring period(s) November 2019.

Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water is safe. We did not complete all monitoring and/or reporting for surface water constituents, and therefore TCEQ cannot be sure of the safety of your drinking water during that time.

We are taking the following actions to address this issue:

#### **What happened? Why were the readings not completed?**

In the month of November, one employee failed to take readings on two separate days. The employee ran multiple tests on the two days that he missed a data point, but failed to collect and run a sample required by TCEQ.

#### **Was the water dangerous during this time?**

According to Surface Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Nicholas Cook, due to the measurements that we know are verified/validated, we believe that the water was safe for the entire time. We had zero bacteriological tests fail during the period, we maintained TCEQ desired levels of chlorine throughout the period, and the turbidity was well under the mandated level by TCEQ for all collected samples, including process samples that were run when the final water turbidity was missed. With all of this information, we feel confident that the water distributed from the plant did not pose a threat to the general public.

#### **What are you doing to fix this?**

The 2019-2020 budget included funding for some inline monitoring equipment. This equipment has been ordered and is expected to arrive in mid-December. These readings would be secondary to the water operators' manual testing, but would provide additional data that is eligible to report. The employee has been disciplined within the guidelines of city policy and a review of procedures and schedules has been completed.

#### **More information**

According to Water Plant Supervisor Nicholas Cook, the specific data in question includes the turbidity levels of the water leaving the plant. Turbidity is the cloudiness or haziness of a fluid caused by large numbers of individual particles that are generally invisible to the naked eye.

Data audits have been completed randomly since February of 2019. These data audits have shown that reported data is the same as data that has been reported. This particular issue was found by a blank on the laboratory bench sheet that should have been filled in.

"The two data points that were missed by the employee had other data run around it," reports Cook. The average of sampling in the process area [disinfection zone] that the error occurred was 0.052 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU). The turbidity requirement states that '...the combined filter effluent must be 0.3 NTU or less in at least 95% of the samples tested each month.' We are well below the TCEQ requirement."

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Nicholas Cook at 281-478-7204.

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