

Tier 2 Public Notice

FAILURE TO MEET THE DISTRIBUTION DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL TREATMENT TECHNIQUE

(Note: Instructions are on pages 1 & 2; a fill-in-the-blank Public Notice (PN) template is on the third page.)

The public notice on the third page of this document is applicable when a system that is regulated under the Disinfection Requirements Rule (DRR) fails to meet the distribution disinfectant residual treatment technique.

Failure to meet this treatment technique requires Tier 2 public notice. A failure to maintain a minimum disinfectant residual in the distribution system of at least 0.2 mg/L constitutes a treatment technique violation when:

For groundwater systems that collect less than 40 distribution disinfectant residual samples per month: 2 (or more) distribution disinfectant residual samples per month are less than the minimum of 0.2 mg/L for 2 consecutive months.

For groundwater systems that collect 40 or more distribution disinfectant residual samples per month: more than 5% of the distribution disinfectant residual samples in a month are less than the minimum of 0.2 mg/L for 2 consecutive months.

For all surface water and groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI) systems, regardless of the number of samples collected per month: more than 5% of the distribution disinfectant residual samples in a month are less than the minimum of 0.2 mg/L for 2 consecutive months.

- For example, for a groundwater or surface water (or GUDI) system that collects 60 samples per month, 5% of 60 samples is 3 samples, so...
 - If 3 samples (or fewer) are less than 0.2 mg/L during 2 consecutive months, they are in compliance. Since 3 samples is *equal to* 5%, but not more than 5%, of the number of samples per month, this does not trigger a treatment technique violation.
 - However, if 4 (or more) samples are less than the minimum in 2 consecutive months, that is more than 5%, so that is a treatment technique violation, and the system is not in compliance.

Description of Violation

The following description of the violation is provided in the template, but you may modify it to fit your situation.

Disinfectant residual is the amount of chlorine or related disinfectant present in the pipes of the distribution system. If the amount of disinfectant is too low, organisms could grow in the pipes. We are required to maintain a minimum disinfectant residual concentration in the distribution system of at least 0.2 mg/L in the water supplied to consumers.

During the months of _____, water samples showed a disinfectant residual concentration less than 0.2 mg/L in _____ samples, which constituted a breakdown in treatment. The standard is that disinfectant residual cannot be under 0.2 mg/L in more than _____ samples for two months in a row. As a result of this treatment technique violation, there was a risk that the water may have contained disease-causing organisms.

Community Delivery Requirements

Community water suppliers must provide within 30 days, a Tier 2 PN to **each customer** using one or more of the following forms of **direct** delivery:

- Hand Delivery
- Postal Mail
- Electronic mail
- Automatic telephone dialing systems
- Another form of direct delivery approved in writing by the Department

Noncommunity Delivery Requirements

Noncommunity water suppliers must provide a Tier 2 PN within 30 days to consumers using one of the following methods:

- Posting in conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Electronic mail
- Postal Mail
- Another method reasonably designed to reach other persons served by the system if they can't be reached by the above bulleted methods

Mandatory Language

Mandatory language on health effects must be included as written and is presented in this notice in ***italics***.

You must also include mandatory language provided in ***italics*** to encourage notice recipients to distribute the PN to others, where applicable.

Corrective Action (What is being done?)

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. You can use one or more of the following statements, if appropriate, or develop your own text:

- We are sampling/we sampled treated water for the presence of coliform bacteria.
- We are sampling/we sampled disinfectant levels and will adjust/adjusted the amount of disinfectant added as necessary to maintain adequate levels.
- We are flushing the water system to improve water quality.

Repeat Notices

You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists.

For repeat notices, you should state how long the violation has been ongoing and remind consumers of when you sent out any previous notices. If you are making progress in correcting the deficiency or achieving the required treatment, describe your progress. Alternatively, if funding or other issues are delaying your progress, let consumers know.

PN Certification

Send DEP a copy of each type of notice and the certification form (3930-FM-BSDW0076) to DEP within ten days after you issue the notices.

Template Form Field Instructions

When you place your cursor in the blank form fields in the following template, look at the bottom, left corner of your computer (just above the START button) for instructions on the information you should enter in that field. For example, if you place your cursor over the first blank form field in the template, the instructions will read "Insert start date."

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

FAILURE TO MEET THE DISTRIBUTION DISINFECTANT RESIDUAL TREATMENT TECHNIQUE

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACION IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE
ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

From September 10, 2021 to October 25, 2021

Blawnox Borough Public Water System did not meet treatment technique requirements.

Disinfectant residual is the amount of chlorine or related disinfectant present in the pipes of the distribution system. If the amount of disinfectant is too low, organisms could grow in the pipes. We are required to maintain a minimum disinfectant residual concentration in the distribution system of at least 0.2 mg/L in the water supplied to consumers.

During the months of September and October, water samples showed a disinfectant residual concentration less than 0.2 mg/L in 10 samples. The standard is that the disinfectant residual cannot be under 0.2 mg/L in more than 1 samples for two months in a row. As a result of this treatment technique violation, there was a risk that the water may have contained disease-causing organisms.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbial contaminants are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in your drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms, and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What does this mean? This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

What is being done? We did the following to return disinfectant to an acceptable level:

The Borough has received Grants to do work on the tank and the valves in the system to assist with the problem. The Borough hopes those projects will be finished by the end of 2022. The Borough also plans to try to flush the hydrants more frequently.

For more information, please call Kathy Ulanowicz/ Mallori McDowell of Blawnox Borough Public Water System at 412-828-4141.

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 Blawnox Borough Public Water System.

PWS ID#: 5020004

Date distributed: 11/23/2021