

12/17/2024

MARLEENE MERRITT
POWER CITY WATER CO-OP
PO BOX 728
UMATILLA, OR 97882

Re: Confirmation of E. coli in source water at WELL (SRC-AA) on 12/16/2024

Dear MARLEENE MERRITT:

Recent source water samples confirm the presence of E. coli, an indicator of fecal contamination in the source water. Fecal contamination includes harmful bacteria and viruses that have the potential to cause serious gastrointestinal illness. Water containing E. coli is considered unsafe to drink.

Unless you are able to immediately verify that disinfection requirements have been met, you must issue a boil water public notice within 24 hours. A copy of the public notice must be received by the State Drinking Water Services by 12/30/2024. This notice will be in place until the microbiological contamination issue has been resolved or interim disinfection meeting 4-log inactivation of viruses has been verified.

You now have the following four options for corrective action, upon approval of your Regulating Agency - REGION 1:

1. Inspect the groundwater source (wellhead or spring collector) and surrounding area for pathways of fecal contamination and correct any significant deficiencies;
2. Disconnect the groundwater source from the water system and provide an approved alternate source of water;
3. Identify and eliminate the cause of fecal contamination by documenting the contaminant type, its proximity to the groundwater source and the process of removal; or

4. If the groundwater source meets all applicable construction standards specified in OAR 333-061-0050(2), provide treatment that reliably achieves at least 4-log inactivation of viruses.

You must consult with your Regulating Agency within 30 days of receiving this letter to discuss appropriate corrective action. You must also complete the corrective action chosen or be in compliance with a written corrective action plan approved by your Regulating Agency no later than 04/21/2025.

Furthermore, confirmed E. coli in WELL requires an evaluation by a state hydrogeologist to determine if the groundwater is under the direct influence of surface water. POWER CITY WATER CO-OP will be notified if additional monitoring is required.

Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated. Please contact DWS at (541) 276-8006 to discuss this matter in more detail.

Drinking Water Services

Enc.
Public Notice Template

cc: Bill Goss/Amy Word, DWS
Russell Kazmierczak, DWS Hydrogeologist

