PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Drinking Water Services
Kate Brown, Governor

COPY

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FILE COPY

Joy Ramirez
390 Third Street
Maupin, OR 97037

RE: MICROSCOPIC PARTICULATE ANALYSIS SAMPLING REQUIREMENT PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM #4100510 – CITY OF MAUPIN

Dear Joy:

This letter acknowledges that the October 7, 2015, assessment sample collected from the City of Maupin water system in conformance with the Groundwater Rule was confirmed E. coli positive on October 12, 2015 (https://yourwater.oregon.gov/dcoliform.php?pwsno=00510). As a follow-up to the E. coli confirmation, the three spring sources were reviewed for the potential to be under the direct influence of surface water.

The evaluation for Ground Water Under the Direct Influence (GWUDI) of surface water is a two step process and the criteria for the first step of determining whether or not surface water is contributing to your source are listed below (see enclosed GWUDI Determination FAQ):

- The drinking water source is within either 500 feet for fractured bedrock, or 200 feet for alluvium of a perennial or intermittent surface water body; greater distances if geologic conditions or historical monitoring data indicate additional risk, AND
- The source has a confirmed or suspected history of coliform bacteria, OR
- The aquifer is judged as susceptible based on local hydrogeology, OR
- The source construction is judged as inadequate with respect to protecting the source from the surface water source.

The evaluation process has determined the following for your drinking water source:

- Springs #1, #2, and #3 captures water from an unconfined, fractured, bedrock aquifer and are constructed within 500 feet from an area (i.e., old mill site) where stormwater runoff and rapid infiltration of surface water occurs,
- The presence of E. coli in the source has been confirmed,
- The source is susceptible to contamination due to the proximity of the aquifer to the land surface, thin soil to loose talus cover, and fractured bedrock, and
- The construction of Springs #1, #2 and #3 are inadequate with the respect of protecting the source from the rapid infiltration of surface water (e.g., stormwater).

Since Springs #1, #2, and #3 meet the criteria listed above, your system has the potential to be under the direct influence of surface water. Although this does not mean that your drinking water source is under the direct influence of surface water. it does mean that further evaluation of the risk is necessary.

The second step in determining if your source is under the direct influence of surface water is the collection of samples for Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA). The MPA specifically searches for the presence of surface water organisms, including diatoms and other algae, in the raw water sample (see enclosed Microscopic Particulate Analysis Fact Sheet).

The City of Maupin water system will need to collect two MPA samples from each of the three springs (i.e., Springs #1, #2, and #3) during the 2015-2016 operating season. The two samples from each spring should be collected during or shortly (e.g., 1-2 days) after a significant rainfall or snow melt event.

Samples for MPA are not collected out of the tap directly into bottles as other samples, such as coliform and nitrate typically are. The samples are collected by pumping water through a specialized sampling device and filter (see attached MPA Fact Sheet for an example of the Water Sampling Device). In addition to the specialized sampling apparatus, not all drinking water laboratories offer to perform the MPA. In order to assist you in finding a laboratory, attached is a list of some of the laboratories in the region that perform the MPA and approximate analysis cost and rental fee for the sampling apparatus (see enclosed list for Laboratories that Provide Microscopic Particulate Analysis).

If your water system is in need of assistance with the collection and analysis of the MPA samples, your water system may be eligible to use the Drinking Water Programs Circuit Rider Program. The circuit rider, HBH Consulting Engineers, Inc., provides on-site technical services for community water systems serving populations under 10,000, as well as not-for-profit transient and non-transient water systems. For these water systems, services are free (see attached handout for more information).

I realize the complexity of this requirement. If after reading the enclosed information you still have questions, please contact me at 541-726-2587 (ext. 26).

Sincerely,

Russell Kazmierczak
Natural Resource Specialist

Enclosures

C: John Zalaznick, North Central Public Health District (Wasco Co.)
Michelle Byrd, OHA-DWS Portland
City of Maupin (PWS ID: #4100510) Master File, DHS-DWP Portland