



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION  
Center for Health Protection, Drinking Water Services

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon  
**Health**  
Authority

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February 14, 2024

Andria Shelton  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Umatilla Hatchery  
73959 Riverview Lane  
Irrigon, OR 97844

RE: Nitrate maximum contaminant level exceeded at the Umatilla Hatchery public water system

Dear Andria Shelton,

Recent samples reported for your water system indicate nitrate in drinking water exceeds the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L. Nitrate is a drinking water contaminant and infants below the age of 6 months who drink water containing nitrate in excess of the MCL could become seriously ill and, if untreated, may die. Symptoms include shortness of breath and blue baby syndrome. OAR 333-061-0097

I understand you have already consulted with Bill Goss at about this situation, but you must also:

- 1) Submit a written plan to [bradley.k.daniels@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:bradley.k.daniels@oha.oregon.gov) at the Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services (DWS), no later than 60 days after the date of this letter identifying the corrective action you will take to reduce the concentration of nitrate in drinking water to below the MCL. The corrective action plan must include a projected date by which you can, as quickly as possible, provide safe drinking water to water users.

Possible corrective actions to abate the contamination include:

- Installing water treatment to remove nitrate;

- Disconnecting the water source from your water system and identifying how you will provide an approved alternate source of water;
- Connecting to another public water system; or
- Blending water sources so that nitrate is reliably and consistently below the MCL in drinking water.

2) The public notice issued on February 12, 2024 must also be re-issued every three months until the contamination has been resolved.

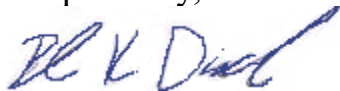
If water system alterations are necessary to resolve the contamination, construction plans must be approved according to OAR 333-061-0060 prior to construction of new treatment facilities or modifications to existing water system facilities.

You can contact DWS circuit rider for technical assistance at [mgochnour@civilwest.net](mailto:mgochnour@civilwest.net) or 541-266-8601. Visit the webpage: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/OPERATIONS/Pages/circuitrider.aspx> for more information about the DWS circuit rider program.

The actions described in this letter are required by Oregon Administrative Rules 333-061-0100. Please contact me at [bradley.k.daniels@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:bradley.k.daniels@oha.oregon.gov) or (503) 735-5438 if you have any questions about the compliance actions specified in this letter.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Brad K. Daniels

Compliance Specialist

Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services

cc: Bill Goss, Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services  
Daniel Hough, Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services  
Amy Word, Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services