

June 17, 2025

Alan Cleaver  
Columbia Basin Onion, LLC  
PO Box 1191  
Hermiston, OR 97838

RE: Nitrate maximum contaminant level exceeded at the Columbia Basin Onion public water system, ID# 95757

Dear Alan Cleaver,

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

Please continue consultation with Bill Goss at the Oregon Health Authority so that you can abate the contamination as quickly as possible.

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;

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800 NE Oregon Street, Suite #640, Portland, OR 97232-2162

Voice: 971-673-0504 | Fax: 971-673-0694

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## Columbia Basin Onion

- 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.

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.

The actions described in this letter are required by Oregon Administrative Rules 333-061-0025 and 333-061-0030. 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  
Amy Word, Oregon Health Authority, Drinking Water Services