

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Hardyston Township Municipal Utilities Authority Failed to Complete Corrective Actions

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether our drinking water meets health standards. On March 24, 2021, we collected one (1) untreated source sample from Well 3 and one (1) tested positive for E. Coli.

You were notified of the E. Coli in Well 3 on March 25, 2021. Hardyston Township MUA removed Well 3 from service on March 25, 2021 and is using existing Well 1 and Well 4 until additional corrective actions have been completed. The Boil Water Before Use Advisory was rescinded on March 27, 2021 based on sample results demonstrating E. Coli was not present in the distribution system.

Water systems that are found to have source contamination are required to submit a corrective action plan within 30 days and complete those corrective actions within 120 days. However, we failed to complete corrective actions by the deadline established by the NJDEP.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours of us becoming aware.

We failed to complete corrective actions.

E. Coli are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

Failure to correct significant deficiencies has the potential to cause distribution system contamination. Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches. We are committed to correcting the deficiency to eliminate the threat of contamination.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- 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 their health care providers about drinking this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

What is being done?

- Although we did not meet our deadline, we have submitted corrective action plans to the state and have been in consultation with the state.
- We have implemented a short term plan to address the immediate issue while we pursue the long-term solution.
- We have discontinued use of the contaminated well and will rely on our other sources to meet demand until the problem is resolved.
- We are required to conduct an evaluation to determine if the wells are “ground water under direct influence of surface water” (GWUDI). We have submitted an evaluation work plan to the state. The evaluation must be completed within one year from state approval of the work plan.
- We expect to complete our approved corrective action within 90 days of completion of the GWUDI evaluation.

For more information, please contact Michael Vreeland, HTMUA Engineer at 862-284-1100. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**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 Hardyston Township Municipal Utilities Authority.

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