Environmental Protection Agency

§ 141.207 Special notice of the availability of unregulated contaminant monitoring results.

(a) When is the special notice to be given? The owner or operator of a community water system or non-transient, non-community water system required to monitor under §141.40 must notify persons served by the system of the availability of the results of such sampling no later than 12 months after the monitoring results are known.

(b) What is the form and manner of the special notice? The form and manner of the public notice must follow the requirements for a Tier 3 public notice prescribed in §§141.204(c), (d)(1), and (d)(3). The notice must also identify a person and provide the telephone number to contact for information on the monitoring results.

§ 141.208 Special notice for exceedance of the SMCL for fluoride.

(a) When is the special notice to be given? Community water systems that exceed the fluoride secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) of 2 mg/l as specified in §143.3 (determined by the last single sample taken in accordance with §141.23), but do not exceed the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 4 mg/l for fluoride (as specified in §141.62), must provide the public notice in paragraph (c) of this section to persons served. Public notice must be provided as soon as practical but no later than 12 months from the day the water system learns of the exceedance. A copy of the notice must also be sent to all new billing units and new customers at the time service begins and to the State public health officer. The public water system must repeat the notice at least annually for as long as the SMCL is exceeded. If the public notice is posted, the notice must remain in place for as long as the SMCL is exceeded, but in no case less than seven days (even if the exceedance is eliminated). On a case-by-case basis, the primary agency may require an initial notice sooner than 12 months and repeat notices more frequently than annually.

(b) What is the form and manner of the special notice? The form and manner of the public notice (including repeat notices) must follow the requirements for a Tier 3 public notice in §141.204(c) and (d)(1) and (d)(3).

(c) What mandatory language must be contained in the special notice? The notice must contain the following language, including the language necessary to fill in the blanks:

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/l) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system [name] has a fluoride concentration of [insert value] mg/l. Dental fluorosis, in its moderate or severe forms, may result in a brown staining and/or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth, before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than 4 mg/L of fluoride (the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s drinking water standard) can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/l of fluoride, but we’re required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/l because of this cosmetic dental problem.

For more information, please call [name of water system contact] at [phone number]. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water.

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§ 141.209 Special notice for nitrate exceedances above MCL by non-community water systems (NCWS), where granted permission by the primacy agency under §141.11(d)

(a) When is the special notice to be given? The owner or operator of a non-community water system granted permission by the primacy agency under §141.11(d) to exceed the nitrate MCL must provide notice to persons served according to the requirements for a Tier 1 notice under §141.202(a) and (b).

(b) What is the form and manner of the special notice? Non-community water systems granted permission by the primacy agency to exceed the nitrate MCL under §141.11(d) must provide continuous posting of the fact that nitrate levels exceed 10 mg/l and the potential health effects of exposure, according to the requirements for Tier 1 notice delivery under §141.202(c) and the content requirements under §141.205.

§ 141.210 Notice by primacy agency on behalf of the public water system.

(a) May the primacy agency give the notice on behalf of the public water system? The primacy agency may give the notice required by this subpart on behalf of the owner and operator of the public water system if the primacy agency complies with the requirements of this subpart.

(b) What is the responsibility of the public water system when notice is given by the primacy agency? The owner or operator of the public water system remains responsible for ensuring that the requirements of this subpart are met.

§ 141.211 Special notice for repeated failure to conduct monitoring of the source water for Cryptosporidium and for failure to determine bin classification or mean Cryptosporidium level.

(a) When is the special notice for repeated failure to monitor to be given? The owner or operator of a community or non-community water system that is required to monitor source water under §141.701 must notify persons served by the water system that monitoring has not been completed as specified no later than 30 days after the system has failed to collect any 3 months of monitoring as specified in §141.701(c). The notice must be repeated as specified in §141.203(b).

(b) When is the special notice for failure to determine bin classification or mean Cryptosporidium level to be given? The owner or operator of a community or non-community water system that is required to determine a bin classification under §141.710, or to determine mean Cryptosporidium level under §141.712, must notify persons served by the water system that the determination has not been made as required no later than 30 days after the system has failed to report the determination as specified in §141.710(e) or §141.712(a), respectively. The notice must be repeated as specified in §141.203(b). The notice is not required if the system is complying with a State-approved schedule to address the violation.

(c) What is the form and manner of the special notice? The form and manner of the public notice must follow the requirements for a Tier 2 public notice prescribed in §141.203(c). The public notice must be presented as required in §141.205(c).

(d) What mandatory language must be contained in the special notice? The notice must contain the following language, including the language necessary to fill in the blanks.

(1) The special notice for repeated failure to conduct monitoring must contain the following language:

We are required to monitor the source of your drinking water for Cryptosporidium. Results of the monitoring are to be used to determine whether water treatment at the (treatment plant name) is sufficient to adequately remove Cryptosporidium from your drinking water. We “did not monitor or test” or “did not complete all monitoring or testing” on schedule and, therefore, we may not be able to determine by the required date what treatment modifications, if any, must be made to ensure adequate Cryptosporidium removal. Missing this deadline may, in turn, jeopardize our ability to have the required treatment modifications, if any, completed by the deadline required, (date).

For more information, please call (name of water system contact) of (name of water system) at (phone number).