



REPORT ON UNSATISFACTORY WATER SAMPLE RESULT

Enclosed is your copy of the results of the water sample report recently requested. The lab found the water sample to be unsatisfactory, with coliform bacteria detected. **NOTE:** *No other water quality tests were made concerning the physical, chemical or biological nature of the sample.*

WHAT ARE COLIFORMS?

Briefly, they are a group of commonly occurring bacteria found in human or animal waste material **or** in the soil, and are used as indicators of general water quality. Their presence indicates the water might make you ill.

WHAT SHOULD BE DONE?

It is important to correct this situation as soon as possible since there is a potential health problem.

The first step is to eliminate the ways bacteria could enter the water supply. If the source is a well, it should have a casing along its full length; have all casing joints or openings sealed with concrete (if this is a dug well); and have a tight fitting concrete or metal lid provided. If the source is a spring, the water should be captured as far underground as possible, and all reservoirs be tightly sealed and overflows screened.

It is important to check for and correct any of these construction problems prior to treating or disinfecting the water. Neglecting this step could mean bacteria will continue to get into the water and the water tests will remain unsatisfactory.

The next step is to disinfect the supply according to instructions. Note: if a re-inspection of the water supply is needed, submit a new application form accompanied by the re-inspection fee. Be sure to indicate the last date of disinfection. We must wait a minimum of 14 days following disinfection for dug wells and a minimum of seven (7) days for drilled wells prior to sampling. We cannot schedule a re-inspection of the system until we have received a new completed application and the fee.

IS THE WATER SAFE TO DRINK?

The presence of coliform bacteria does indicate a potential health problem with the water. We recommend using another source of drinking water **OR** boiling the water at least two (2) minutes prior to drinking. This should be continued until a satisfactory sample has been obtained.

If you have any questions, please call the Water/Wastewater Section at 425.339.5250 and a sanitarian will return your call.