

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

[_____ (System)] Has Levels of Fluoride That Exceed the
Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL)

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] of [name of community water system] at [phone number]. Some home water treatment units are also available to remove fluoride from drinking water. To learn more about available home water treatment units, you may call NSF International at 1-877-8-NSF-HELP.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person	System Name	System Address (Street)
Phone Number	System PWSID #	System Address (City, State, Zip)

Violation Awareness Date: _____

Date Notice Distributed: _____ Method of Distribution: _____

Public Notification Certification:

The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumer in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

Owner/Operator: _____
(Signature) (Print Name) (Date)

Instructions for Fluoride SMCL Notice

(Template on Reverse)

For any exceedance of the fluoride secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL), you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within **12 months** after you learn of the exceedance (C.F.R. 141.208), using the provided mandatory language and filling in the blanks. Because fluoride at levels above the SMCL can permanently discolor children's teeth, you are urged to issue this notice **as soon as practical**. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the exceedance is resolved. If the exceedance has been resolved, you still must post the notice for at least one week (C.F.R. 141.204(b)). If you exceed the MCL of 4 mg/l, you must provide a separate notice within 30 days of learning of the violation (C.F.R. 141.203(a)).

Community systems must use one of the following (C.F.R. 141.204(c)):

- Hand or direct delivery
- Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-community systems must use one of the following (C.F.R. 141.204(c)):

- Posting conspicuous locations
- Hand delivery
- Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (C.F.R. 141.204(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. If you modify the notice, you must still include all the required elements, and the standard language (including the health effects language) in ***bold italics*** must not be changed. This language is mandatory (C.F.R. 141.205(d)).

Explaining the Situation

Use the following language, if applicable:

- Fluoride contamination is rarely due to human activity. Fluoride occurs naturally in some areas and is found in high concentrations in the aquifer in our source water.

If the fluoride levels in the water have returned to below the SMCL, be sure to make this clear in your notice.

Corrective Actions

In your notice, you should describe corrective actions you took or are taking, if any. The bullet below describes one action commonly taken by water systems with fluoride SMCL exceedances. Use this language, or develop your own:

- We are continuing to monitor fluoride levels. We will inform you if they exceed the limit of 4 mg/l.

After Issuing the Notice (C.F.R. 141.31(d))

Within **10 days** after completing the initial public notification, the Public Water Supply Section MUST receive a copy of the notice you distributed to your customers with your signature and date on the Public Notification Certification (located at the bottom of the notice) indicating that you have fully complied with all the public notice requirements.

Mail your notice/certification to the Public Water Supply Section, Compliance Services Branch, ATTN: Public Notification Rule Manager, 1634 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1634. Retain a copy of these documents for your files.

It is a good idea to inform your consumers when the violation is resolved.

(11/2004)