

DRINKING WATER WARNING

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

HIERVAN EL AGUA ANTES DE USARLA.

ESTE INFORME CONTIENE INFORMACIÓN IMPORTANTE ACERCA DE SU AGUA POTABLE. HAGA QUE ALGUIEN LO TRADUZCA PARA USTED, O HABLE CON ALGUIEN QUE LO ENTIENDA.

The South Whitehall Township Main System's water is contaminated with E coli. E coli bacteria were found in the water supply on February 18, 2010. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

What should I do?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause 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.

The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source. It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

A routine water sample taken on February 16, 2010, indicated a positive result for total coliform and E coli bacteria. This shows a presence of harmful bacteria in the water taken from the tap at this location and is considered an indicator of contamination in the water system. As soon as this was discovered additional check samples were taken on February 18, 2010 from local sites as well as all functioning wells in the system. Those samples indicated no problems at the sample sites but a positive sample for E coli at the Dorney Well. As soon as this was confirmed, the well was shut down and systematic testing of the local water was performed. We will be taking additional check samples at locations in the area to test for any bacteria.

We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem by Monday, February 22, 2010.

For more information, please contact:

Thomas Uff
Utility Superintendent
610-398-0407

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 South Whitehall Authority.

PWS ID#: 3390065

Date distributed: February 19, 2010