

TRANSMITTAL LETTER
PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS AS MANDATED BY
THE TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
CITY OF ABILENE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM ID # TX2210001

June 16, 2021

Dear Valued Water Customer,

Enclosed with this letter are Public Notification documents required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality under Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC) §290.122. The public notifications are regarding violations directly related to the severe winter storm event of February 2021 which resulted in a loss of electrical power to the treatment plants and freezing of chemical feed system piping as well as compliance sampling points. The City of Abilene issued a boil water notice in the evening of Monday February 15th and rescinded it in the afternoon of Sunday February 21st. All noted violations occurred during and were corrected within the period of the boil water notice. A boil water notice was used as a means of protecting the public health and safety of water consumers. No additional corrective actions are required.

Sincerely,



Rodney Taylor, Director of Water Utilities

Cc: Robert Hanna, City Manager

Mandatory Language for Monitoring and Reporting Violation

SURFACE WATER MONITORING, ROUTINE MAJOR

The CITY OF ABILENE, PWS ID TX2210001, has violated the monitoring and reporting requirements set by Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC), Section 290, Subchapter F. Public water systems that treat surface water and/or ground water under the direct influence of surface water are required to submit monthly operating reports with operational data of the treatment, disinfection and quality of the water provided to their customers.

We failed to monitor and/or report the following constituents:

Grimes WTP TP15082

- Turbidity, Individual/Combined Filter Effluent (CFE): Failure to report CFE turbidity every 4 hours.
- Disinfection Contact Time (CT): Failure to report CT data necessary to evaluate level of microbial inactivation.

These violation(s) occurred in the monitoring period **February 2021**.

Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water is safe. We did not complete all monitoring and/or reporting for surface water constituents, and therefore TCEQ cannot be sure of the safety of your drinking water during that time.

The City of Abilene Public Water System provides the below description of the events and corrective actions associated with the Monitoring and Reporting Violations.

A Boil Water Notice was issued in the evening of Monday February 15, 2021, prior to the occurrence of the initial listed violation. Each of the above listed Monitoring and Reporting Violations occurred on February 16, 2021 during the unprecedented February 2021 winter storm event. A combination of loss of electrical power to the treatment plant and freezing of chemical feed system piping and compliance sampling points related to the extreme cold weather event occurred at that time. City staff took corrective actions to make the necessary repairs, adjust the treatment processes, and produce treated water meeting or exceeding all regulatory drinking water standards by end of day Wednesday **2/17/2021**. It took several subsequent days to repressurize and restore adequate disinfectant residuals throughout the water distribution system. Special bacteriological samples were collected from throughout Abilene's water distribution system on Saturday **2/20/2021**. On Sunday afternoon **2/21/2021** all bacteriological sample analysis were verified to be total coliform absent, and the Boil Water Notice was rescinded.

Please share this information with all people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (i.e., 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.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Rodney Taylor, Director of Water Utilities at 325-676-6419.

Posted /Delivered by: 6/17/2021

Mandatory Language for Surface Water Treatment Technique Violation

SURFACE WATER TREATMENT TECHNIQUE

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets minimum water quality standards for public drinking water. These standards include enforceable treatment technique requirements for drinking water. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. You do not need to use an alternative water supply.

The **CITY OF ABILENE, PWS ID TX2210001**, failed to meet the minimum treatment technique requirements for the month of **FEBRUARY 2021**. Specifically, our water system had the following Treatment Technique violations:

Grimes WTP TP15082

- Low disinfectant (Total Chlorine) residual entering the distribution system for more than four consecutive hours.
- Low Disinfection Contact Time (CT) for more than four consecutive hours.

Northeast WTP TP15083

- More than 5% of the combined filter effluent turbidity readings were above 0.3 NTU for the month.
- Low disinfectant (Total Chlorine) residual entering the distribution system for more than four consecutive hours.
- Low Disinfection Contact Time (CT) for more than four consecutive hours.

The City of Abilene Public Water System provides the below description of the events and corrective actions associated with the Treatment Technique Violations.

A Boil Water Notice was issued in the evening of Monday February 15, 2021, prior to the occurrence of the initial listed violation. Each of the above listed Treatment Technique Violations occurred on February 15, 16, and/or 17, 2021 during the unprecedented February 2021 winter storm event. A combination of loss of electrical power to the treatment plants and freezing of chemical feed system piping and compliance sampling points related to the extreme cold weather event occurred at that time. City staff took corrective actions to make the necessary repairs, adjust the treatment processes, and produce treated water meeting or exceeding all regulatory drinking water standards by end of day Wednesday **2/17/2021**. It took several subsequent days to repressurize and restore adequate disinfectant residuals throughout the water distribution system. Special bacteriological samples were collected from throughout Abilene's water distribution system on Saturday **2/20/2021**. On Sunday afternoon **2/21/2021** all bacteriological sample analysis were verified to be total coliform absent, and the Boil Water Notice was rescinded.

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