

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

The City of Cottage Grove Water System Does/Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this situation does not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Describe the Violation: Contact Time - In order to ensure proper disinfection, water in the treatment plant must be in contact with chlorine or a similar disinfectant for a minimum amount of time. On November 17, 2009, this did not occur at the Row River Valley Water District's Layng Creek Water Treatment Plant. The water was blended with water that was already in the City's distribution system that had been previously chlorinated at the City's Row River Water Treatment Plant. Lack of adequate chlorine contact time of the blended waters caused the violation. Although chlorine quickly kills most bacteria, it is less effective against organisms such as viruses and parasites. For this reason, water needs to mix with chlorine for a longer time period to kill such organisms. The amount of time necessary, or the contact time, depends on the amount of disinfectant in the water, the pH of the water, and the temperature of the water.

What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This situation does not require that you take immediate action. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Tests taken during this same time period did not indicate the presence of bacteria in the water.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What is being done?

The Row River Valley Water District is in a transitional phase and is still connected to the City of Cottage Grove's Water System. A power outage and failure of a back-up generator, at the Row River Valley Water District filtration plant, caused a temporary malfunction of the District's chlorination system. The water was filtered but not chlorinated for approximately a four hour period. Repairs have been made to the emergency power generator and all system components have been tested.

Disinfectant contact times so far this month have met all requirements.

For more information, please contact the City of Cottage Grove Public Works Department at 541-942-3349 or 400 East Main Street, Cottage Grove, OR 97424.

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 the City of Cottage Grove. State Water System ID#: 4100236. Date distributed: November 25, 2009.