

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Test showed the presence of *E.coli* Bacteria in Green Acres Subdivision Water System Drinking Water

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Escherichia coli (or *E.coli*) bacteria were found in the water supply on December 23, 2016. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

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

This contamination could have been caused by a break in the distribution system (pipes), or a failure in the water treatment process.

What should I do? What does this mean?

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.

E.Coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, 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 from their health care providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

The water system will be flushed. All sample locations will be resampled and sent to the State lab for analyzing. We will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. We anticipate resolving the problem immediately but due to the State lab being closed for the holidays, sampling results are not expected until Wednesday, December 28, 2016. Customers will be notified by TV, radio, newspaper, and hand delivered notices as soon as the test results are received from the State lab.

For more information, please contact Greater Ouachita Water Company at 318-322-3741 or by mail (PO Box 1257 West Monroe, LA 71294). General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

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 Green Acres Subdivision Water System (PWS ID #1073016). If you have questions about this notice please contact the water system directly: Greater Ouachita Water Company, 318-322-371. Date Distributed: December 28, 2016.