



# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria Standard Exceeded  
in Marshfield Water for OCT2015



**Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable.  
Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.**

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard for OCT2015. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. The standard is that at small water systems no more than 1 sample may test positive. At larger systems, required to take at least 40 samples a month, no more than 5% of samples may test positive for total coliform bacteria.

### What should I do?

1. For this type of violation, boiling drinking water is usually not deemed necessary for the general population. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
2. 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 is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified immediately. Total coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. **We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.** If we had, we would have notified you immediately.

### What happened? What is being done? (Describe corrective action.)

The system tested good in September. Since that time the entire system has been flushed. It is likely that something dormant became more active as a result. We will continue working with MDNR and MRWA to flush and resolve the issue, but ultimately the resolution will be chlorination scheduled for 2016.

For more information, please contact water system staff indicated below:

Richard Nevills at 417-859-2352 or 798 S. Marshall, Marshfield Mo.  
(name of water system contact) (phone number) (mailing address)

*Additionally you may contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Southwest Regional Office at 417-891-4300 or Public Drinking Water Branch at (573) 751-5331.*

*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 Marshfield  
State Water System ID#: MO5010503.

Dear Friends,

At the end of last week the City was notified that routine water samples tested positive for coliform bacteria in October (please see the enclosed notification). I cannot explain with certainty why the samples tested positive; however, I do want to explain the current status of Marshfield's municipal water supply and the steps that have already taken place to bring permanent improvements to our community's water supply.

Currently the City is working with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Missouri Rural Water Association to do all they can to maintain a safe water supply. Marshfield water does fall within the MDNR standards, and while positive samples of coliform have been found, none of these samples contained E-coli or other more harmful pathogens that would be cause for an immediate and mandatory boil order. MDNR allows a municipal water supply to have up to four occasions in a twelve month rolling period where positive samples of coliform are found before conducting a review and possibly mandating upgrades. Until now, the most Marshfield has had is two; we now have three. In all likelihood, if Marshfield reaches a fourth occasion, it would result in MDNR mandating the same upgrades that we are already doing voluntarily with construction beginning in 2016, and chlorination being projected to begin this time next year (see timeline on reverse side).

The effort to improve Marshfield's water began in 2013 when the Board of Aldermen (BOA) adjusted the rates for both water and sewer. Additionally, they set in place Capital Improvement Fees that are collected monthly from each municipal water system user. These rates and fees provide the funding needed to service the debt the City will incur to accomplish the improvements our water system needs.

In August of 2014, the voters approved allowing the City to issue its bonds in order to fund the multi-million dollar project to upgrade our water towers, wells, and to begin chlorinating the water supply. Since that time, the City has been seeking approval of project funding through the State Revolving Fund. In October of 2015, the City was notified by the State that the project funding was approved. The City is currently working with engineers to produce the detailed plan for the upgrades that will begin in 2016 (the reverse side of this letter is an accelerated timeline provided by the engineer).

I wish I was able to say that Marshfield's water will not continue to receive positive samples for coliform, but I cannot. I can say while coliform can be a concern for immunity sensitive users, it is not E-coli or other more harmful pathogens, and does not rise to the level of a mandatory boil order. Still, it was determined long ago that while our water supply is acceptable by state standards, it is unacceptable for a community that wants to provide the best quality it can for its current and future citizens. Thanks to the right choices of Marshfield voters and the path taken by the City, we are one year closer to reaching our goal than we would have been without the steps mentioned above.



Robert Williams  
Mayor of Marshfield

## PROJECT SCHEDULE

Project: City of Marshfield Water Improvements SRF Loan

Date: 11/02/2015

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Revised Engineering Report\Facility Plan.....	11/06/2015
DDQ Draft Submittal to MDNR.....	11/20/2015
Submit draft user charge for MDNR review/concurrence prior to public notice of meetings.....	12/04/2015
Submit draft clearance letters for MDNR review prior to sending to clearance agencies .....	12/11/2015
Public Notices for Engineering Report\Facility Plan, Environmental Impact & User Charge (30 Days Prior to Meetings).....	12/18/2015
Submit Environmental Impact Clearance Documents.....	01/10/2016
Public Meetings and Hearing for Engineering Report\Facility Plan, Environmental Impact & User Charge.....	01/18/2016
Submit Plans & Specifications for Review.....	02/19/2016
FONSI public notice (30 Days) .....	02/19/2016
FONSI (30 day public notice complete).....	03/19/2016
Approval of Plans & Specifications.....	04/01/2016
Advertise for Construction Bids (30 Days).....	04/08/2016
Receive Construction Bids .....	05/10/2016
Submit Bids for MDNR review.....	05/13/2016
Loan closing (approximately 60 Days from receiving bids).....	07/08/2016
Award Construction Contract.....	07/15/2016
Notice To Proceed with Construction.....	07/22/2016
Initiation of Operation (operation of the first operable segment of the project or when operations are capable of being initiated).....	08/05/2016
Construction Completion (submittal of Statement of Work Complete and close out documents).....	10/04/2017
Project Completion.....	11/05/2017