

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
GROUND WATER RULE**

Source Water Tested Positive for Fecal Contamination

System Name: Columbus City Utilities - Well # 3-II (released06-16-2017)

Our water system detected fecal indicators (*E. coli*) in one of our wells. As our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. On 06/15/2017, we learned that one of our routine samples collected on 06/14/2017 was total coliform positive. As required by the Ground Water Rule, one of our follow-up steps was to collect sample from our wells. The sample from the Well# 3-II collected on 06/15/2017 tested positive for a fecal indicator (*E. coli*). We are now conducting additional sampling of the well to determine the extent of the problem and are conducting a thorough investigation to determine the source of the contamination. During this evaluation Well 3-II has been taken out of service and is not sending water to the system. All subsequent tests of the water distribution system have shown no signs of contamination.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management requires that we make the following the notifications.

What should I do?

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using it. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water. You may also use bottled water. Use boiled or bottled water for drinking, making ice, preparing food, and washing dishes until further notice.

Also, if you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice about drinking water from your 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 (800) 426-4791. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean? Inadequately treated or inadequately protected water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms can cause symptoms such as diarrhea, nausea, cramps, and associated headaches. *Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause short-term health effects, such as 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.* These symptoms 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.

What Happened? What is being done? Water distribution samples were retaken and have all tested negative. The problematic well has been taken out of service and is not providing water to the system. It will be resampled in accordance with the requirements of the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and verified safe by all parties before it will be placed back into service

We anticipate resolving the problem within **36 hours**.

For more information, please contact Keith Reeves at (812) 350-2686 (cell)

or write to our mailing address

Columbus City Utilities
1111 McClure Road
Columbus IN 47201

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 Columbus City Utilities PWSID# 5203002