## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected**

## Instructions for Fluoride SMCLPublic Notice

**Notice on Reverse**

For any exceedance of the fluoride maximum contaminant level (SMCL), you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 12 months after you learn of the exceedance (141.208), using the provided mandatory language and filling in the blanks. Your primacy agency may have more stringent deadlines or other requirements. Because fluoride at levels above the SMCL can permanently discolor children’s teeth, you are urged to issue this notice as soon as practical. Non-community systems that monitor for fluoride (federal law does not require non-community systems to monitor) are encouraged to notify their consumers if they exceed the SMCL, especially at water systems serving children. If you exceed the MCL of 4 mg/L, you must provide notice within 30 days of learning of the violation (141.203(a)).

Community systems must use one of the following (141.204(c)):

* + - Hand or direct delivery
    - Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

In addition, you must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (141.204(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the exceedance is resolved. If the exceedance has been resolved, you must post the notice for at least one week (141.204(b)).

The notice below is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the CCR as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met (141.204(d)), as well as for a separate individual notice. The language on the template is mandatory and may not be modified, although you may add to the notice, as suggested below (141.208).

#### After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**Elevated Fluoride Levels Detected at [public water system name]**

This is an alert about your drinking water and a cosmetic dental problem that might affect children under nine years of age. At low levels, fluoride can help prevent cavities, but children drinking water containing more than 2 milligrams per liter (mg/L) of fluoride may develop cosmetic discoloration of their permanent teeth (dental fluorosis). The drinking water provided by your community water system has a fluoride concentration of [sample result] mg/L.

Dental fluorosis in its moderate or severe forms may result in a brown staining and or pitting of the permanent teeth. This problem occurs only in developing teeth before they erupt from the gums. Children under nine should be provided with alternative sources of drinking water or water that has been treated to remove the fluoride to avoid the possibility of staining and pitting of their permanent teeth. You may also want to contact your dentist about proper use by young children of fluoride-containing products. Older children and adults may safely drink the water.

Drinking water containing more than the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 4 mg/L of fluoride can increase your risk of developing bone disease. Your drinking water does not contain more than 4 mg/L of fluoride, but we’re required to notify you when we discover that the fluoride levels in your drinking water exceed 2 mg/L because of this cosmetic dental problem.

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

*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 [system].

Water System ID#: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Date distributed: