

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Tests Show Coliform Bacteria Standard Exceeded In WHITEMAN AIR BASE Water For May, 2004

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard for May, 2004. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have the 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 (like Whiteman's) no more than 1 sample may test positive for total coliform bacteria. 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 happened?

In June 2004, we received the report for May 2004 and noticed that we had a positive for total coliform at 833 Summit. A new sample was taken from the site and at a site five connections upstream (823 Summit), and five connections downstream (839 Summit). The lab contacted us the next day and reported that we had another positive but not at the same site. The positive was from 839 Summit. Re-sampling was performed and those results came back negative for total coliform bacteria.

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 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 is being done?

Bioenvironmental Engineering is taking every initiative to ensure that this incident does not occur in the future. Four more sampling sites have been added to the schedule to get better representative sampling. For more information, please contact water system staff indicated below:

Capt Paul Hopper, Lt Michael Horezniak or SSgt Timonthy Houey at 687-4324 or 509 MDSS/SGSLB
702 8th Street, Whiteman AFB, MO 65305

*Additionally you may contact the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' KANSAS CITY REG
OFFICE – KCRO at 816-622-7000 or Public Drinking Water program at (573) 751-5331.*

Date mailed or hand delivered: _____