### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

**Tests show Coliform bacteria in water supplied by:**

[Water System Name]

[Water System Street Address], [Water System Town, State, Zip]

**PWS# RI -**

The [Water System Name]water system recently exceeded the Microbiological Maximum Contaminant Level standard.

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. One (1) sample for Coliform bacteria was collected on [Collection Date] and [Number of Samples] additional samples were collected on [Collection Date]. A total of [Number of Samples] samples showed the presence of Coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than one (1) sample per month may do so.

## What should you do?

* **You must use bottled water or boil the water (for a minimum of one minute at a rapid boil) for all drinking or cooking.**
* If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. 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?

* 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. 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.** Further testing will be conducted to determine when the water is again free of Coliform bacteria.

What happened? [List what happened]

What is being done? [List what is being done]

We are still detecting Coliform bacteria. We will inform you when our sampling shows that no bacteria are present. We anticipate resolving the problem within [Number] days.

For more information, please contact: [Contact Name of Responsible Person] at [Contact Information]

***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: [Water System Name] PWS# RI-[Number] Date posted: [Date]