



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

1021 NORTH GRAND AVENUE EAST, P.O. BOX 19276, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9276 • (217) 782-3397

JB PRITZKER, GOVERNOR

JOHN J. KIM, DIRECTOR

January 11, 2022

CERTIFIED MAIL

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

7013 2630 0001 4708 0066

Watseka Community Water System
Attn: Greg Marks
230 West North Street
Watsseka, Illinois 60970

Dear Greg Marks,

Notice is hereby issued by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) to the owner and operator of the Watseka Community Water System (CWS). Vinyl chloride was detected in the raw water from Well 6 of the Watseka CWS at a concentration of 3.05 micrograms per liter (ug/L) and confirmed in the finished water at 3.23 ug/L. These concentrations exceed the Class I (potable) groundwater quality standard of 2.0 ug/L [see 35 Illinois Administrative Code Part 620.410(b)]. Therefore, the Illinois EPA must provide you notice pursuant to Section 25d-3(a)(2)(B) of the Environmental Protection Act (Act), 415 ILCS 5/25d-3(a)(2)(B).

Additionally, this notice is required pursuant to Section 17.10(c) of the Act, 415 ILCS 5/17.10(c), due to a volatile organic compound (VOC) detection at or greater than 50 percent of the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). The MCL for vinyl chloride is an annual average of 2 ug/L. The annual average for the Watseka CWS is 1 ug/L.

The following items must be addressed pursuant to the Act:

1. Within five (5) business days of receiving this notice, the owner and operator of the CWS must provide the following to all residents and owners of premises connected to the affected CWS [see 415 ILCS 5/25d-3(a)(2)(B)]:
 - a) A copy of this notice by first-class mail or by e-mail; or
 - b) Notification, in a form approved by the Illinois EPA, via first-class postcard, text message, or telephone; except that notices to institutional residents (including, but not limited to, residents of school dormitories, nursing homes, and assisted care facilities) may be made to the owners and operators of those institutions, who shall provide to all residents notification in a form approved by the Illinois EPA. The front of the envelope or postcard that is sent to residents and owners of premises connected to your CWS shall provide the following text in at least 18-point font: PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE - READ IMMEDIATELY. For a postcard, text message, or

2125 S. First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 (217) 278-5800
1101 Eastport Plaza Dr., Suite 100, Collinsville, IL 62234 (618) 346-5120
9511 Harrison Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016 (847) 294-4000
595 S. State Street, Elgin, IL 60123 (847) 608-3131

2309 W. Main Street, Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 (618) 993-7200
412 SW Washington Street, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61602 (309) 671-3022
4302 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61103 (815) 987-7760

telephonic communication, the Illinois EPA will specify the minimum information that the owner or operator of the CWS must include in such methods of notice.

If you choose to notify according to Option No. 1(b) above, please contact Jeff Guy, Illinois EPA Office of Community Relations, to discuss specific notification requirements:

Jeff Guy, Right-to-Know Coordinator
Phone: (217) 785-8724
Email: Jeff.Guy@illinois.gov

2. Within seven (7) calendar days after sending the notices, the owner and operator of the CWS must provide the Illinois EPA with proof that the notices have been sent [see 415 ILCS 5/25d-3(a)(2)(B)].
3. Within 45 calendar days of receiving this notice, the owner and operator of the CWS must submit a response plan to the Illinois EPA designed to prevent an exceedance of the MCL in the finished water and reduce the concentration of vinyl chloride so that it does not exceed the applicable method detection limit in the finished water [see 415 ILCS 5/17.10(c)].

If the notification that you select does not include a written copy of this notice, the owner or operator of the CWS shall include a written copy of this notice in the next water bill that is sent to the residents and owners of the premises. However, if the water bill is sent on a postcard, no written copy of this notice is required if the postcard includes the following internet address for the notice posted on the Illinois EPA website:

<https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/drinking-water/public-water-users/Pages/notices.aspx>.

Failure to provide the notification required under Section 25d-3(a) of the Act to all residents and owners of premises connected to your CWS may result in a civil penalty of up to \$5.00 for each premise connected to the CWS for each day of violation [see 415 ILCS 5/42(b)(6)]. Additionally, any person who knowingly makes a false, fictitious, or fraudulent statement, orally or in writing, to the Illinois EPA commits a Class 4 felony. A second or subsequent offense after conviction is a Class 3 felony [see 415 ILCS 5/44(h)].

Vinyl chloride is a manufactured substance that does not occur naturally. It is used to make polyvinyl chloride, which is used in various plastic products. A factsheet can be found on the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry website at:

<https://wwwn.cdc.gov/TSP/ToxFAQs/ToxFAQsDetails.aspx?faqid=281&toxid=51>.

For purposes of this letter, "carcinogen" means carcinogen as defined in Section 58.2 of the Act. "Community water system," "finished water," "maximum contaminant level," "method detection limit," and "volatile organic compound" shall have the meanings ascribed to them in rules adopted by the Board at Part 611 of Title 35 of the Illinois Administrative Code.

Should you have questions or require further information, please contact Jeff Guy, Right-to-Know Coordinator, at (217) 785-8724 or Michael Brown, Manager, Division of Public Water Supplies, at (217) 782-0020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Kim". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and "K".

John J. Kim
Director

cc: Sanjay Sofat, Illinois EPA BOW
Michael Brown, Illinois EPA BOW
Michael Summers, Illinois EPA BOW