

DRINKING WATER WARNING

Town of Smithfield, NC
Water is Contaminated with
Fecal Coliform/E. coli Bacteria

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

Fecal coliform [or *E. coli*] bacteria were found in the water supply on June 30, 2010. These bacteria can make you sick, and are a particular concern for people with weakened immune systems.

What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice.** Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- *Fecal coliforms and E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause 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.*
- The symptoms above 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. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

What happened? What is being done? When will the problem be corrected?

Bacterial contamination can occur when increased run-off enters the drinking water source (for example, following heavy rains). It can also happen due to a break in the distribution system (pipes) or a failure in the water treatment process.

Background: During routine sampling of the Town's water system, a "Boil Water Advisory" was issued on June 29, 2010, at approximately 5 pm as a result of the presence of fecal coliform bacteria being discovered at one (1) location among the forty (40) different sampling points in the Town's system, ten (10) of which are sampled each month.

Further sampling at this one (1) location continues to show the presence of fecal coliform bacteria and, as a result, this mandatory "BOIL WATER NOTICE" is being issued in accordance with State Safe Drinking Water Regulations. The cause of this contamination is currently under active investigation. Ongoing and regular sampling throughout the system continues on a regular basis to insure the entire system is safe for all uses, including consumption.

This matter is not to be confused with the recent "Water Shortage Advisory" issued by Johnston County, although both Johnston County and the Town of Smithfield are in close communication on a daily basis.

Upon the State's approval, the Town of Smithfield will inform you when tests show no bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. An additional Public Notice will be distributed within 24 hours, or no later than 5 pm on Thursday, July 1, 2010. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1(800) 426-4791.

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.

For more information, please contact:

Responsible Person	System Name	System Address (Street)
Earl Botkin, Director	Town of Smithfield	515 North Second Street (Water Plant Site)
Phone Number	System PWSID# 03-51-010	System Address (City, State, Zip)
919-934-2798 (office) 919-320-3567 (cell)		Smithfield, NC 27577

Violation Awareness Date: 06-30-2010

Date Notice Distributed: 06-30-2010

Method of Distribution: All media outlets, email distribution, Reverse 911, etc.

Public Notification Certification

The public water system named above hereby affirms that public notification has been provided to its consumers in accordance with all delivery, content, format, and deadline requirements specified in 15A NCAC 18C .1523.

Owner/Operator: Earl Botkin Earl Botkin 6-30-10
 (Signature) (Print Name) (Date)