

# THIS IS NOT A WATER QUALITY NOTICE

**This notice concerns a sample collection error in August 2015 that did not affect the quality of the City of Arlington water supply but did result in a monitoring violation of the total coliform rule.**

## Routine Monitoring Violation Total Coliform Rule

Arlington Water Utilities (“AWU”) failed to collect the required number of bacteriological samples for coliform monitoring of the water distribution system during August, 2015. This monitoring is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s “Drinking Water Standards” and the federal “Safe Drinking Water Act,” Public Law 95-523.

Bacteriological samples are used to monitor water quality and indicate if the water is free of coliform bacteria. Our water system is required to submit 180 bacteriological samples each month. Failure to collect all required bacteriological samples is a violation of the monitoring requirements and we are required to notify you of this violation. If you have any questions regarding this violation, you may contact Ann Lawson, AWU Laboratory Services Manager at (817) 575-8966.

Bacteriological samples are so named because they are analyzed to determine if there are certain types of bacteria in the water delivered to customers. The total number of bacteriological samples analyzed during any given month varies, based upon a variety of circumstances. For instance, in August of 2015, AWU analyzed a total of 252 bacteriological samples during the month; 176 were routine distribution samples, 9 were repeat samples, 27 were repair check samples (those analyzed following repair work), 7 were new construction samples (those analyzed to determine the water quality in newly constructed water mains) and the rest of the 33 samples were analyzed for various other reasons.

Under TCEQ regulations, some of these bacteriological samples are counted for the routine distribution coliform (“RDC”) sample requirement of 180 samples, others are counted toward the monthly compliance calculation and some of the samples fall into other compliance categories.

Unfortunately, there was an error in AWU’s software program to determine compliance with the TCEQ RDC sample regulations. The software erroneously counted repeat samples toward meeting the RDC sample requirement of at least 180 samples per month. This software programming error indicated AWU had collected 185 RDC samples when it had actually only collected 176. This programming error has since been corrected.

**This sampling violation did not affect the quality of the water for the AWU system in August 2015. All water quality regulations were met and in most cases, AWU had much better results than required by the regulations.**

Compliance with all regulations, whether they are water quality or monitoring regulations, is of critical importance to AWU. AWU apologizes to its customers for this sample collection error.