

Ground Water Rule (GWR) Failure to Take Corrective Action Within Required Time Frame Notice

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Choctaw Conehatta Water System Failed to Correct Significant Deficiencies Within Required Time Frame

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this incident was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did and are doing to correct this situation.

A routine inspection conducted on November 19, 2019, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4 identified significant deficiencies in: 1) all chlorine gas facilities needing upgrades to sodium hypochlorite (includes 2 corrective actions: Finalize plans and specifications for conversion to sodium hypochlorite disinfection, purchase tanks, pumps, and select chemical vendor).

As required by EPA's GWR, we were required to take action to correct these deficiencies. However, we failed to take this action by the submitted deadline.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions.

However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care providers about drinking this water. 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?

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.

These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors. If

you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

Significant additional funding has been made available to our water system in the current fiscal year. This funding is allowing for the correction of the issues described in this notice. Choctaw Utilities is working with a consulting engineering firm to implement upgrades to the Conehatta Water System consistent with the CAP. We anticipate that all actions required by the CAP, as it may be amended, will be completed by the end of 2024.

For more information, please contact Ricky Cook, P.E. at 601-663-7575 or ricky.cook@choctaw.org.

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 Conehatta Water System. State Water System ID#: **042800002**. Date distributed: 5/5/2023.