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

**Notice**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Choctaw Pearl River 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 3 corrective actions: design, construct and place bleach disinfectant into operation); 2) maintenance plan needed to address the following issue: repair/repaint Trident water treatment units; 3) water loss reduction plan to address the following issues: prepare budgetary estimate to replace large meters, install a Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) at the Chahta Well, install a 4” water meter on the water plant service line and hire CC Lynch to calibrate/verify water production meters.

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. The large water meters for the Silver Star Hotel and the Geyser Falls Water Park have been replaced. Choctaw Utilities is working with a consulting engineering firm to upgrade the water system to utilize a disinfection method consistent with the CAP, which work is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024. We anticipate that the VFD for the Chahta Well will be installed by the end of 2023. Choctaw Utilities is working with a consulting engineering firm to design a new water treatment plant for Pearl River, which will eliminate the Trident treatment units currently being used. This project will include new flow meters to assist in water loss tracking.

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 Pearl River Water System. State Water System ID#: 042800003. Date distributed: 5/5/2023.