

Scott,

I am emailing you to clarify the Department's position regarding the above referenced matter.

In February 2015, Moorestown Water Department (MWD) incurred a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) violation for total coliform, in accordance with standards established by the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations. The violation occurred because two of the thirty water samples collected as part of its regular water quality testing were positive for total coliform. Both samples were, however, negative for E.coli. Since then, MWD has not incurred any other MCL violations for total coliforms.

As a result of the MCL violation, MWD conducted the required limited assessment of the entire distribution system in a timely manner. No obvious sources of coliform contamination were found. Moorestown did report that both positive samples were collected from the same tap, which indicated there could be a problem limited to the tap itself and not the overall water quality. In addition, MWD was required to conduct "public notification" to its customers and other users of the drinking water system in the manner laid out in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act Regulations. MWD posted the information on their website and submitted the Public Notice Certification form in a timely manner. MWN did not, however, notify their customers by mail, which was also required.

In February 2016, NJDEP discovered that MWD had not made the required mailing about the previous year's MCL violation, as required by the regulations. In accordance with the federal regulations, DEP instructed MWD to send the mailing, even though the event had occurred a year earlier. Because the mailing was about an event that had occurred one year previously, some of MWD's customers have been understandably confused and concerned about whether the water is currently meeting the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act standards. The boil water advisory in the mailing should **NOT** have been included because subsequent testing was not positive for total coliform. The fact that the advisory was included, and that there was a delay in sending the notice by mail, were oversights by both MWD and DEP. There is no need for MWD customers to boil water before drinking.

As stated in the recent mailing, coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Because of this, MWD was required to conduct an overall assessment of their distribution, which as stated above they did in a timely manner. At this time NJDEP does not consider there to be any outstanding issues regarding this particular MCL violation.

Please share this information with the Mayor, the governing body, along with any interested residents.

Best regards,

Dan Kennedy, Assistant Commissioner  
Water Resource Management  
NJDEP