

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION
MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL VIOLATION
FECAL COLIFORM/E. COLI.

DATE: July 12, 2009

PWSID: CT1160011

TO: Customers of the **Town of Putnam Water Pollution Control Authority water supply**

FROM: Mayor Robert G. Viens and the Northeast District Department of Health

The Town of Putnam and the Northeast District Department of Health wish to inform you that required water quality tests conducted during the **July 10, 2009** monitoring period indicated the presence of fecal coliforms or E. coli. in our water supply. Confirmation test results were reported from a private laboratory on July 12, 2009. This is a violation of drinking water standards and Section 19-13-B102(i) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies which requires us to notify you of this situation.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of fecal coliform or E. coli. is a serious health concern. Fecal coliforms and E. coli. are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. It is recommended that the precautions indicated below be taken for human consumption activities including: drinking, food preparation, making coffee or ice, dishwashing, or maintaining oral hygiene.

- Bringing water to a rapid boil for one minute to inactivate any bacteria that may be present; OR
- Using bottled water or an alternate source of approved drinking water.

We recommend that the above precautions be considered for infants, expectant mothers, the elderly, immuno-compromised individuals and anyone undergoing chemotherapy. Please consult your physician if you have any medical questions or concerns.

The following steps have been taken to correct this violation:

Increase Disinfection (adding more chlorine to system)

Affected area has been flushed.

Increased and continued monitoring throughout the system.

We are going to continue sampling this week – July 13-17, 2009 – and updates will be made public as soon as possible. We are in continuous consultation with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Northeast District Department of Health.

If you have any questions please contact Mayor Robert G. Viens at (860) 963-6800, via email at rviens@putnamct.us or by mail at Putnam Town Hall, 126 Church Street, Putnam, CT 06260.

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 on E. coli in drinking water, please visit the Department of Public Health website at www.ct.gov/dph or the Northeast District Department of Health at 860-774-7350, www.nddh.org.