

October 20, 2011

Ralph Staver
RAKOG, LTD/McKee Bridge Mobile Home Park
3247 NW Vaughn St.
Portland, OR 97210

RE: Acute arsenic contamination at the McKee Bridge Mobile Home Park water system

The Oregon Health Authority, Public Health Division, Office of Environmental Public Health Drinking Water Program (Program) received a sample analysis report on October 14, 2011 indicating that levels of arsenic in drinking water produced by the McKee Bridge water system are higher than 0.050 mg/L. Specifically, the Program received results from an arsenic sample collected on October 12, 2011 indicating that drinking water at the McKee Bridge water system has an arsenic concentration of 0.065 mg/L.

Short-term exposure to arsenic concentrations above 0.050 mg/L (50 ppb) is considered acutely hazardous to small children weighing 30 pounds or less. In this case, because levels of arsenic are 0.065 mg/L, a child weighing 30 pounds or less could have symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, swelling of the hands and face, and nasal congestion after drinking the water for two weeks or less.

OAR 333-061-0025 requires water suppliers to take all reasonable precautions to ensure that the water delivered to users does not exceed maximum contaminant levels, and that water system facilities are free from public health hazards. OAR 333-061-0025(2) requires water suppliers to take immediate corrective action when maximum contaminant levels have been exceeded.

In order to protect the health of small children, RAKOG must immediately publish the enclosed public notice directing water users to prevent small children from drinking water produced by the McKee Bridge water system. The notice must be distributed by hand to every person served by the McKee Bridge water system and posted in conspicuous locations throughout the water system according to OAR 333-061-


0042(3)(a). The notice must remain posted and be re-published every three months until the McKee Bridge water system provides water that has levels of arsenic below the MCL as specified in OAR 333-061-0030(1).

A copy of the notice, certification of when the notice was delivered to water users, and certification that the notice was provided to all water users must be submitted to the Program no later than ten (10) days after the date of this letter.

Failure to publish and distribute the notice will be considered a violation of OAR 333-061-0025 and could result in additional enforcement action by the Program, which may include assessment of civil penalties in the amount of \$50 per day per violation (OAR 333-061-0090).

Pursuant to ORS 448.990(2), violations of a rule of the Oregon Health Authority may be a crime in Oregon and punishable as a Class A misdemeanor.

Respectfully,



Brad K. Daniels
Enforcement Coordinator
OHA - Drinking Water Program

cc: Scott Curry, OHA DWP
Karen Kelley, OHA DWP
Mike Obereigner, Jackson County Environmental Health
John Staver, McKee Bridge Mobile Home Park

DRINKING WATER WARNING

McKee Bridge Mobile Home Park water has high levels of arsenic

DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO SMALL CHILDREN WEIGHING 30 POUNDS OR LESS

Results of a water sample collected on October 12, 2011 showed arsenic levels of 0.065 milligrams per liter. At this concentration, arsenic is considered acutely hazardous to small children weighing 30 pounds (lbs), or 13 kilograms (kg), or less. This is also above the arsenic standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), of 0.010 milligrams per liter.

What should I do? What does this mean?

DO NOT GIVE THE WATER TO SMALL CHILDREN. **Children weighing 30 pounds or less could show the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, swelling of the hands and face, and nasal congestion.*

Also, adults and children who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

DO NOT BOIL THE WATER. Boiling, freezing, filtering, or letting water stand does not reduce the arsenic level. Excessive boiling can make the arsenic more concentrated, because arsenic remains behind when the water evaporates.

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.

What is being done?

A company has been hired to replace the existing arsenic treatment system. The new treatment system is expected to be installed by early November, 2011, and should be operating properly before the end of the month.

For more information, please contact John Staver at 541-889-1334 or 3030 Upper Applegate Rd., Jacksonville, OR 97530.

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 provided by mailing address McKee Bridge Mobile Home Park. State Water System ID#: 41- 01165

Date distributed: _____