

Waynoka Regional Water and Sewer District

Statement of Facts Regarding the EPA Drinking Water Notices

Property owners have asked for more detailed information about the drinking water notices which they received in the mail recently and some comments about the notices have been posted on social media that are inaccurate. We would like to share the facts and the timeline regarding the situation with our customers. First, the WRWSD Board has taken this issue very seriously and wants all property owners to know that our water is NOT contaminated.

- We had an inspection of the plant, with the Ohio EPA present, in July. The results of that inspection were reported to us that everything was okay – no violations by our Class III operator.
- Due to a personnel issue, we shut down our water plant and went to Brown County water on 9/2/2022. (See WRWSD meeting minutes of 9/10/2022.)
- Due to the same personnel issue, our Class III licensed water operator was let go on 9/7/2022. (For liability reasons, the details of personnel issues cannot be discussed in public.)
- We entered into a contract for the services of a new Class III operator and started the process of ensuring everything was in proper order before we put the water plant back into service. (More detail given in the Board meeting minutes of 9/10 and 9/12.)
- As part of our process of inspecting everything before restarting the water plant, the contracted Class III operator discovered and reported to WRWSD on 09/30 that there were some reports on turbidity (cloudiness) taken in June and August that he believed may have not been reported accurately to Ohio EPA by our previous Class III operator. Revised reports were submitted to the Ohio EPA on 9/30.
- The Ohio EPA issued violation notices on 10/07. This was not an emergency but they required notices be sent informing the public of the situation within 30 days of their notification to us. We sent to EPA drafts of violation notices to be sent to customers.
- On 10/17 EPA gave us final approval and authorization for the notices to be sent to customers.
- The notices were mailed to customers on 10/19.
- We feel we have dealt with the challenging issues responsibly, transparently, and proactively while at the same time ensuring the safety of our customers.

Additional note: Some people have expressed a concern about the sewer plant capacity. This issue has been discussed for some time and on November 29, 2021, the Board authorized the General Manager to seek an engineering firm that could prepare a preliminary proposal for expanding the plant. On March 28, 2022, the Board entered into a contract with CT Consultants for a study to expand the plant. The Ohio EPA typically notifies a company when they need to expand their plant, but WRWSD elected to begin this process before the EPA 'triggers it'. For more detail, see the Board minutes of 11/29/2021, 3/12/2022, 3/28/2022 and subsequent meetings.