



California
Department of
Health Services

SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

January 28, 2005
System No. 5510007

Danny and Delores Conlin, Owners
Conlin-Strawberry Water Company
P.O. Box 116
Strawberry, CA 95375

**NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS FOR HALOACETIC ACID
MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL, TOC REMOVAL TREATMENT TECHNIQUE AND
TOC MONITORING REQUIREMENTS**

This letter is to inform you that based on the 2004 monitoring conducted as part of the disinfection byproduct (DBP) monitoring, your system was not able to meet the federal maximum contaminant level (MCL), treatment technique and monitoring requirements that are listed below:

1. Exceeded the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for haloacetic acids (HAA5), which is 60 µg/L. Compliance was based on the calculated running annual average (RAA) of four consecutive quarterly samples.
2. Violated the total organic carbon (TOC) percent removal requirements, i.e., TOC removal ratios (1 minus the actual TOC percent removal divided by required TOC percent removal for each month). Compliance was based on the calculated RAA for 2004 which was 0.51, which was below the required ratio of 1.00.
3. TOC monitoring requirements, i.e., failure to take the required monthly samples from the source and treated water during the months of January, February and April 2004.

The table below summarizes the DBP monitoring to date:

Quarter	TTHM	HAA5
1	71	113
2	62.9	62
3	58.2	32
4	89.8	54.5
RAA	70.5	65.4



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

Southern California Drinking Water Field Operations Branch

1040 E. Herndon Avenue, Suite 205, Fresno, CA 93720

(559) 447-3300; Fax (559) 447-3304

Internet Address: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/>

Your system must provide public notification to the your customers by the Tier 2 notification method because of the violation of the HAA5 drinking water standard and treatment technique requirements for TOC percent removal. Enclosed are instructions for the public notification and the unedited notice itself. There are numerous areas in the public notification document that need to be edited to contain information that you provide, which is explained or self-explanatory. It also requires specific mandatory language that may not be changed. The mandatory health effects language is contained in the section labeled "What does this mean?"

Most of the modifications necessary for you to make are shown in the brackets. If requested, Arnold Hatai of my staff can provide you with an electronic version of the public notice to edit.

You have 30 days to complete the Tier 2 notification. Enclosed is the proof of notification form that must be returned to the Department within 10 days after the notification has been completed. Please attach a copy of your notice.

Because of the TOC monitoring violation, your system will be required to provide public notification to your customers by the Tier 3 notification method, which is the consumer confidence report. Enclosed are instructions for the public notification and the unedited notice itself. If requested, Arnold Hatai of my staff can provide you with an electronic version of the public notice to edit. The public must be notified within 12 months of the violation or by the end of 2005. The TOC monitoring violation notification must be completed by inclusion of the notice with your 2004 consumer confidence report (completed by July 2005) or with your Tier 2 DBP violation notice.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (559) 447-3300.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Carlucci, P.E.
Senior Sanitary Engineer
Merced District
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

Enclosures

cc: Michelle Moustakas, US EPA
Kerrie Evans, California Public Utilities Commission, San Francisco
Tuolumne County Health Department

bcc: John E. Thorsen
ALJ Department
California Public Utilities Commission

Instructions for Chemical or Radiological MCLs NoticeBTemplate 2-3

Template on Reverse

Since exceeding chemical or radiological maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) is a Tier 2 violation, you must provide public notice to persons served as soon as practical but within 30 days after you learn of the violation (141.203(b)). You must issue a repeat notice every three months for as long as the violation persists. Your primacy agency may have more stringent requirements for MCL violations; e.g., it may require you to provide water from an alternate source. Check with your agency to make sure you meet all requirements.

Community systems must use one of the following methods (141.203(c)):

- X Hand or direct delivery
- X Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-community systems must use one of the following methods (141.203(c)):

- X Posting in conspicuous locations
- X Hand delivery
- X Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (141.203(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for hand delivery or mail. However, you may wish to modify it before using it for posting. If you do, you must still include all the required elements and you may not modify the mandatory health effects language (141.205(d)).

Corrective Action

In your notice, describe corrective actions you are taking. Do not use overly technical terminology when describing treatment methods. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with chemical or radiological violations. Use one or more of the following actions, if appropriate, or develop your own:

- X We are working with [local/state agency] to evaluate the water supply and researching options to correct the problem. These options may include treating the water to remove [contaminant] or connecting to [system]=s water supply.
- X We have stopped using the contaminated well. We have increased pumping from other wells, and we are investigating drilling a new well.
- X We will increase the frequency at which we test the water for [contaminant].
- X We have since taken samples at this location and had them tested. They show that we meet the standards.

Repeat Notices

If this is an ongoing violation and/or you fluctuate above and below the MCL, you should give the history behind the violation, including the source of contamination, if known. List the date of the initial detection, as well as how levels have changed over time. If levels are changing as a result of treatment, you can indicate this.

After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all public notification requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER Conlin Strawberry Water Company Has Levels of Haloacetic Acids (HAA) Above Drinking Water Standards and Violation of the DBP Precursor Treatment Technique Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor for the presence of drinking water contaminants. Testing results we received on [date] show that our system exceeds the standard, or maximum contaminant level (MCL), for HAA. The standard for HAA is 60 parts per billion. The average level of HAA over the last year was 65.4 parts per billion. The system is also required to provide for DBP precursor removal treatment as measured by total organic carbon (TOC). The removal ratio for treatment is set at a level of 1.0 and the monitoring indicated a ratio of 0.51 was provided by the treatment plant.

What should I do?

§ **You do not need to use an alternative (e.g., bottled) water supply.** However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.

What does this mean?

Haloacetic Acids:

This is not an immediate risk. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and requires the disinfection of drinking water. However, when used in the treatment of drinking water, disinfectants react with naturally-occurring organic and inorganic matter present in water to form chemicals called disinfection byproducts (DBPs). EPA has determined that a number of DBPs are a health concern at certain levels of exposure. Certain DBPs, including some trihalomethanes (THMs) and some haloacetic acids (HAAs), have been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals. Other DBPs have been shown to affect the liver and the nervous system, and cause reproductive or developmental effects in laboratory animals. Exposure to certain DBPs may produce similar effects in people. EPA has set standards to limit exposure to THMs, HAAs, and other DBPs.

Total Organic Carbon:

Total organic carbon (TOC) has no health effects. However, total organic carbon provides a medium for the formation of disinfection byproducts. These byproducts include trihalomethanes (THM) and haloacetic acids HAA). Drinking water containing these byproducts in excess of the MCL may lead to adverse health effects, liver or kidney problems, or nervous system effects and may lead to an increased risk of getting cancer.

What happened? What is being done?

[Describe corrective action.] We anticipate resolving the problem within [estimated time frame].

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

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 [system]. State Water System ID#: _____. Date distributed:

Instructions for Monitoring Violations Annual Notice--Template 3-1

Template on Reverse

Since most monitoring violations are included in Tier 3, you must provide public notice to persons served within one year after you learn of the violation (141.204(b)). Multiple monitoring violations can be serious, and your primacy agency may have more stringent requirements. Check with your primacy agency to make sure you meet its requirements.

Community systems must use one of the following (141.204(c)):

- X Hand or direct delivery
- X Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-community systems must use one of the following (141.204(c)):

- X Posting in conspicuous locations
- X Hand delivery
- X Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (141.204(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the violation is resolved. If the violation has been resolved, you must post the notice for at least one week (141.204(b)). If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the reverse is appropriate for insertion in an annual notice or the CCR, as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met (141.204(d)). You may need to modify the template for a notice for individual monitoring violations. This example presents violations in a table; however, you may write out an explanation for each violation if you wish. For any monitoring violation for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) or other groups, you may list the group name in the table, but you must provide the name of every chemical in the group on the notice, e.g., in a footnote.

You may need to modify the notice if you had any monitoring violations for which monitoring later showed a maximum contaminant level or other violation. In such cases, you should refer to the public notice you issued at that time.

Include in your notice the standard language for monitoring and testing procedure violations in *italics* (141.205(d)(2)). If you modify the notice, you may not alter this mandatory language.

Corrective Actions

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took or are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with monitoring violations. Choose the appropriate language, or develop your own:

- X We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The samples showed we are meeting drinking water standards.
- X We have since taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The sample for [contaminant] exceeded the limit. [Describe corrective action; use information from public notice prepared for violating the limit.]
- X We plan to take the required samples soon, as described in the last column of the table above.

After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER
Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Conlin Strawberry Water Company

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During calendar year 2004 we did not complete all monitoring or testing for total organic carbon (TOC) from the source and treated water and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the constituent we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for this constituent and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples will be taken.

Constituent	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When the samples were not taken	When samples will be taken
TOC	2 samples per month. One each from the source and treated water	18 of 24	January, February and April 2004	Every month in 2005

What happened? What is being done?

[Describe corrective action.]

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [mailing address].

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 [system].

State Water System ID# 5510007. Date distributed:



California Department of Health Services

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PROOF OF NOTIFICATION

I notified all users of water supplied by the Conlin Strawberry Water Company of the failure to meet the HAA5 MCL and TOC removal Treatment Technique violation for 2004. I have attached a copy of the notice provided to the customers.

Notification was made on _____ by _____
(date)

_____ written notice.
(hand/direct delivery or mail – separate notice or included with bill)

Signature of Water System Representative

(date)

DISCLOSURE: Be advised that Section 116725 and 116730 of the California Health and Safety Code state that any person who knowingly makes any false statement on any report or document may be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed five thousand (5,000) for separate violation for each day that violation continues. In addition, the violators may be prosecuted in criminal court and upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not more than \$25,000 for each day of violation, or be imprisoned in the county jail not to exceed one year, or by both the fine and imprisonment.



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:

www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

(END OF ATTACHMENT A)