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Director

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Dear Water System Administrator:

This letter is to notify you that your public water system (PWS) will be affected by the Ground Water Rule (GWR). The GWR applies to all PWSs that use ground water as their source of water and do not combine their ground water with surface water prior to treatment. The requirements of the GWR will take effect December 1, 2009. You are receiving this letter because our data shows that your system is a PWS that uses ground water.

Based on these characteristics of your water system, the GWR will affect you in the following ways:

- If any of your routine bacteriological samples are total coliform-positive, you must collect at least one sample from each ground water source in use at the time the total coliform-positive sample was collected. This follow-up sample, referred to as a triggered source water sample, must be tested for a state-approved fecal indicator. For our state, the fecal indicator that has been approved is *E. coli*.
- If you currently provide disinfection, or plan on providing disinfection prior to December 1, 2009, your water system can forgo triggered source water sampling if 4-log virus inactivation/removal can be demonstrated and continuous disinfection monitoring is installed. Providing disinfection does not guarantee that 4-log virus inactivation/removal is being achieved.
- If your triggered source water sample tests positive for *E. coli*, you must take corrective action at the direction of the Environment Department.
- If your system serves fewer than 1,000 people, you may use the triggered source water sample collected from a ground water source (as described above) to meet both the requirements of the

GWR and part of the requirements for repeat sampling under the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) when you have a coliform positive sample in the distribution system.

- If your system has an E. coli positive triggered source water sample or if a significant deficiency is identified at your system and not addressed, you will be required to make special notice to the public that your source water tested E. coli positive or that an uncorrected significant deficiency exists at your system.

A Quick Reference Guide and a factsheet on the GWR are enclosed. The Quick Reference Guide provides more information on this regulation, and the Fact Sheet explains the monitoring and corrective actions in more detail. In addition to these materials, please refer to the final rule language on EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/gwr/regulation.html. Please note that the GWR is in addition to the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). Water systems must continue to meet all of the TCR requirements.

Please contact [WATER SYSTEM SPECIALIST] at [phone number] if you have any questions about this letter or the GWR and its effect on your system.

Enclosures: GWR Quick Reference Guide, GWR Factsheets