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May 31, 2009

Terry Selensky
Kansas Soldiers Home
710 North 14th
Dodge City, Kansas 67801

Dear Terry;

It was good to meet with you concerning the operations of the water system at the Soldiers Home.

Daily chlorine residuals: Every public water supply system in Kansas is required to monitor and record chlorine residuals in the system daily. These records must be kept on file for not less than 10 years. We reviewed your daily residuals they have been averaging .8-1.0 mg/l free chlorine. That is within the KDHE allowable range of .2 minimum and 4.0 maximum.

Routine bacteriological sampling: All Kansas public water supply system must collect routine bacteriological samples. Your system is required to collect 2 each month. We reviewed your samples and they were negative for Coliform bacteria.

Nitrate sampling: Every public water supply system in Kansas is required to collect nitrate samples. Your #4 well is at 11 mg/l. As you are aware the MCL for nitrate is 10 mg/l. Since the water is blended with lower nitrate water from the other well the samples in the system are well below the MCL at 6 mg/l. It is difficult to determine the source of the nitrates but one possibility is old test holes that were improperly sealed. These could be allowing the shallow water that is much more susceptible to contamination to enter the good Ogallala aquifer water where your wells are drawing from. That's a pretty good bet especially since there is a feedlot close by.

Ground Water Rule: By the time you read this, the session on this topic at Dodge will be over. I hope you were able to attend. As we discussed this is an attempt by the regulatory agencies to ensure that the source water is free of bacteriological contamination. Your system should be able to meet the four log inactivation if you wish to proceed that way otherwise you would have to sample the wells before chlorination if there is a positive sample from the distribution system. This is as we discussed.

Sincerely,

Jon Steele
Circuit Rider

C: Vickie Wessel, KDHE