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June 15, 2009

Ron Wetter
City of Hanover
213 E. Jaedicke
Hanover, KS 66945

Dear Ron;

This letter is in follow-up to my on-site visit with you June 11, 2009, to discuss public water supply system operations. Our discussion was basically a review of routine operation responsibilities and requirements including measuring and recording daily chlorine residuals and following a bacteriological sample siting plan when collecting samples.

Daily chlorine residual monitoring: As you noted, you are currently conducting daily chlorine residual tests on the water in the distribution system. However, the following information is being provided as a reminder. All public water supplies are required to measure chlorine residuals in the distribution system on a daily basis. The results of the test along with the date, time, and location must be maintained in a manner to assure compliance with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) minimum requirements. These records normally do not need to be submitted to the KDHE but will be reviewed by the agency's field staff during their routine sanitary surveys of your public water system. The minimum chlorine residual for systems such as yours using free chlorine is 0.2 mg/l. It is understood that you purchase water from Washington County Rural Water District No. 2 and that the District provides chlorination. Good communication with your water supplier is essential so that minimum disinfection requirements are met.

Bacteriological siting plan: Again, as a reminder, KDHE regulations require a representative sampling plan. As a result, KDHE has developed a guidance procedure that suggests you prepare a plan by dividing your distribution system into two zones. Five sampling locations should be selected in each zone. Finally, one sample should be collected from each zone during each month, rotating through the sites until all have been sampled during the year.

Routine flushing of the distribution system mains: It is important that the distribution system mains be flushed on a routine basis. Many systems flush twice per year; however, the frequency of flushing can vary from system to system. Line flushing is good policy as it helps keep the lines clean and will bring fresh chlorinated water into areas that may be low in residual chlorine from time to time. It should be noted that many systems across the state have experienced some difficulty in maintaining minimum residuals due to inadequate mixing of the water in elevated storage tanks. We recommend you pay close attention to areas of low flow and dead end mains and flush as needed to maintain adequate residuals.

Locating and exercising valves: Valves should be exercised on a routine basis to insure operation when needed. It is important that as little of the distribution system as possible be shut down when repairs are needed. The chance of contamination is greatly increased during times when there is little or no pressure on the system. Valves, located in key locations that operate when needed, will affect only a minimum number of customers when line repairs are performed.

Operator certification: The level of certification needed at Hanover is small systems (SS) and the experience requirement is six months. To assist you with the operation of your water system and prepare to take the certification examination, the following materials were provided during this visit: “The Operator’s Handbook” prepared by KRWA, the “Operator’s Companion” prepared by the Blue Book company, and a copy of the distribution system study guide. A copy of the water treatment system study guide is being provided under separate mailing. Also, since you purchase all water from another source, you will be missing experience at the water source. It will take special effort on your part to become familiar with production and treatment issues. In addition, visits to the RWD wells with the District operator would be beneficial. Finally, we encourage you to take advantage of the various training opportunities held across the state and the online quiz section on the KRWA website. To locate the online quiz section, go to www.krwa.net/quiz/.

Funding for the above assistance was provided through a contractual arrangement between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (State Revolving Loan Program set-aside) and the Kansas Rural Water Association (KRWA). Please call the KRWA if we can be of further assistance. Also, visit the KRWA website www.krwa.net for news and information concerning water and wastewater utilities, training opportunities, and other KRWA programs.

Sincerely,

Delbert C. Zerr
Consultant

C: Steve Pierson, Mayor
Teresa Schuyler, KDHE, Topeka
Marsha Carpenter, KDHE, Salina