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February 15, 2010

Wes Overman
Labette RWD 1
618 Iowa
Oswego, Kansas 67356

Dear Wes,

I appreciate the opportunity to meet with you recently to discuss your water systems operation. KDHE has requested that KRWA staff meet with several water systems across the state that are not routinely submitting all bacteriological water samples each month. Labette RWD 1 was one of the systems vited by KDHE.

One of the most important tools an operator can use to ensure coliform-free drinking water is to routinely collect and submit all bacteriological water samples to the KDHE laboratory for analysis. Monitoring for coliform along with daily monitoring of chlorine residuals helps public water systems demonstrate their water is safe to drink. State regulations require all public systems to collect bacteriological water samples each month. The number of samples required is based on the population served. Labette RWD 1 is required to submit two routine water samples each month. If samples do not arrived at the KDHE lab within 30 hours, replacement sample bottles are sent to the district. If any sample is positive for coliform bacteria, three repeat (check) samples are required to determine if contamination is still present and help locate the source of that contamination.

Labette RWD 1 failed two times in the months of January and March of 2009 to deliver all samples to the lab in a timely manner. If the district does not submit two samples (routine or replacement) each month, a monitoring violation automatically occurs and the district is required to notify all customers within 12 months. The district must also provide KDHE with a copy of the notice delivered to your customers and a Certificate of Delivery indicating when and how the notices were delivered to your customers. Labette RWD1 will also be required to include copies of the January 2009 public notices in your 2010 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Your CCR must be delivered to all customers by no later than July 1, 2010.

The violations were 'time in transit' violations, as the samples took longer than 30 hours to reach the KDHE lab. It has been brought to our attention that multiple water systems throughout Kansas have had issues with the transit time of their water samples. **I recommend taking all water samples at the beginning of each month in order to allow time for collecting replacement samples if needed. I also recommend you develop a tracking system, such as using a calendar, to make sure the district has submitted two "good" samples each month. Finally, the district may want to consider using another carrier service (such as UPS or FedEx) to ensure the timely delivery of all samples to KDHE.**

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to reach me by phone at 620-762-6266 or email at eric@krwa.net.

Sincerely,

Eric Davolt
Technical Assistant, KRWA]

C: Mark Stapleton, Chairman
Peggy Campbell, Bookkeeper
Cathy Tucker-Vogel, KDHE, Topeka
Richard Thomas, KDHE, Chanute