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May 28, 2010

Charlie Campbell
Marais des Cygne Public Utility Authority
19 East Peoria, PO Box 409
Paola, KS 66071

Dear Charlie;

This is a follow-up letter to my recent visit to your water system. The main subject was chlorination. Your system purchased a Myox Chlorine System to produce chlorine on-site. Currently you are not using the system, and you are purchasing 12% sodium hypochlorite. Chlorine residuals are important, as the presence of chlorine is an important indicator that contamination has not occurred and water is safe to drink.

I think the City of Paola will have minimal problems in maintaining a safe chlorine residual. On the other hand, the city of Louisburg may have more problems due to the size of their system and larger storage tanks.

I believe Louisburg should consider re-chlorinating at the entry to their distribution system. This will allow the operators to increase the chlorine residual as needed, mainly during the summer months.

The system should consider doing a free chlorine burnout. The loss of chlorine residuals in the summer months can be primarily due to bacterial growths, called biofilms, in storage tanks and distribution systems. These biofilms are not harmful to the customer and do not show up in the regular bacterial testing of the water. Many systems complete a burnout of the system to stop or mitigate or correct the problem. A burnout is where a free chlorine residual, instead of the regular combined chlorine residual, is maintained in the distribution system and storage tanks for a period of approximately four weeks. The free chlorine residual is a stronger disinfectant and kills the biofilms much better than the combined chlorine residual.

Feel free to contact me at anytime. My cell number is 785-548-5523. 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). Also, visit the KRWA website www.krwa.net for news and information concerning water and wastewater utilities, training opportunities, and other KRWA programs.

Sincerely,

Lonnie Boller
Surface Water Tech

C: Mark Allen, City of Louisburg