



21 December 2022

TOWN OF HYSHAM
ATTN: LARRY FINK
PO BOX 228
HYSHAM MT 59038

Re: Failure to Maintain Microbial Disinfection – Surface Water Treatment Rule,
December 2022 Town of Hysham, PWSID MT0000428, Class: C

Dear Mr. Fink,

This violation letter is to inform you that the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has documented that the town of Hysham is in violation of the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM). The town of Hysham is in violation of ARM 17.38.208 for failure to maintain microbial disinfection. On the 8th of December 2022, the water treatment plant failed to maintain a chlorine residual above 0.2 mg/L at the point of entry to the distribution system. Under these rules, your public water supply must maintain a chlorine residual greater than 0.2 mg/L at the entry point to the distribution system. The treatment system is also required to provide treatment that is sufficient to ensure at least 99.9 percent (3-log) removal/inactivation of *Giardia lamblia* cysts and 99.99 percent (4-log) removal/inactivation of viruses. Currently, the system is not able to consistently maintain disinfection and operation that can provide the removal and inactivation that is required of the system.

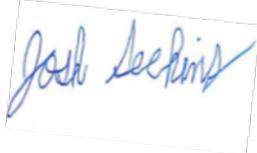
It has been documented on several occasions within the last six months that the treatment system at the town of Hysham has not been able to continually provide the amount of disinfection that is required. The treatment plant has also failed to continually produce water with a turbidity of less than 1 NTU at the point of entry to the distribution system and maintain distribution system pressure above 20 psi in the distribution. The public water supply is being placed under a boil water advisory for these reasons. The system will remain under a boil water advisory until it can fully comply with all the surface water treatment rules of the State of Montana and demonstrate consistent operation under these rules.

Failure to consistently provide treatment that is sufficient to ensure the proper removal and inactivation of microorganisms presents a significant risk to public health and should be addressed with priority. I encourage you to seek out the resources that will allow the system to effectively achieve the required removal and inactivation and prevent this occurrence in the future.

This violation requires tier 1 Public notification in the form of a boil water advisory in accordance with ARM 17.38.239. Instructions for public notice are provided along with an example public notice document that contains the required language you must use to notify users. This public notice will need to be mailed or hand delivered to each person served by the water system, along with another method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (141.203(c)). Please send me a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within 24 hours after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. If you have other relevant information, documentation, or any questions you would like to discuss, please contact me at (406) 444-7251 or Joshua.seekins@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Josh Seekins". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Josh Seekins
Surface Water Treatment Rule Manager
Public Water Supply Section
PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620-0901
406-444-7251, (fax) 406-444-1374, Joshua.seekins@mt.gov
CC: Helena PWS file
Treasure County Sanitarian

Instructions for Monitoring Violations Tier 1 Public Notification

You must provide public notice to persons served within 24 hours after you learn of the violation (141.202(b)). Multiple monitoring violations can be serious, and your primacy agency may have more stringent requirements. Check with your primacy agency to make sure you meet its requirements.

Community systems must use one of the following (141.202(c)):

- X Hand or direct delivery
- X Mail, as a separate notice or included with the bill

Non-community systems must use one of the following (141.202(c)):

- X Posting in conspicuous locations
- X Hand delivery
- X Mail

In addition, both community and non-community systems must use *another* method reasonably calculated to reach others if they would not be reached by the first method (141.202(c)). Such methods could include newspapers, e-mail, or delivery to community organizations. If you post the notice, it must remain posted until the violation is resolved. If you mail, post, or hand deliver, print your notice on letterhead, if available.

The notice on the proceeding page is appropriate for mail or other direct delivery to each customer receiving a bill and to other service connections to which water is delivered by the public water system, as long as public notification timing and delivery requirements are met (141.202(c)).

Include in your notice the standard language for monitoring and testing procedure violations in *italics* (141.205). If you modify the notice, you may not alter this mandatory language.

Corrective Actions

In your notice, describe corrective actions you took or are taking. Listed below are some steps commonly taken by water systems with monitoring violations. Choose the appropriate language, or develop your own:

We are taking daily samples for turbidity, chlorine point of entry and distribution

We are reporting all required samples and calculations monthly to the Department of Environmental Quality Public Water Supply Section by the 10th day of the following month.

After Issuing the Notice

Make sure to send your primacy agency a copy of each type of notice and a certification that you have met all the public notice requirements within ten days after issuing the notice (141.31(d)).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Boil Water Advisory Town of Hysham (MT0000428)

Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system failed to maintain microbial disinfection on the 8th of December 2022. Our system also failed to maintain distribution system pressure on the 18th of December. Due to the loss of distribution system pressure and mechanical failures at the treatment plant, our system experienced high turbidities at the treatment plant. Failure to maintain distribution system pressure may have allowed contaminants to enter the distribution system. Due to the turbidity exceedances, disinfection treatment may not have been sufficient. Currently our system is not able to consistently meet the treatment and monitoring requirements for our water supply. The quality of water produced at this time cannot be assured.

*This **Boil Water Advisory** is precautionary. The town of Hysham is not able to consistently provide the amount of treatment required for the water system. Due to the inability of the system to provide the proper amount of treatment, the quality of water produced cannot be assured.*

What should I do?

- **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice. Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.
- *People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.*

What is being done?

The town of Hysham is currently in the process of addressing deficiencies in the treatment system so we will be able to provide the level of treatment required.

For more information, please contact the town of Hysham office at (406)-342-5544 or write to PO Box 228, Hysham, MT 59038. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by **The Town of Hysham**
State Water System ID#: MT0000428

Date and Method distributed_____.