

DECEMBER 2023

The Revised Total Coliform Rule

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), enforced by the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) since April 1, 2016, mandates our Water Utility to monitor and minimize the risk of fecal contamination in the distribution system. Our Water Treatment Plant serves a population of 125,963, necessitating the collection of 100 monthly samples from various locations across our service area. Coliforms, bacteria found in human and animal waste, plants, water, and soil, including E. coli, are monitored.

Our city is divided into 100 segments, and our Laboratory Technician collects samples monthly from different locations within each segment. Samples are taken from the same location 2 or 3 times a year, with a new random list of locations

generated annually. Sampling involves flushing the line, using bleach to sanitize the tap, and collecting bottles for pH, chlorine, and bacteriological tests.

Chlorine, added at the treatment plant

to inhibit microbial growth, is monitored for degradation. Low chlorine levels prompt further investigation. If an issue is detected,

our Customer Service Center and Distribution Team are notified to address the problem promptly.

In the lab, our Chemist assesses alkalinity and turbidity, conducting BacT tests for total coliforms and E. coli. Results are reported monthly to the KS Dept of Health and

If an issue is detected, our Customer Service Center and Distribution Team are notified to address the problem promptly.

Environment. Sampling is avoided during adverse weather conditions, and Fridays or the day before holidays, to ensure accurate testing.

If a sample indicates the presence of total coliforms without E. coli, additional samples are

taken at the original location and nearby. Repeated total coliform presence or E. coli triggers public notice, requiring immediate corrective actions. To date, our water treatment plant has not violated the RTCR.

