

PUBLIC NOTICE OF KU WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM (EPA ID#KS2004513) TIER 2 VIOLATION

During a routine inspection in July 2023 of the University of Kansas Public Water Supply (KU PWS), the Kansas Department of Environment and Health (KDHE) determined that KU PWS incurred a Significant Deficiency violation for failure to make a daily determination of the chlorine residual in the drinking water within its distribution system. KU had been measuring the chlorine residual during weekdays, but not on weekends or Holidays. Although this is not an emergency, you as users have a right to know about this violation.

Background:

KU purchases all its water from the City of Lawrence PWS; we do not further treat the water. The City of Lawrence PWS uses chlorine as a disinfectant at its treatment plants, which is an essential element of drinking water treatment because of the protection it provides against waterborne disease-causing microorganisms.

PWS's are required to maintain a chlorine residual in the drinking water throughout the distribution system of at least 1 ppm chlorine. The City of Lawrence drinking water typically enters the campus distribution system around 3.4 ppm chlorine. The required daily measurement of chlorine residual demonstrates that good drinking water is being provided to its users. The regulation requiring the daily measurement can be found in the Kansas Administrative Regulations under 28-15-19 (2).

Resolution:

KU will measure chlorine residuals every day and will maintain a central log of the readings within the Environment, Health & Safety department (KU EHS). We have corrected this deficiency as of March 1, 2024.

If you have any questions or concerns about the KU Public Water Supply system, please contact Jon Rossillon, KU EHS, Hazardous Materials / Environmental Protection Programs Manager, via email (jrossillon@ku.edu) or phone (785-864-4089). Also, look for the annual Drinking Water Quality report (Consumer Confidence Report) published by KU EHS each year around the first of July for a listing of all the contaminants that are analyzed in the drinking water we provide.