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Boil Water Advisory and Boil Water Order Overview

Purpose: This document is intended to provide a general overview of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's process concerning the issuance and rescission of Boil Water Advisories (BWA) or Boil Water Orders (BWO). This document does not include all instances or circumstances that may require a BWA or BWO. Public water supply system personnel should always contact KDHE when conditions exist that may pose a threat to public health.

Regulatory Authority: K.A.R. 28-15-18(b) "Each person that operates a public water supply system shall immediately notify the department and responsible local officials of any situation with the water system, including a major breakdown or serious loss of water service, that presents or could present an imminent and substantial endangerment to health."

Process: The BWA or BWO process is initiated when a public water supply system (PWS) notifies KDHE of a circumstance that may pose a threat to public health. At the time of this notification KDHE in consultation with the PWS will determine if contamination is present or if a threat of contamination exists. If presence of contamination is confirmed KDHE will issue a BWO. If the potential for contamination is present (not confirmed), either KDHE or the PWS can issue a BWA. Upon issuance of a BWA or BWO KDHE and the PWS will complete the following actions:

1. KDHE and PWS notify public and local officials of BWA or BWO.
 - a. KDHE notifies (if KDHE issues the BWA or BWO):
 - i. KDHE Districts
 - ii. Media Outlets
 - iii. County Health Departments
 - iv. Kansas Department of Agriculture – Food Safety
 - v. Kansas Division of Emergency Management
 - b. *PWS notifies (if KDHE issues BWA or BWO):
 - i. Retail Customers and/or Purchasing PWS Systems
 - ii. County Emergency Manager
 - iii. Schools
 - iv. Local Medical Facilities
 - v. Local Businesses and Industry
 - vi. Other Local Officials as needed
2. The PWS corrects the initial cause of the BWA or BWO.
3. The PWS will flush and disinfect and re-flush (if needed) the area of concern.
4. The PWS will measure chlorine residuals throughout the distribution system.
5. The PWS will collect bacteriological samples. The number of samples will be determined through consultation between KDHE and the PWS.
6. The PWS will deliver samples to KDHE accredited lab. Sample results are available in approximately 24 hours.
 - a. Samples absent bacteria – KDHE rescinds BWA or BWO – **Only KDHE can issue a rescind notice.**
 - b. Samples bacteria positive – PWS repeats steps 2 – 6

*PWS assumes responsibility for all notifications when BWA is self-issued

KDHE Boil Water Advisory/Order Process Flow Chart

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