April 27, 2011

NAME OF WATER SYSTEM CONTACT
ADDRESS
TOWN, OR 97xxx

Re: [NAME OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM] Monthly Assessment Monitoring Requirement

Dear [CONTACT PERSON]:

The Groundwater Rule went into effect on December 1, 2009. It is designed to increase protection against pathogens, particularly fecal viruses, in public water systems that use groundwater sources. If fecal contamination (in the form of E. coli) is confirmed in a groundwater source, we can presume fecal viruses may also be present in the source water, and the corrective action provisions of the Groundwater Rule will apply.

Those water systems with groundwater sources that add a form of treatment (i.e., chlorine, UV, etc) and are identified by the Drinking Water Program (DWP) as “susceptible” to fecal/viral contamination, must conduct monthly raw water sampling for the duration of one year. A description of the criteria used to identify susceptible sources is attached. This letter indicates that the DWP has identified the groundwater sources listed below as susceptible to fecal contamination. Therefore, to meet Groundwater Rule requirements, a coliform sample must be collected from a raw water sample tap, prior to treatment, for each month of the year that the listed sources are in operation. Sample collection from each source should begin in May 2011 and end in April 2012:

SRC-AA, WELL #1

Unless the above source(s) are seasonally operated, this means 12 months of source water sampling. If you are unable to begin sampling in May 2011, you may start in June. The DWP will begin running violations for missed samples during 2011.

Please complete the lab form carefully for these assessment monitoring samples. Mark the sample type only within the section labeled “Source Sample”, as shown below. The next line (referring to a previous positive sample) does not apply to assessment monitoring samples. All monthly assessment sample results should be submitted to the Drinking Water Program by the 10th of the following month in the same manner that distribution samples are submitted (i.e., by mail, fax, or e-mail attachment).
The 12-month source sampling requirement applies whether or not the water system has taken a partial set of such samples in the past. The sampling is designed to identify disinfectant-treated water sources that are masking fecal/viral contamination that is present at the source. Those systems found to have contaminated sources will face more frequent monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure that public health is protected.

Water systems may be eligible to avoid this 12-month sampling for one of the following reasons:

1. If the water system has already collected raw water coliform samples monthly for a period of 12 months, these results can be submitted to the DWP, or refer us to them if already submitted. The DWP may exempt such sources from the monthly assessment monitoring on a case-by-case basis.

2. If the water system has an inadequately constructed well or springbox, you may choose to reduce susceptibility through reconstruction. Provided the aquifer itself is not considered highly sensitive to contamination, monthly sampling may be terminated once reconstruction is complete and has been approved through the Plan Review process.

If you believe you have received this letter in error, or are interested in implementing management practices that will reduce the threat of fecal contamination in the water supply, please contact Tom Pattee at (541) 726-2588 ext 24. Any additional questions about the required monthly source water sampling should be directed to the appropriate agency representative for your water system (i.e., the County Health Dept., Dept. of Agriculture, or state DWP Staff). If you want to contact this person but are unsure who it is, please call our general program number at (971) 673-0405 for assistance.

Sincerely,

Tom Pattee, R. G.
Groundwater Coordinator
OHA Drinking Water Program