



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
AIR EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMAND

8 September 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR SHEPPARD AFB PERSONNEL

FROM: 82 AMDS/SGPB

SUBJECT: Public Notice for Routine Minor Violation for Water Sampling (March 2016)

1. Sheppard AFB (Potable Water System ID 2430007) failed to collect the required number of bacteriological samples for coliform monitoring of the water distribution system during March 2016. This monitoring is required by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's "Drinking Water Standards" and the federal "Safe Drinking Water Act," Public Law 95-523.
2. Bacteriological samples are used to monitor water quality and indicate if the water is free of coliform bacteria. Our water system is required to submit 15 bacteriological samples each month. Failure to collect all required bacteriological samples is a violation of the monitoring requirements and we are required to notify you of this violation.
3. The water at Sheppard AFB is safe to drink and ensuring this safety is a top priority of the 82d Aerospace Medicine Squadron Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight (BEF). The BEF works closely with the 82d Civil Engineering Squadron to ensure proper locations are sampled at Sheppard AFB. In order to meet the bacteriological sampling requirement for the State, the BEF collects 4 water samples weekly, consequently submitting 16 samples monthly to ensure the safety of Sheppard AFB drinking water.
4. On Monday, 29 February 2016, the BEF began week 1 sampling for March by collecting 4 samples and shipped them to the laboratory on 1 March 2016. By the end of March, a total of 16 samples had been submitted for coliform analysis. However, the TCEQ did not recognize the 4 samples submitted on 1 March 2016 and determined March only had 12 sample submissions. This is because the first 4 samples were collected on 29 February 2016. As such, Sheppard AFB received a Notice of Violation on 15 July 2016 with respect to the "Monitoring Total Coliform Rule" for failure to meet the required 15 monthly samples.
5. To reiterate, the water at Sheppard AFB is safe to drink. The BEF has updated its water sampling schedule to ensure this error is avoided in the future. The TCEQ requires public notification of this water monitoring error and violation. If you have any questions regarding this violation, please contact the undersigned or the BEF point of contact, SSgt Hutcherson, at 676-3080.


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Bioenvironmental Engineering Flight Commander