

**Public Health Advisory – Drinking Water Warning**  
City of Petersburg  
Public Water System ID#: 130148

**BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Drinking Water Program has issued this public health advisory notice for the City of Petersburg public water system because DEC has been notified that our water has recently tested positive for *E. coli*.

A routine water sample was collected on February 13, 2013 and tested by a certified laboratory for *E. coli*

**What should I do? What does this mean?**

**DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST.** Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for two minutes, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water. **Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until further notice.** Boiling kills bacteria and other organisms in the water.

*E. coli* are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, and people with severely compromised immune systems.

- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

**What is being done?**

We are required to complete additional water testing to determine if our distribution system is contaminated. Depending on the findings of that additional testing, we will have our water system further evaluated if needed. We will also disinfect the water system to destroy any bacteria in the water distribution lines.

You should not use the drinking water for any potable purpose without boiling it for **2 minutes** first until further notice. We will notify you when the problem has been addressed and the boil water notice has been rescinded.

For more information, please contact Jamie Bjorkman, DEC Environmental Program Specialist at 907-262-3423.

*Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. Please post this notice in a public place.*

This notice is being sent to you by the Department of Environmental Conservation and the City of Petersburg.  
Date distributed: 2/14/2013