



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Division of Environmental Quality

P.O. Box 501304 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950-1304

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Date:

Dear :

RE: Ground Water Rule

The Ground Water Rule was published on November 8, 2006 (and adopted in the CNMI in February 2008) to provide increased protection against pathogens in public water systems that use ground water sources. One requirement of the rule is that public water systems using ground water as their source must notify DEQ if they are currently providing 4-log treatment of viruses. This treatment can be achieved using inactivation (disinfection), removal (filtration), or a combination of inactivation and removal that has been approved by DEQ. If you are one of these systems, you are required to notify us no later than December 1, 2009.

We have included a form with this letter to help you comply with this requirement. If you have more than one treatment facility using a ground water source, make copies of the form before filling it out and submit one completed copy for each treatment facility (or entry point to distribution system). Please complete a copy of the form for each treatment facility that uses a ground water source.

An explanation of what constitutes 4-log treatment of viruses is provided on the form. If you are not sure how to determine how much virus treatment your system has, call us at (670) 664-8500 and we will help you make that determination. If you understand how to make the determination but do not have the necessary information, check the box that says "We do not know if our ground water system provides 4-log treatment of viruses." A representative from our office will call you and advise you how to proceed.

If you have declared that you are providing 4-log virus removal, you will be required to conduct compliance monitoring. Compliance monitoring involves measuring and recording daily chlorine residual at the first customer for those systems that chlorinate, and documenting daily treatment operations for those systems that do not use chlorine. Compliance monitoring starts on December 1, 2009.

If you have declared that you are not providing 4-log virus removal, you may be required to conduct source water monitoring if total coliform bacteria are detected in your distribution system during routine monthly TCR monitoring. Source water monitoring involves collecting raw water samples from your ground water source and having them tested for fecal bacteria. If fecal bacteria are found, then corrective actions have to be taken to prevent further fecal contamination of your source water.

Completed forms should be mailed to us at the address provided on the form, faxed to us at 664-8540, or dropped off at the DEQ office in Gualo Rai, Saipan. We appreciate your prompt attention and reply.

Sincerely,

Frank M. Rabauliman
DEQ Director