



*Protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans*

September 29, 2005

Mr. Craig Nibbe  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building  
1 Federal Drive  
Fort Snelling, Minnesota 55111



Subject: Water Quality at Camp Coldwater Spring

This is in response to your e-mail of August 15, 2005, regarding the potability of the spring water, serving Camp Coldwater located on the former U. S. Bureau of Mines property, in the city of Minneapolis, Hennepin County. Additionally, you asked for a clarification, as to whether this department should be involved in ongoing water sample testing, under the provisions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

On August 31, 2005, an on-site water quality assessment was conducted on the spring water supply, serving Camp Coldwater. Based upon our observations during this evaluation, it was determined that the Camp Coldwater Spring, has an open and unprotected reservoir, which subjects the water supply to environmental contamination from the immediate surroundings, thereby compromising the integrity of the water.

We have enclosed the bacteriological and Nitrate Nitrogen analytical results of the water samples collected from the Camp Coldwater Spring. The test results revealed that the water samples collected were positive for bacteriological contamination of total coliform indicating organisms, but absent for E.Coli (see enclosed fact sheet on total coliform bacteria). Therefore, based upon the foregoing results, the water supply would be deemed as of unsatisfactory sanitary quality and unfit for human consumption. The analysis of the Nitrate Nitrogen sample, indicated that the water sample did not exceed the maximum contaminate level established under the provisions of the SDWA.

In addition, it was our determination that the Camp Coldwater water supply does not meet the definition of a Noncommunity Public Water Supply, and therefore would not be subject to routine evaluations and sampling by this department. The SDWA and Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4720, defines a Public Water Supply as a "*system that serves 25 or more people per day for at least 60 days per year, or has at least 15 service connections.*"



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The following recommendations are provided to minimize the risk potential concerning the Camp Coldwater Spring Water Supply:

- Warning signs identifying the bacterial contamination shall be posted at all times stating that the **“Water Is Not Safe For Drinking”**.
- Commercially bottled purchased water should be made available for drinking/potable purposes during all public events.
- Water from Camp Coldwater Spring should not be used for cooking/culinary purposes. Also, the boiling of this water for sanitary purposes is not recommended. The boiling of the water only exacerbates the problem by concentrating the pollutants, thereby making the situation more deleterious to health.
- If a well water supply is deemed absolutely essential to the operation of Camp Coldwater, we suggest that drilling a new water well be considered, or;
- Since a municipal water supply trunk line is in the near vicinity, and if potable water is deemed essential to the operation, we suggest the consideration of connecting to the city water supply trunk line.

Lastly, we have enclosed brochures entitled, **Noncommunity Public Water Systems in Minnesota**” and **“Commonly Asked Questions About Springs”**, for your perusal. If you have any questions concerning this report, please feel free to contact me at: (651) 643-2117.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ezekiel Mark".

Ezekiel Mark  
Public Health Sanitarian III  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Environmental Health Division  
Drinking Water Protection Section  
Noncommunity Public Water Supply Unit

Cc: Gerald G. Smith – Noncommunity Public Water Supply Unit Supervisor  
James J. Witkowski – Northeast Regional Supervisor, Noncommunity PWS Unit

**Minnesota Department Of Health - Environmental Laboratory**

**Final Report - Client Copy - Report Of Analytical Results**

Program: **HU**  
 Program Name: **NON-COMMUNITY - NON-LICENSED**

Date Received: **31-AUG-2005**  
 Date Generated: **02-SEP-2005**  
 Request Page: **1 of 1**  
 Date Reported: **02-SEP-2005**

**Samples: 200525165 - 200525166**

<u>PWS No</u>	<u>Site ID</u>	<u>Facility Name</u>		<u>City</u>	
5271181	5271181	CAMP COLDWATER SPRING		FORT SNELLING	
<u>Collect Dt</u>	<u>Coll Time</u>	<u>Coll ID</u>	<u>Collector Name</u>	<u>Orig Samp</u>	
31-AUG-2005	0900	5608	Ezekiel Mark	-	
<u>Field Blank</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>QTR</u>	<u>Field Res</u>	<u>PO4 Res</u>	<u>Trip Blank</u>
-	X	3	-	-	-

**Sample No: 200525165** Receiving Comments:

<u>Field No</u>	<u>LocID</u>	<u>Sampling Point</u>
05-615	-	DISTRIBUTION/SPRING

\*\*\*\*\* SAMPLE RESULTS \*\*\*\*\*

**Unit: BACTICHEM** Reviewed By **PJB** on **02-SEP-05**

	<u>Result</u>	<u>Rept Level</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Analysis Date</u>
327 PA-Tot Coliform-DW (Colilert) MCL Violation PWS notified on 01-SEP-05 by BO	<b>Present</b>			31-AUG-05
328 PA-E. Coli-DW (Colilert)	<b>Absent</b>			31-AUG-05

**Sample No: 200525166** Receiving Comments:

<u>Field No</u>	<u>LocID</u>	<u>Sampling Point</u>
05-615	-	SPRING

\*\*\*\*\* SAMPLE RESULTS \*\*\*\*\*

**Unit: BACTICHEM** Reviewed By **PJB** on **02-SEP-05**

	<u>Result</u>	<u>Rept Level</u>	<u>Units</u>	<u>Analysis Date</u>
69 Nitrate+Nitrite Nitrogen, Total	2.2	0.05	mg/L as N	31-AUG-05:15:10