

BOIL WATER ORDER

Tests show Coliform Bacteria in Keeseville Country Gardens Water

BOIL YOUR WATER BEFORE USING

CUSTOMERS OF THE KEESEVILLE COUNTRY GARDENS WATER SYSTEM ARE HEREBY ORDERED BY THE CLINTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT TO BOIL ALL WATER FOR DRINKING AND CULINARY PURPOSES.

John Kanoza, DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

A drinking water standard was violated. Each month] 1 routine sample is collected to test for the presence of coliform bacteria. So far in August, **6 out of 6** samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria, including 5 repeat sample(s) collected on 8/13/2010. The NYS standard is that no more than one of the samples may be positive in any month.

Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems. In addition, [describe other information of concern, e.g. water quality data for the system is limited, the amount of chlorine in the water is lower than normal, the system is deficient in chlorine contact time, etc.] Because of these factors consumers need to take action to protect their health.

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER WITHOUT BOILING IT FIRST. Bring all water to a rolling boil, let it boil for one minute, and let it cool before using, or use bottled water certified for sale by the New York State Department of Health. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation **until further notice**. Boiling kills most bacteria and other organisms in the water.

Whenever coliform bacteria are detected in a sample, follow-up testing is required to determine if other bacteria of greater concern, such as *E. coli*, are present. *E. coli* were not found in this subsequent testing.

Harmful microbes in drinking water can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, some elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. The symptoms above are not just caused by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What is being done?

The system has been ordered to install disinfection by September 15, 2010. You will be informed when tests show no coliform bacteria and you no longer need to boil your water. It is anticipated that the problem will be resolved within one month. For more information, please contact Audra Whitcomb of the Keeseville Country Gardens at 834-7725 or the Clinton County Health Dept. at 565-4870.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.