



City of Kerrville

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bacteria Samples Positive / City Water Safe to Drink

Kerrville, Texas (November 5, 2013) – A postcard was recently mailed to all water customers indicating that in September two bacteria samples were positive for total coliform. The postcard and associated language was mandated by the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality, however, the mandatory verbiage can be difficult to interpret.

The City of Kerrville’s Water Production Division produces an average of 3.2 million gallons of safe drinking water every day. Treatment includes filtration and chlorination. Both treatment methods remove bacteria, help disinfect the water, and produce a superior quality of drinking water for the public.

“To assure the water has been disinfected and is safe to drink we measure filtration efficiency and chlorine levels continuously throughout the treatment process,” stated Grant Terry, Water Production Superintendent. “Thirty-two bacteria samples are collected throughout the City every month. The samples are analyzed for both total coliform bacteria and E. coli bacteria.”

In September of this year, two samples came back with total coliform present, however, E coli. was absent. Since total coliform is not a disease causing organism, concern was moderate, but the sample is immediately resampled and double checked for chlorine

levels. The chlorine levels were appropriately within range and the repeat samples were all absent of bacteria. “We think that the total coliform was introduced into the samples during or after collection, possibly from dust particles carried by the wind,” stated Scott Loveland, Assistant Water / Wastewater Manager. “Total coliform is a very common, non-disease causing bacteria that is used to help indicate disinfection. Ultimately, we are required to provide notification of the positive samples, but the water is safe to consume.”

For additional information contact Ashlea Boyle, Main Street / Special Projects Manager at 830.258.1153, via email ashlea.boyle@kerrvilletx.gov or visit the city’s website at www.kerrvilletx.gov .

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