

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM
Executive Summary of the 2023 Annual Compliance Report

The State of Oklahoma's Public Water Supply Program currently oversees one thousand two hundred sixty-seven (1,267) public water supplies (PWS) that meet the federal definition of a PWS. The grand total number of violations for the calendar year of 2023 was six thousand one hundred thirty-eight (6,138). Some public water systems may be counted more than once if they incurred multiple violations. The actual total number of public water systems in violation for MCL was two hundred (200). Of one thousand two hundred sixty-seven (1,267) systems, one thousand seventy-three (1,073) or eighty-five percent (85%) of these systems reported no maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations. Five hundred twenty-one (521) systems or forty-one percent (41%) of the one thousand two hundred sixty-seven (1,267) PWSs incurred a violation at some point during the calendar year of 2023.

Five (5) systems had fourteen (14) violations for exceeding the MCL for arsenic. Five (5) systems had violations for arsenic monitoring. Five (5) systems had fourteen (14) violations for exceeding the MCL of the Inorganic Chemical Contaminant (IOC) group. Ten (10) systems had forty-six (46) violations for IOC group monitoring. Twenty-one (21) systems had forty-seven (47) violations for exceeding the nitrate MCL standard in at least one of their wells during the calendar year of 2023. Eighty-seven (87) systems had one hundred twenty-three (123) nitrate monitoring violations. No systems had Synthetic Organic Contaminant (SOC) group MCL violations. Sixty-Five (65) systems had two thousand one hundred sixty (2,160) SOC monitoring contaminant violations. No systems had Volatile Organic Chemical Contaminant (VOC) group MCL violations. Twenty-nine (29) systems had one thousand sixty-two (1,062) VOC contaminant monitoring violations.

Five (5) systems had twelve (12) Radionuclide MCL violations in the calendar year 2023. Nineteen (19) systems had one hundred eighty (180) violations for Radionuclide monitoring. One hundred fifty-six (156) systems had six hundred ninety-five (695) violations of the Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) MCL. Twenty-four (24) systems had sixty-eight (68) violations of the DBPR Treatment Technique requirement. Two hundred eighteen (218) systems had five hundred ninety-six (596) monitoring violations for the DBPR.

Three (3) systems had three (3) Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) acute MCL violations, meaning two (2) mandatory Boil Orders were issued for these PWS that tested positive for E-coli. Two hundred eighty-seven (287) systems had six hundred fifteen (615) monitoring violations for the RTCR. Zero (0) systems had a treatment technique violation for the Lead and Copper Rule. Fifty-three (53) systems had sixty-four (64) monitoring violations for the Lead and Copper Rule. No systems had any Ground Water Rule (GWR) Treatment Technique violations. Thirty-two (32) systems had thirty-nine (39) monitoring violations for the GWR.

All surface water PWSs in Oklahoma are required to provide filtration. Sixteen (16) systems had seventy-two (72) Surface Water Rule (SWR) treatment technique violations. Twenty-six (26) systems had ninety (90) SWTR monitoring violations. There were seventy-six (76) systems with seventy-six (76) violations for failure to submit a consumer confidence report (CCR). Thirteen

(13) systems had one hundred fifty-five (155) violations for failure to do Public Notification (PN).

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality issued three thousand two hundred twenty-three (3,223) enforcement actions in response to the violations listed in this report. These enforcement actions consisted of two thousand seven hundred fifty-one (2,751) informal enforcement letters. Four hundred sixty-one (461) Notices of Violation (NOVs)/Consent Orders (COs), eight (8) Administrative Compliance Orders (ACO), and three (3) Boil Orders were administered. Two thousand one hundred forty-one (2,141) systems were returned to compliance during the calendar year of 2023.

An informal enforcement letter is the first document issued to facilities when they fail to monitor. A Notice of Violation is the first formal enforcement document issued to facilities when they exceed maximum allowable levels or fail to meet DEQ rules and regulations concerning matters such as construction deficiencies or operating procedures. A Consent Order is typically the next order issued. The Consent Order is an order that contains an agreement between the water system and DEQ and details the tasks and deadlines for correcting the cited violation. An Administrative Compliance Order is an order that is issued when time is limited, and there is a significant health hazard, or the water system refuses to agree to the Consent Order. Both the Consent Order and the Administrative Compliance Order have stipulated penalties for failing to meet the required deadlines. Boil Orders are issued to systems that have “acute” or “E. coli” bacteriological violations. Boil Orders can also be issued for exceedance of turbidity standards, insufficient chlorine residuals, and low pressure. Boil Orders require immediate notice to all consumers in order inform the public of how to make their water safe for human consumption.

Copies of the full report and executive summary are available to the public from the Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, 8th Floor, 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma or can be requested by mail at Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Division, P.O. Box 1677, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73101-1677. The full document is also available on the Water Quality Division website.