



EVERGREEN ACRES WATER SERVICES

January 4, 2024

On October 19, 2022, Evergreen Acres water service received an alert from Oregon Health Authority regarding the presence of e. Coli in its water system. A Boil-Water notice was issued by OHA which still is in effect.

Evergreen Acres is a small private water system serving 47 households in a rural, unincorporated area and it has an older system infrastructure. It is operated by a single individual with limited funding and resources.

The Oregon Health Authority is responsible for ensuring drinking water is safe and for holding private companies, water districts and municipalities accountable and ensuring they comply with applicable regulations.

On behalf of the State of Oregon, Clatsop County takes on a limited role of inspecting local municipal and private water systems and reporting the findings to OHA. The county also provides technical assistance to local operators as requested.

Timeline

10/12/22: Routine water sample report indicated positive for total coliform and e. Coli. Positive e. Coli requires that three repeat samples be submitted to confirm the presence of e. Coli. Routine quarterly testing by the operator increases to monthly.

10/19/22: Boil-Water Advisory issued by Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services. Customers on the water system have advised Clatsop County Environmental Health that they were not informed of the advisory.

11/9/22: Coliform bacteria is absent from routine water test. Testing for e. Coli is not done if there is no coliform present.

12/14/22: Routine sample was positive for both total coliform and e. Coli. Three follow-up tests should have been submitted by the operator in December but were not.

2/8/23—4/12/23: Routine monthly samples all free of coliform.

No additional sampling has been conducted by the operator to date.

3/10/23: Clatsop County Environmental Health conducts a Sanitary Survey.

Despite numerous contacts and instruction from OHA and Clatsop County, the operator never submitted a valid source water sample from the well head to confirm the absence of coliform in the well itself. All testing that was done was of finished, chlorinated water in the distribution system.

OHA's Evergreen Acres Boil-Water Notice remains in effect until testing is performed at the well source.



EVERGREEN ACRES WATER SERVICES

January 4, 2024

Has OHA heard from customers of Evergreen Acres? How has the county assisted OHA?

Customers have been reaching out with questions regarding what is happening with their water, where to obtain safe water, and the boil-water notice they have received. They have received little notification, communication, or reassurance from the current water system operator that their water is safe.

Clatsop County staff has been listening to customers' concerns and working daily with OHA Drinking Water Services enforcement to support getting the water system back online.

Although the county's role is limited, it is important that our community has safe clean water and the county will continue advocating with our state partners for a resolution to this critical problem.

Since the regulatory authority resides with the Oregon Health Authority, what steps can the county take?

The responsibility to work with water system providers who are not providing safe drinking water is held by the Oregon Health Authority.

Here is what Clatsop County has and will continue doing:

- Daily contact with our state partners to find a solution for the current situation. We are dedicated to ensuring safe access to clean water in all Clatsop County water systems.
- Encouraging people to be more aware about where their water comes from and who their water system operators are.

[YourWater.Oregon.gov](https://www.yourwater.oregon.gov) is a resource individuals can turn to get information on their water system testing and any violations.