



Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Water Supply Division

September 2017

Boil Water Notices

A Boil Water Notice (BWN) is issued as a precaution or notification to protect consumers from drinking water that may have been contaminated with disease causing organisms (also called pathogens). BWNs are typically issued when an unexpected condition has caused a potential for biological contamination of potable drinking water in a public water system.

BWNs are instituted by public water systems (PWSs) as specified by Title 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §290.46(q) in the event of:

- low distribution pressures (below 20 pounds per square inch (psi)),
- water outages,
- microbiological samples found to contain *E. coli*,
- failure to maintain adequate disinfectant residuals,
- elevated finished surface water turbidities,
- or other conditions which indicate that the potability of the drinking water supply has been compromised.

The PWS should issue a BWN, with specific mandatory language within 24 hours of meeting any of the criteria listed above. The BWN should be delivered using one or more delivery method, see table below, based on the public water system type.

System Type	Delivery Options
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Furnish copy to Radio/TV in the service area• Publication in a local, daily newspaper• Direct delivery or continuous posting**• Electronic delivery or alert systems (e.g. reverse 911)
Non-community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct delivery or continuous posting**• Electronic delivery or alert systems (e.g. reverse 911)

*** If continuous posting is used, the posting must remain in place for as long as the violation exists or seven days, whichever is longer.*

A PWS shall not rescind a BWN until it has provided required compliance documentation to the TCEQ which shows that the PWS has met the following requirements:

- Water distribution pressures greater than 20 psi are consistently maintained throughout the distribution system.
- The distribution system has been flushed, disinfectant residuals are consistently maintained above the minimum regulatory requirements (0.2 mg/L free chlorine or 0.5 mg/L total chlorine) in each finished water storage tank and throughout the distribution system.
- PWSs with surface water and groundwater under the influence of surface water sources only: water entering the distribution system has a turbidity level that is consistently maintained below 1.0 NTU.
- Once the PWS has met all requirements above: Microbiological samples marked “special” collected from representative locations throughout the system and analyzed by an accredited lab are found negative for total coliform organisms.

A copy of the BWN must be submitted to the TCEQ within 24 hours of distribution. The initial BWN Certificate of Delivery, the Rescind Notice, and its Certificates of Delivery should be submitted to the TCEQ within 10 days of distribution to the public as proof of public notification. The documentation can be submitted via e-mail at <PWSBWN@tceq.texas.gov>.