

SWTR Turbidity Single Exceedance Template

DRINKING WATER ALERT

Palmyra has high turbidity levels

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness). This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. A water sample taken 10/08 – 10/09/2021 showed turbidity levels of 1.7 and 2.0 turbidity units. This is above the standard of 1 turbidity unit. Because of these high levels of turbidity, there is an increased chance that the water may contain disease causing organisms.

What should I do?

- Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.
- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.

What happened? What is being done?

High turbidity was caused by a chemical overfeed of Powder Activated Carbon (P.A.C.) which is used to control taste and odor and absorb organics in the raw water. There was no health threat due to this overfeed, but the result was difficult turbidity control in the finished water. The turbidities at the plant are now ranging between .08 to .15 NTU on the filters and clear well. Which is below the limit of .3 NTU. During this time of exceedance, Palmyra was already under a boil order.

For more information, please contact Frank Fairless or the Village of Palmyra at 217-436-2518. Village of Palmyra, 114 East State Street, Palmyra, IL 62674. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 4264791.

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.

This notice is being sent to you by The Village of Palmyra    Water System ID# IL1170800    Date distributed    12/6/2021

Northwestern School  
30889 Route 111  
Palmyra, IL 62674



## SWTR Turbidity Monthly Exceedance Template

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

#### Palmyra Does Not Meet Treatment Requirements

Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this was not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

We routinely monitor your water for turbidity (cloudiness), caused by suspended particles. This tells us whether we are effectively filtering the water supply. Water samples for October 2021 showed that 27 percent of turbidity measurements were over 0.3 turbidity units. The standard is that no more than 5 percent of samples may exceed 0.3 turbidity units per month. The turbidity levels are relatively low. However, their persistence is a concern. Normal turbidity levels at our plant are less than 0.3 NTU units.

#### What should I do?

- **You do not need to boil your water or take other actions.** We do not know of any contamination, and none of our testing has shown disease-causing organisms in the drinking water.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may be at increased risk. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

#### What does this mean?

*Turbidity has no health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice.*

#### What happened? What is being done?

A problem occurred with the treatment system at the water plant. High turbidity was caused by a chemical overfeed of Powder Activated Carbon (P.A.C.) which is used to control taste and odor and absorb organics in the raw water. There was no health threat due to this overfeed, but the result was difficult turbidity control in the finished water. The turbidities at the plant are now ranging between .08 to .15 NTU on the filters and clear well. Which is below the limit of .3 NTU. During this time of exceedance, Palmyra was already under a boil order.

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\* There are various regulations that set turbidity standards for different types of systems, including 40 CFR 141.13, the 1989 SWTR, and the 1998 IESWTR. Systems subject to the SWTR, in filtered systems, 95 percent of samples each month must not exceed 0.5 NTU in systems using conventional or direct filtration. For systems subject to the IESWTR (systems serving at least 10,000 people, using surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water), that use conventional filtration or direct filtration, after January 1, 2002 the turbidity level of a system's combined filter effluent may not exceed 0.3 NTU in at least 95 percent of monthly measurements.