

November 11,2022

Dear Rye Water District and Rye Select Board,

In response to issues raised in the Sunday, November 6, 2022 public meeting on the bacterial contamination we reviewed the state files regarding the history of this issue and our water supply. As we have found, the issue of total coliform positive results has happened many times over the past few years although there has not been a positive E coli result that we have found. In 2020, NHDES stated the following in their sanitary survey of Rye Water District:

"Treatment Facilities – Bacterial Water Quality

Positive total coliform samples in the distribution system can be in indicator that potentially more harmful bacteria can thrive in that environment. We recommend the operators perform heterotrophic plate counts (HPC) monitoring in the distribution system. HPCs should be sampled at several sites in addition to regular monthly bacteria sites to evaluate whether coliform bacteria are present throughout the distribution network or the past positive results are isolated to the specific sampling sites.

Currently, the District does not disinfect on a continuous basis but provides disinfection during flushing and other unusual circumstances as a precautionary measure. At this time, NHDES is not mandating disinfection. Be advised that if the water system incurs chronic positive total coliform results, we recommend an investigation and analysis of this issue, which may conclude disinfection is needed on a full-time basis for public health protection."

The 2020 NHDES sanitary survey further states that,

"However, in each of the last three years, a Level 1 or 2 Assessment has been triggered under the Revised Total Coliform Rule due to positive total coliform bacteria results in the distribution system."

Therefore, this is an issue that the water district and NHDES has known about for at least 5 years. Based on our review, each time, it took about 5 to 6 days to re-sample when EPA requires re-sampling in 24 hours. The delay is unsatisfactory for protecting public health.

Based on our review of the history of this issue regarding our water, we respectfully request the following:

1. Analyze samples collected on a monthly basis for total coliform but also request that the lab report E. coli results on the samples (TC plus E. coli). This will expedite the process and notification of the public should the boil water advisory need to be reinstated.
2. Analyze samples for heterotrophic plate counts (HPC) monitoring in the distribution system as requested by NHDES in the 2020 Sanitary Survey.
3. Re-sample, if required, upon receipt of a TC+ within 24 hours as specified by USEPA (see attached).
4. Notify the residents within 24 hours of receipt of monthly sample results, through notification systems, of the results for total coliform, E. coli bacteria, and HPCs.

We request a meeting with the Rye Water District Commissioners on a evening between Tuesday and Thursday the week of November 14th.

We feel that these actions would help restore the town's confidence in the safety of our drinking water. We ask that you please implement these procedures as soon as possible and respond to our request as soon as possible.

Best,

Mindi Messmer, 291 Washington Road

Julie Fehrstrom, 304 Wallis Road

Chris Fehrstrom, 304 Wallis Road

Shari Cohen, 399 South Road

Bob Siener, 399 South Road

Sophie Bednarek, 16 Wayside Lane

Brian Bednarek, 16 Wayside Lane

Suzanne Barton, 114 Clark Road

Michael Messmer, 291 Washington Road

Serena Gervreau, 161 Wallis Road

Alison Watterson, 223 Garland Road

Ryan Kaplan, 371 Washington Road

Victor Azzi, 1100 Old Ocean Blvd.

Steven Bourne, 431 Wallis Road

Rosalie Lopresto, 641 Liberty Common

Molly Heaney, 177 West Road

Ceclilia Azzi 1100 Old Ocean Blvd.