



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
US ARMY INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND  
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY GARRISON, FORT STEWART / HUNTER ARMY AIRFIELD  
DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC WORKS  
1587 VETERANS PARKWAY  
FORT STEWART, GEORGIA 31314

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER**  
**Tests Indicated Coliform Bacteria in Fort Stewart's Main Drinking Water System**

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

We routinely monitor for drinking water contaminants. We took 30 samples to test for the presence of coliform bacteria between 10/1/2014 to 10/31/2014. Two of our samples showed the presence of total coliform bacteria. The standard is that no more than 1 sample per month may do so.

**What should I do?**

- You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
- 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?**

This is not an emergency. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves. *Coliforms are bacteria which are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially-harmful, bacteria may be present. Coliforms were found in more samples than allowed and this was a warning of potential problems.*

Usually, coliforms are a sign that there could be a problem with the system's treatment or distribution system (pipes). Whenever we detect coliform bacteria in any sample, we do follow-up testing to see if other bacteria of greater concern, such as fecal coliform or *E. coli*, are present. We did not find any of these bacteria in our subsequent testing.

**What is being done?**

Additional sampling was performed at each location, as well as locations upstream and downstream of the original positive site to validate results. All locations were receiving disinfected water with a good chlorine residual. Confirmation sampling was negative for coliform providing a strong indication that sampling error was the cause of the positive samples. Inquiry of sampling technicians confirmed a sample was taken from a garden hose and the technician failed to properly prepare an exterior hose bib for sampling. These procedures are inconsistent with sampling protocol and results are not indicative of the overall water quality provided to Fort Stewart water patrons. Sampling technicians have been advised to take all precautions to prevent recurrence. For more information, please contact the DPW Environmental Division at (912) 767-2010.

*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.*