

FINAL NOTICE

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Pāhala Water System Did Not Meet Treatment Requirements

The construction of the Pāhala Deep Well No. 2 is complete and the well is now operating and supplying groundwater to the Pāhala Water System. The Alili Tunnel Spring source is no longer being used by the Department of Water Supply (DWS) and was disconnected from the Pāhala Water System on August 25, 2009. The completion of Pāhala Deep Well No. 2 brings the system into compliance with the requirements of the State Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch.

In April of 1998, the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health, Safe Drinking Water Branch, directed us to filter the Alili Tunnel Spring water in addition to disinfecting. We were required to install this filtration because the source had been classified as groundwater under the influence of surface water. However, we did not install a filtration system as the DWS decided to abandon this source and replace it with a well.

As of July 2001, the Pāhala Water System violated a drinking water standard. The DWS did not fulfill the Surface Water Treatment Rule requirements (failure to filter) for the Alili Tunnel Spring source of the Pāhala Water System. The DWS failed to install an approved filtration and disinfection system to treat the water for the Alili Tunnel Spring source. Although this situation did not require that you take immediate action, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we did to correct this situation.

What should I do?

- The general public does **NOT** need to take any action as a result of this notice.
- The DWS disinfects the water from the Alili Tunnel Spring Source with chlorine. By maintaining an adequate chlorine level in the water, which was monitored continuously, the DWS met the interim requirements established by the State of Hawai'i, Department of Health. The general public did not need to seek an alternate source of drinking water.
- You did **NOT** need to boil your water. However, if you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor. A home filter will not necessarily solve the problem, because not all home filters protect against parasites. Call National Sanitation Foundation International (NSF) at 1 (800) NSF-8010 or the Water Quality Association at 1 (800) 749-0234 for information on appropriate filters.
- People with severely compromised immune systems, infants, and some elderly may have been 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 United States Environmental Protection Agency Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791.

What does this mean?

This was not a situation requiring that you take immediate action. If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. We do not know of any cases of contamination.

Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms, however, 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?

The DWS decided to develop a new groundwater source to replace the Alili Tunnel Spring source. Until the well was developed and connected to the Pāhala Water System, the Alili Tunnel Spring source was needed to provide adequate water to the system. While the Alili Tunnel Spring source was in use, we were monitoring for turbidity (cloudiness), disinfectant levels, and the presence of bacteria. The DWS met the interim requirements established by the Department of Health during this period.

Pāhala Deep Well No. 2 is now in operation and the Alili Tunnel Spring source was disconnected from Pāhala Water System on August 25, 2009. Until the Pāhala Well No. 2 became operational, you received a notice every three months. The last notice was sent out on July 31, 2009. This will be the last "failure to filter" violation notice. For more information, please contact Mr. Keith Okamoto at 961-8670.

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 Department of Water Supply, Pāhala Water System.
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DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF HAWAII

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West Hawaii Today
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Ka'u Calendar
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