

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Warning Letter WP-070-21

June 22, 2021

Poonam K. Kalkat, PhD.
Director of Public Utilities
City of West Palm Beach
401 Clematis Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33401

Subject: City of West Palm Beach Water Treatment Plant
PWS ID #: 4501559

Dear Dr. Kalkat:

The purpose of this letter is to advise the City of West Palm Beach of possible violations of law for which you may be responsible, and to seek your cooperation in resolving the matter. Information provided by the City of West Palm Beach (City) to the Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County (Department) on June 3, 2021 indicates that the following possible violation(s) may have occurred:

1. Since August 9, 2016, sample data provided by the City shows cylindrospermopsin was detected in fifty-five (55) samples collected at the point of entry to the distribution system. All these sample results were subject to the monthly operating reporting requirements of Rule 62-555.350(10)(e), Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.) The City failed to report these detections in accordance with Rule 62-555.350(10)(e), F.A.C.
2. Forty-seven (47) of the fifty-five (55) cylindrospermopsin sample results referenced above were also subject to the seven-day notification requirements of Rule 62-550.521, F.A.C. The City failed to notify the Department in accordance with Rule 62-550.521, F.A.C.
3. Eight (8) samples collected from May 17 to May 26, 2021 exceeded the Health Advisory Level (HAL) of 700 ng/L established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The City issued a public notice informing the public of the HAL exceedances on May 28, 2021. The City failed to issue public notice within 24 hours of receipt of sample results that exceeded the HAL for cylindrospermopsin for four (4) of the eight (8) sample results, in violation of Rule 62-560.410(1)(a)(1), F.A.C.
4. The aforementioned eight (8) samples were subject to notification to the Department within twenty-four (24) hours in accordance with Rule 62-560.410(1)(a)(1), F.A.C. The City failed to notify the Department on four (4) of the eight (8) sample results, in violation of Rule 62-560.410(1)(a)(1), F.A.C.

Violations of Florida Statutes or Florida Administrative Code rules may result in liability for damages and restoration, and the judicial imposition of civil penalties, pursuant to chapter 403, Florida Statutes.

Please be advised that this Warning Letter is part of an agency investigation preliminary to agency action in accordance with section 120.57 (5), Florida Statutes.

Florida Department of Health, Palm Beach County
Division of Environment Public Health
800 Clematis Street – 4th Floor
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
PHONE: 561-837-5900
FloridaHealth.gov, palmbeach.floridahealth.gov

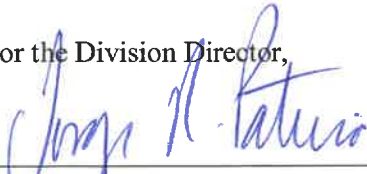


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You are requested to contact Pamela Lape of this office at 561-837-5947 within 15 days of receipt of this Warning Letter to arrange a meeting with Department personnel to discuss this matter. You may bring anyone with you to the meeting that you feel may help resolve this matter.

We look forward to your cooperation in completing the investigation and resolution of this matter.

For the Division Director,



Jorge Patino, P.E.
Environmental Administrator, Water Programs
Division of Environmental Public Health
Florida Department of Health Palm Beach County

cc: Darrel Graziani, Water Treatment Plant Manager, City of West Palm Beach
FDOHPBC File – WP-070-21