

## Monitoring Violations Annual Notice Template

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

#### Monitoring Requirements Not Met for Highland

Our water system violated several drinking water standards over the past year. Even though these were not emergencies, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

*We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During the 4/1/2025–6/30/2025 compliance period we did not complete all monitoring or testing for nitrates and; therefore, cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time.*

**What should I do?** There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table below lists the contaminant(s) we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for Nitrate, how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples <u>were</u> or will be taken
Nitrate	1	1	4/1/2025–6/30/2025	3/4/2025

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

We have taken the required samples, as described in the last column of the table above. The results showed we are meeting drinking water standards.

For more information, please contact Gary Pugh at 618-654-9321 or [gpugh@highlandil.gov](mailto:gpugh@highlandil.gov).

*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 direct mail.

Water System ID#

IL1190550

Date distributed

Sept. 5, 2025

The Highland Water Department received a violation from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for sampling nitrates outside the agency's specified time. The non-compliance advisory affects all of the city of Highland water customers, including the satellites of the Village of St. Jacob, Village of Grantfork, Village of Pierron, and Country Hills Subdivision.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants regularly. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. Between 4/1/2025 and 6/30/2025, we did not complete all monitoring or testing for nitrates; therefore, we cannot be sure of the level of nitrate in the drinking water during that time. Nitrates are sampled weekly at the plant, and monthly at our storage tank and a location at the center of town.

Samples were taken on March 4, 2025, which is not within the regulated timeframe of April 1, 2025, to June 30, 2025. The City was notified on July 16, 2025, of the non-compliance advisory monitoring violation for nitrates. The samples taken on March 4, 2025, showed we are meeting drinking water standards. The violation is for samples taken outside of the monitoring period. We received a result of 0.8 mg/L for the sample taken on March 4, which is well within the drinking water standard.

Nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3$ ) is a compound of nitrogen and oxygen found in nature and in many food items in our diet. Generally, the concentration of nitrates in the ground water is low. The main adult human intake of nitrates is from food rather than from water. Vegetables such as spinach, lettuce, beets and carrots contain significant amounts of nitrate. Drinking water normally contributes only a small percentage of our total nitrate intake. (IDPH, 2010)

Although low levels of nitrates may occur naturally in water, sometimes higher levels, which are potentially dangerous to infants, are found. High nitrate levels in drinking water pose a health risk to infants because they may cause methemoglobinemia, a condition known as "blue baby syndrome." Illinois has adopted a drinking water standard for nitrate of 10 milligrams per liter (10 mg/L) as N (nitrogen). (IDPH, 2010)

It is often difficult to pinpoint sources of nitrates because there are so many possibilities. Sources of nitrogen and nitrates may include runoff or seepage from fertilized agricultural lands, municipal and industrial wastewater, refuse dumps, animal feedlots, septic tanks and private sewage disposal systems, urban drainage and decaying plant debris. Geologic formations and direction of ground water flow also may influence nitrate concentration. (IDPH, 2010)

**There is no action for you to take, or the use of alternative water supplies.** Our next set of samples will occur between April 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026. You may contact Supervisor Gary Pugh at the Highland Water Plant with questions at 618-654-9321.

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## References

IDPH. (2010, December 1). *Nitrates in Drinking Water*. Retrieved from Illinois Department of Public Health: <https://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/environmental-health-protection/private-water/fact-sheets/nitrates-drinking-water.html>