**Appendix C – Public Notice for Adults**

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DRINKING WATER WARNING

[Enter PWS Name] has

Very Important Information about Cyanotoxins in Your Drinking Water

DO NOT DRINK THE WATER

**What happened?**

Toxins from a cyanobacterial harmful algal bloom (CHAB) were recently found in our treated water supply. [enter the **source’s name** here]**,** which is a source of drinking water for the [Enter PWS Name] is experiencing a CHAB near the intake that serves the water system. These organisms are capable of producing a number of toxins that may pose a risk to human and animal health.

Sampling conducted on [enter dates] indicate that **[Microcystin or Cylindrospermopsin**] is at levels of [enter **results**]**. These levels are** **above the [1.6 ppb for MC OR 3 ppb for CYN] 10-day US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Health Advisory (HA) value for ingestion**. We are providing this notice to make you aware of the presence so that you may take appropriate precautions while we adjust our treatment operations to reduce the concentrations of [MC or CYN**]** as quickly as possible.

**What should I do?**

* **DO NOT DRINK THE WATER.** Alternative water should be used for drinking, making infant formula, making ice, brushing teeth, and preparing foods. Pets should not drink the water.
* **DO NOT BOIL THE WATER.** Boiling the water will **not** destroy toxins. Some toxins may become more dangerous as a result of boiling.
* Healthy adults may use the water for bathing, washing hands, washing dishes, and doing laundry. Special attention may be needed when bathing children to prevent ingestion. The water may be used for flushing toilets. Skin irritation, such as a rash may occur from exposure when bathing and washing hands. Providing a final rinse of skin with uncontaminated water is recommended.
* Consuming water containing algal toxins may result in abnormal liver functions, diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, numbness, or dizziness. Seek medical attention if you feel you have been exposed to cyanotoxins and are having adverse health effects. After contacting medical personnel, individuals are also encouraged to report human health concerns to your [insert local BOH name] at [insert local BOH telephone #].

**What is being done?**

The cyanobacteria that produce [MC or CYN] can grow rapidly when certain environmental conditions are favorable for their growth, such as elevated temperatures combined with excess nutrients. Nutrients can come from runoff of over-fertilized lawns and fields, malfunctioning septic systems, and livestock areas. Since not all ‘blooms’ produce these cyanotoxins, we sampled the treated drinking water to determine if cyanotoxins were present when a suspected bloom was occurring.

Additional monitoring of your drinking water is being conducted and we will let you know when the situation has been resolved or if additional precautions should be taken. The [enter PWS name]is [describe what is being done]. We are working diligently to correct this problem and working closely with MassDEP to evaluate and minimize any potential adverse effects. We will provide further notice when the water is again safe to use for all purposes.

For more information, please contact [name of contact] at [phone number] or [email/mailing address].

*Please share this information with all 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 by hand or mail.*

Further information on cyanobacteria and cyanotoxins may be found on the attached fact sheet. For more information on cyanobacteria, cyanotoxins and the HAs, please see the US EPA CyanoHABs website at: <http://water.epa.gov/scitech/swguidance/standards/criteria/nutrients/cyanohabs.cfm>

This notice is being sent to you by [PWS] PWS ID#: [xxxxxxx]

Date distributed: [date]