



O K L A H O M A
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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News Release

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Water Use Advisory Issued for Café in Okfuskee County

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has issued a water-use advisory for McCormick's Café in Okfuskee County due to the confirmed presence of *E. coli* bacteria in its drinking water system. This advisory affects only this café which draws its water from its own well. The contamination event does not affect the drinking water in the nearby area or town, nor does this advisory apply to those areas.

Since this water-use advisory pertains to a restaurant, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) also has regulatory authority. OSDH rules do not permit a restaurant to provide water to the public for consumption or dishwashing of dinnerware and utensils, while under an advisory such as this one, even if boiled. Therefore, the OSDH rule supersedes any recommendations that would permit boiled water to be used in food preparation, drinking or dishwashing.

While under this water-use advisory, McCormick's Café is permitted only to sell commercially packaged food items and drinks that will not be consumed in the facility. The kitchen is closed for the duration of this water-use advisory and no drinking water from faucets or soft-drink machines may be served.

This water-use advisory will remain in effect until McCormick's Café ensures that chlorination can be adequately maintained or connection is made to a wholesale water system and, if necessary, any required corrections to structural systems have been made. DEQ will require that proper testing of water samples indicates the water to be free of total coliform bacteria only after all necessary corrections have been made and before suspending this water-use advisory.

Federal law requires that consumers be notified when a public water supply exceeds certain maximum contaminant levels and might be harmful to the health of consumers.

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