



Buried Gasoline Pipeline Spill, Town of Jackson Washington County, Wisconsin

Information about the Drinking Water Advisory from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

What is happening?

The West Shore Pipeline had a large gasoline release that occurred in the Town of Jackson, Washington County, on July 17, 2012. Environmental contractors for the pipeline company, under the oversight of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), are sampling and monitoring air, water, and soils to determine the extent of the contamination and which residents are affected. Environmental monitoring will continue until the contamination is controlled and to protect public health.

Who is affected?

At this time, gasoline has been detected in a number of private residential wells near the release area. Gasoline can move in unpredictable patterns underground. In response to this, the DNR, with the cooperation of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Washington County Health Department, has issued a *Drinking Water Advisory*. People within the advisory area are advised to use bottled water or another clean source of water for drinking or cooking. The boundaries of the advisory area are (up to and including):

- Sherman Road to the north,
- Center Road to the east,
- Spring Valley Road to the south,
- and Jackson Drive to the west.

Within the advisory area, there is a smaller “**flush only**” area where residents are advised to use water only for toilets - no drinking, bathing, dishwashing, etc. For a map of the advisory area, please see <http://www.jacksonwisconsinresponse.com>. Please note that not every well in the advisory area has been tested yet, and not every well will prove to be contaminated when it is tested. Gasoline has been found in enough wells to warrant the precaution of the advisory while the clean-up proceeds and all wells are tested.

How will this affect my health?

For individuals who came in contact with the gasoline-contaminated water caused by the spill, the potential for any health impact is extremely low. The Town of Jackson Drinking Water Advisory is designed to protect people, including sensitive populations such as infants, children, elderly and immune compromised, by stopping any exposure to drinking water containing gasoline contaminants as soon as possible. **Long-term exposure** to such drinking water over many years can be harmful. More information on gasoline can be found at <http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/eh/ChemFS/fs/Gasoline.htm>.



What should I do to protect my health and my family's health?

- ***Follow the Drinking Water Advisory.*** For those in the advisory area, continue to follow the DNR Drinking Water Advisory until test results clear your water for use, or a permanent solution is put in place.
- ***Be aware of changes to your water.*** If your water unexpectedly develops a gasoline odor or taste, immediately stop using your water for all uses except flushing toilets, and contact Scott Ferguson with the DNR at 414-750-8362.
- ***Care for your pets and livestock:*** We recommend that the drinking water advisory be followed to ensure your animals have safe water.
- ***Gardens:*** We recommend that water containing gasoline contamination at the *flush-only level* (100 parts per billion benzene or greater) not be used for watering fruit and vegetables.

Be alert for notices of future public meetings that will take place in your area.

Additional resources

It is difficult to anticipate all of the questions residents may have so we strongly encourage those with additional questions and concerns to contact those listed below.

West Shore Pipeline Company: Clean-up website: www.jacksonwisconsinresponse.com.
Claims: 866-837-5016.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources: For technical information about water quality: Zoe McManama, 262-496-5180. For information about progress on the clean-up being conducted by the pipeline company: Scott Ferguson, 414-750-8362.

Washington County Health Department: 262-335-4462 (press "3").

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health, 608-266-1120.