



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Knightville Dam water system shut down due to bacteria detected in water samples in well serving picnic area

**CONCORD, Mass.** – The Knightville Dam water system, at Knightville Dam in Huntington, Mass., reports that E. coli bacteria, fecal indicators, were detected on Aug. 17 and Aug. 19 in water samples from the well that serves the Picnic Area, according to officials from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District.

Fecal indicators are microbes whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Microbes in these wastes can cause diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a special health risk for infants, young children, some of the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems. These symptoms can also be caused by issues unrelated to drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, or, if you have specific health concerns, you may want to discuss such concerns with your doctor.

We have determined that a risk of contamination exists; therefore, on Aug. 18 we have turned off the well and closed the rest rooms at this time, and they will remain closed until further notice while we evaluate our options for treating contamination at the source. We are in contact with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) who is evaluating the actions we are taking to ensure that safe water will be delivered to you in the future.

For more information please contact Tom Wisnauckas, water systems operator at the Knightville Dam, at 413-667-3656.

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