Precautionary Boil Advisory/ Mandatory Boil Order

**DEQ only issues mandatory Boil Orders.** DEQ does not issue precautionary boil advisories. As needed, DEQ will issue mandatory Boil Orders whenever:

- There has been a *confirmed* E. Coli presence in distribution system compliance samples.
- There has been an E. Coli positive source water sample for groundwater systems without adequate treatment.
- A contaminant is present in the distribution system which can be neutralized by boiling.
- There are high finished water turbidities with or without other water quality issues.
- There is an immediate and overwhelming public health concern.

**Public Water Supply (PWS) systems issue precautionary boil advisories.** DEQ assists PWS systems by recommending that a precautionary boil advisory be issued whenever the following occur:

- There are areas of the distribution system with little to no pressure.
- Water which has not been fully or properly treated is sent to the distribution system.
- Water which does not meet finished water turbidity and/or disinfection standards is sent to the distribution system.
- Other criteria which may cause a public health concern.

**DEQ assists PWS systems in issuing and in managing precautionary boil advisories.** DEQ provides public notice templates and language as well as the criteria for lifting precautionary boil advisories. The cause of the problem is not always able to be found, but a return to normal operations and adequate testing can show the water is safe for human consumption. Common criteria used in evaluating whether it is advisable to lift a precautionary boil advisory include:

- Restoration of normal operations.
- Repair of malfunctioning or inoperable treatment systems.
- Meeting finished water turbidity and disinfection standards.
- Collection of one or two days of bacteriological samples from the distribution system that are absent of Total Coliform and E. Coli.

In Summary, **PWS systems issue precautionary boil advisories** based on water system conditions, and **DEQ issues mandatory Boil Orders** when there is a violation of state and federal regulations. Regardless of whether a PWS has or has not issued a precautionary boil advisory, DEQ will issue a mandatory Boil Order when necessary.