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DATE: September 28, 2009

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SUBJECT: City of Bayfield issues "Boil Water" Notice

Bayfield, WI – As part of its routine drinking water testing program, the City of Bayfield collected water samples on September 21 and 23, 2009 that contained coliform bacteria. These samples were from the Bayfield water distribution system. Drinking water standards established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources state that coliform bacteria should not be present in drinking water.

Ken Scherer, Water Supply Engineer for the Department of Natural Resources, Northern Region said, "The US Environmental Agency (EPA) sets drinking water standards and has determined that the presence of coliform bacteria is a health concern. **Coliform bacteria are generally not harmful themselves, but their presence in drinking water could indicate harmful organisms might have entered the distribution system. We did not find any fecal coliform or E. coli in our subsequent testing.**

Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but, also may be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water.

EPA has set an enforceable drinking water standard for total coliforms to reduce the risks of these adverse health effects. Under this standard, all drinking water shall be free of these bacterial. Drinking water, which meets this standard, is usually not associated with a health risk from disease-causing bacterial and should be considered safe.

The DNR has asked the City of Bayfield to issue a "boil water" notice to its water consumers. All water used for drinking, food preparations, and ice should be boiled at a full rolling boil for at least 1 minute, as a safety precaution, prior to use. Ice or any beverages prepared with unboiled tap water should be discarded.

Ken Scherer said further sampling will be conducted to isolate the source of contamination and that these precautions should be followed until you receive notice that the water supply has returned to a safe condition. City of Bayfield personnel will be working closely with the Department to resolve the problem. Municipal employees will be flushing the distribution system and will be increasing the chlorination dosage rate in cleaning out the system.

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*City of Bayfield is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.*

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