



SECOND ROUND OF TESTING FINDS CAMERON MEETS ALL DRINKING WATER STANDARDS

JEFFERSON CITY, MO, NOV. 21, 2008 -- A second round of drinking water testing in Cameron found all samples are in compliance with state and federal drinking water requirements, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced Thursday.

The Department of Natural Resources, with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, sampled drinking water from 10 Cameron homes and at four Cameron public school sites in September. Additional samples of untreated water were taken at Grindstone Reservoir, which is one of the supplies for the city's drinking water, and at a small lake at the local golf course.

Each sample was split between the department and EPA, with each agency conducting independent analysis.

Both labs tested the samples for between 185 to 210 compounds, including those regulated by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Missouri Water Quality Standards. Those chemicals not specifically covered by state or federal drinking water standards were compared to health-based screening levels that are considered protective of human health for long-term or chronic exposures.

The September test results are similar to the results of tests taken in May, when the department tested both the source water and the finished water and found all samples well within standards. Source water includes the Grindstone Reservoir, and finished water is that provided through Cameron's public water system to homes, businesses and schools.

The test results were consistent with the regular testing done at the water plant, which has never had a health-based violation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

The agencies began testing at the request of the community, where many residents voiced concerns over occurrence of brain tumors. A tumor inquiry conducted by the Department of Health and Senior Services found Cameron area brain tumor trends over time mirrored those of the state of Missouri.

A repository covering the cancer inquiry and environmental testing in Cameron has been established at the Cameron Public Library, making the information widely accessible.

For Department of Natural Resources news releases on the Web, visit www.dnr.mo.gov/pubs/communications.htm. For Department of Health and Senior Services news releases on the Web, visit www.dhss.mo.gov/NewsAndPublicNotices/index.html.