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Water utility targets plumbing crossconnections

By Randy Hanson on Oct 2, 2015 at 10:27 a.m.

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Sign up for Breaking News Alerts he Hudson Water Utility is out to eliminate

plumbing connections that have the potential to contaminate the community's water supply.

The Public Utility Commission on Sept. 16 decided

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to send disconnection notices to customers who have been warned of problems and have failed fix them.

Frye, the utility's chief operator. The commission didn't have any other choice,

"It wasn't an easy decision for them," reported Jim

given requirements by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the utility implement an effective program to end cross-connections. According to a public notice that will be published

in the Oct. 8 Star-Observer, the DNR performed "a detailed inspection and evaluation" of Hudson's drinking water system on June 5 and found that a portion of the cross-connection deficiencies identified in a 2014 inspection hadn't been corrected. The public notice states: "As our customers, you

have a right to know what happened and what we

are doing to correct this situation. As required by EPA's ground water rule, we worked with the state to develop a plan to correct this situation. However, we were unsuccessful in implementing this plan befreo the established deadline and have therefore violated a requirement of the ground water rule." The notice says the cross-connections have the

oversight of the water system," but there is no immediate risk to customers. If there was an immediate risk, customers would have been notified immediately, according to the notice. The notice says an aggressive cross-connection

potential to result in "lack of proper treatment and

Anyone with questions regarding Hudson's water system is encouraged to contact Utility Director Kip Peters, who started work as the head of

Hudson and North Hudson's water and sewer

program has been implemented to correct the

identified deficiencies.

utilities on Sept. 19. The utilities were without a director between then and March, when former water utility director Tim Caruso and wastewater director Jim Schreiber retired. A cross-connection is any part of the water supply system that is a potential source of contamination.

It could be a garden hose left connected to a

Dishwashers, laundry tubs, toilets, pressure

be the drain hose from a water softener stuck into a sewer drain. It could be a soda fountain without a without a backflow preventer.

washers, boilers, pools and lawn irrigation systems

are other things that can potentially have cross-

canister containing fertilizer or herbicide. It could

connections. Frye said commercial and public buildings in Hudson and North Hudson have been inspected

and notices were sent to the owners of buildings

with cross-connections.

Disconnection notices will be sent to 70 building owners who haven't complied with orders to fix cross-connections.

He said inspections of residences for crossconnections is the next step for the utility.

"Some of these are going on a couple of years, so

they've had ample time," Frye said.

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HUDSON ▶

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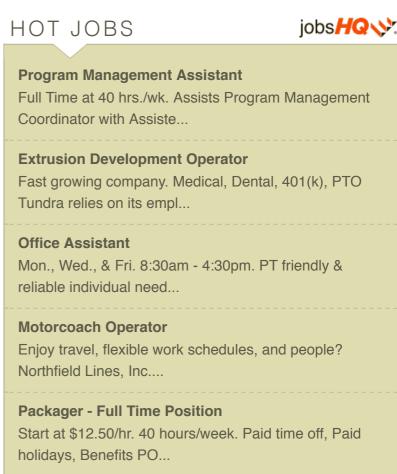
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