

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act

Arsenic from drinking water filtration systems

September 3, 2004

This Notice of Violation is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d).

- For general information regarding the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act, see the attached summary provided by the California EPA (copies not provided to public enforcement agencies).
- This Notice of Violation is provided by the Center for Environmental Health. The Center for Environmental Health is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to protecting the environment, improving human health and supporting environmentally sound practices.

Description of Violation:

- The name and address of the violator is:
General Electric Company, 12 Corporate Woods Blvd., Albany, NY 12211
- The violations have been occurring since at least February 27, 1988 and are continuing to this day.
- This Notice of Violation covers both the "discharge provision" of Proposition 65 and the "warning provision" of Proposition 65, which are found at California Health and Safety Code Sections 25249.5 and 25249.6 respectively.
- The name of the listed chemical involved in these violations is Arsenic. Arsenic, as used herein, refers to arsenic (inorganic arsenic compounds) and arsenic (inorganic arsenic oxides). Discharges of Arsenic and exposures to Arsenic occur from use of the products identified in this notice.
- The category of products causing these violations is drinking water filtration systems utilizing activated carbon filters. A specific example of the products is General Electric Company's "Smart Water" Model GX1S15C drinking water filtration system. The Arsenic is contained in the activated carbon filters of these products.
- Discharge Violations: Use of these products results in discharges or releases of Arsenic into a source of drinking water. Specifically, the drinking water filtration systems that are the subject of this Notice of Violation contain sufficient quantities of Arsenic such that Arsenic will leach from the filtration systems into water that passes through them. Arsenic is contained, for example, in the activated carbon used as a filter in these systems. As the products connect to the plumbing system of homes and workplaces before the faucet, they are sources of drinking water under Proposition 65. The water in these filtration systems is a source of drinking water. These discharges occur in homes, workplaces and everywhere else throughout California where these filtration systems are used.
- Warning Violations: Use of the products identified in this notice also results in

human exposures to Arsenic. The filtration systems are constructed of materials that contain Arsenic. Arsenic is contained, for example, in the activated carbon used as a filter in these systems. The route of exposure for the violations is ingestion of water discharged through the filters. These exposures occur in homes, workplaces and everywhere else throughout California where these filtration systems are used. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with these products regarding the carcinogenic or reproductive hazards of Arsenic.

Please direct any inquiries regarding this notice to counsel for the Center for Environmental Health: Eric Somers, Lexington Law Group, LLP, 1627 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122, (415) 759-4111.

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT

Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d)

I, Howard Hirsch, hereby declare:

1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged that the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code §25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
2. I am an attorney with the Lexington Law Group, LLP, and I represent the noticing party, the Center for Environmental Health (“CEH”).
3. I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies or other data regarding the exposures to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.
4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that “reasonable and meritorious case for the private action” means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiff’s case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violators will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
5. The copy of the Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health & Safety Code §25249.7(h)(2), i.e. (1) the identity of the persons consulted

with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: September 3, 2004

PROOF OF SERVICE

I declare that:

I am employed in San Francisco County, California. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within cause; my business address is 1627 Irving Street, San Francisco, California 94122.

On September 3, 2004, I served true copies of the following documents:

**NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA SAFE DRINKING WATER
AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT;**

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT; and

**THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF
1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY (only sent to those on service list
marked with an asterisks).**

I placed a true copy of these papers in an envelope addressed to:

See Attached Service List.

I am readily familiar with my firm's practice for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service, to wit, that correspondence will be deposited with the United States Postal Service this same day in the ordinary course of business. I placed the envelope containing the above-mentioned documents for collection and mailing on September 3, 2004, following the ordinary business practice.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on September 3, 2004, at San Francisco, California.

Signed: _____

SERVICE LIST

District Attorney of Alameda County
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900
Oakland, CA 94612

District Attorney of Colusa County
547 Market Street
Colusa, CA 95932

District Attorney of Contra Costa
County
725 Court Street, Room 402
Martinez, CA 94553

District Attorney of Alpine County
P.O. Box 248
Markleeville, CA 96120

District Attorney of Del Norte
County
450 H Street, Ste 171
Crescent City, CA 95531

District Attorney of Amador County
708 Court Street, #202
Jackson, CA 95642

District Attorney of Butte County
25 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

District Attorney of El Dorado
County
515 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

District Attorney of Calaveras
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891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249

District Attorney of Fresno County
2220 Tulare Street, #1000
Fresno, CA 93721

District Attorney of Glenn County
P.O. Box 430
Willows, CA 95988

District Attorney of Kings County
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Hanford, CA 93230

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901 "G" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

District Attorney of Lake County
255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, CA 95453

District Attorney of Humboldt County
825 5th Street
Eureka, CA 95501

District Attorney of Imperial County
939 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

District Attorney of Lassen County
220 S. Lassen St., Ste 8
Susanville, CA 96130

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P.O. Drawer D
Independence, CA 93526

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210 W. Temple Street, Room 345
Los Angeles, CA 90012

District Attorney of Madera County
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Madera, CA 93637

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Bakersfield, CA 93301

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Mariposa, CA 95338

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PO Box 1131
Salinas, CA 93901

District Attorney of San Joaquin
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Stockton, CA 95201

District Attorney of Mendocino
County
P.O. Box 1000
Ukiah, CA 95482

District Attorney of Napa County
931 Parkway Mall
Napa, CA 94559

District Attorney of Merced County
2222 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340

District Attorney of Nevada County
201 Church St., Suite 8
Nevada City, CA 95959

District Attorney of Orange County
401 Civic Ctr Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

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Alturas, CA 96101-4020

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Riverside, CA 92501

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District Attorney of Sonoma County
600 Administration Drive, Room
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Santa Rosa, CA 95403

District Attorney of Shasta County
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Redding, CA 96001-1632

District Attorney of Stanislaus
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800 11th Street, Room 200
Modesto, CA 95353

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446 Second Street
Yuba City, CA 95991

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Ventura, CA 93009

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Weaverville, CA 96093

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Marysville, CA 95901

District Attorney of Tulare County
221 S. Mooney Ave, Room 224
Visalia, CA 93291

District Attorney of Tuolumne
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Sonora, CA 95370

San Jose City Attorney's Office
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San Jose, CA 95110

Los Angeles City Attorney's Office
Room 1800, City Hall East
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Los Angeles, CA 90012

San Diego City Attorney's Office
1200 3rd Avenue, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

San Francisco City Attorney's Office
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