

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Microbial Contamination Identified During Inspection **Central ASG Water System** **ID No. AS9711948**

The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) collected water samples from the American Samoa Power Authority Central ASG PWS ID No. AS9711948 (Central System), which, as of April 14, 2026, tested negative for microorganism bacteria (i.e., total coliform and E. coli) in the distribution system. AS-EPA sampled from April 9-14, 2026 as a follow-up to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) drinking water inspection of the Central System (January 23 through February 5, 2026); EPA's inspection had identified areas within our water distribution system that tested positive for total coliform and E. coli. During the inspection, EPA sampled for microorganisms, disinfectants, disinfection byproducts, inorganic chemicals and radionuclides. The EPA inspection was conducted during our rainy season, and it is not uncommon for some water distribution systems to be vulnerable to bacteriological contamination during heavy rainfall when there is aging infrastructure and other operational or infrastructure defects within the distribution system (i.e., underground waterline leaks and cross-connections).

Our water system institutes a multi-barrier approach to protect our drinking water by including chlorine as a disinfectant to inactivate bacteria that may find its way into our water distribution system. Separate from the sampling conducted as part of or as follow-up to an inspection or sanitary survey, it is important for us to note that our water system is required by AS-EPA to conduct, among other things, routine monthly monitoring of our water distribution system for total coliform and E. coli bacteria in accordance with federal and American Samoa Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) regulations. Our required routine monthly monitoring from January to April 2026 identified 3 samples as positive for total coliform. Repeat samples for these three sites were total coliform negative. Based on our total coliform and E. coli routine monitoring, we are in compliance with the SDWA monitoring requirements and maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) for the months of January to April 2026. *Not all but some* of these bacteria can impact human health and can especially be a concern for people with weakened immune systems. Therefore, as authorized by the SDWA, AS-EPA is requiring that our water system inform our customers of EPA's and AS-EPA's total coliform and E. coli results.

What should I do?

- You do not need to boil your water, with the following conditions. You also do not need to seek alternative water.
 - If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.
 - If you have a severely compromised immune system, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your healthcare provider about drinking this water. You should also seek advice from your healthcare provider about using the water if you have an infant. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by bacteria

and other disease-causing organisms are available from EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

- This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours. However, we believe the following information is important for our customers to know:

**Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms, indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When we find coliforms above a certain threshold during our routine monthly monitoring, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found.*

**E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal wastes. Human pathogens in these wastes can cause short-term effects, such as diarrhea, cramps, nausea, headaches, or other symptoms. They may pose a greater health risk for infants, young children, the elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems.*

- The symptoms above are not caused only by organisms in drinking water. If you experience any of these symptoms and they persist, you may want to seek medical advice. People at increased risk should seek advice from their healthcare providers about drinking this water.

What is being done?

The EPA and AS-EPA identified one (1) finished water storage facility that was positive for E. coli. AS-EPA required immediate corrective action. This corrective action included disinfection and flushing of water lines and the tank. We are following the operational procedures required by AS-EPA. We expect to complete the required corrective actions by May 13, 2026. Our water system will continue to work with AS-EPA and EPA to evaluate and assess our system to ensure delivery of safe drinking water to our customers.

For more information, please contact Epeli Nabolaniwaqa at 699 1333 or epeli@aspower.com. You can also contact the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at safewater@epa.gov or find more information at <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/forms/contact-us-about-ground-water-and-drinking-water-0>. Mo ni isi fesili fa'afeso'ota'i mai Epeli Nabolaniwaqa i le 699 1333.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by Central ASG Water System. State Water System ID#: AS9711948.
Date distributed: 5/2/2026.