The DHHS Division of Public Health is holding this hearing to accept comments on proposed changes to regulations for Public Water Systems in Title 179 Chapters 2-002, 3-5, 12-14, and 16 of the NAC. A new chapter, 179 NAC 8, Ground Water Rule, is also proposed.

The proposed changes will update the regulations to bring them into compliance with the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulations. The changes add requirements for ground water systems that detect total coliform in distribution samples, revise requirements relating to lead and copper, revise disinfection byproduct requirements, update Code of Federal Regulations attachments and analytical methods, and update reporting requirements.

Authority for these regulations is found in Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 71-5301 to 71-5313 (the Nebraska Safe Drinking Water Act) and 81-3117(7).

All interested persons are invited to attend and comment at the hearing. Written comments are also welcome and will be given the same consideration as comments made in person. Written comments must be postmarked or received by 5:00 p.m. CT March 3, 2012 and should be sent to DHHS Legal Services, 301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509-5026, fax 402-742-2382, or e-mailed to DHHS.RulesandRegs@nebraska.gov. Copies of written comments and names of persons submitting them will be available after the hearing from DHHS as above.

Draft regulations will be available online 3 weeks before the hearing at http://www.sos.ne.gov/rules-and-regs/regtrack/index.cgi. Draft regulations are also available at DHHS as above, phone 402-471-9022, and at the office of the Secretary of State, Regulations Division, Room 1305, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509, phone 402-471-2385. Draft fiscal impact statements for these regulations are available at DHHS as above.

If auxiliary aids or reasonable accommodations are needed to participate in a hearing, please call 402-471-9022. For persons with hearing impairments, please call DHHS at 402-471-9570 (voice and TDD) or the Nebraska Relay System at 711 or 800-833-7352 TDD at least 2 weeks before the hearing date. This notice is given in compliance with Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 84-907.