

# Water restrictions lifted in Jamestown

By **JACK H. SMITH**  
Staff Writer

Published: Wednesday, April 14, 2010 4:55 PM MDT

Life returned to normal for residents of the Jamestown/Rio Vista Water District Tuesday after a "do-not-drink" the water order was lifted.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Sweetwater County Health Department made the announcement Tuesday afternoon after results of testing were negative of any possible contaminants.

According to Karla Roich, Sweetwater County Community Nursing Public Health Response coordinator, a water district employee noticed irregularities at the district's water tank Friday afternoon.

Roich said he noticed an unsecured hatch and immediately contacted authorities.

The Region 4 Regional Response team was sent in to assess the situation and Roich said a team of EPA officials left from Denver.

She said the county health and nursing, emergency management and EPA officials then had conference calls from 4 p.m. to midnight to address the situation.

"You never know what's in there. It could be nothing, it could be something," Roich said. "You have to protect the public.

Friday evening do-not-drink and do-not-bathe orders were issued for residents of the district.

"We had a really good public notification system," she said.

Roich credited the Radio Network and the Sweetwater County Sheriff's Office for aiding in informing the public.

She also lauded Green River Community Nursing who had an emergency number to call for more information.

She said the sheriff's office allowed the use of their search and rescue team to distribute flyers and go door-to-door in the district.

Water was made available at K-Motive in Jamestown on Saturday.

Roich said the Sweetwater County Fire Department brought in several "water buffaloes" with potable water for residents.

She also credited a local family who allowed residents to get water at their residence Sunday because K-Motive was closed Sunday.

"Everyone worked really well together," she said.

After the EPA left early Friday morning, Siler said everyone with the county health and nursing was on pins and needles waiting for the results.

She said some of the tests took 24 to 48 hours to complete.

Jamestown resident Debbie Siler was concerned about the "do-not-drink" order not only for herself, but also for her two dogs and three cats.

She praised the county officials for having made the water available.

"They've taken care of it well," longtime Jamestown resident Kendra Lewis said. "They have been good to call me and come to my door."

Lewis has lived in Jamestown since 1960, and both her and Siler can never remember this happening.