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Baghdad. We observed its operations and reviewed the preventive medicine oversight records for December 27, 2005, through December 2, 2006. The Oasis bottled water production facility at Camp Liberty operated in accordance with the applicable quality control and oversight procedures.

Production, Distribution, and Storage of Bulk Water by KBR. The three KBR sites we visited started producing bulk water for U.S. forces on January 31, 2004 (Camp Q-West); on October 30, 2004 (Camp Victory); and on May 23, 2005 (Camp Ar Ramadi). We reviewed KBR records of test results¹⁰ for the first full month that each site started producing water and for November 2006. At all three sites, KBR potable and nonpotable water operations generally met the standards for field water quality because of an emphasis by MNF-I and MNC-I commands and LOGCAP management to produce all water at the potable quality level. KBR also emphasized hourly testing during the production process and daily testing of water stored at production and point-of-use storage containers. Additionally, KBR set up quality control laboratories at its water production sites.

During the audit site visits, we observed that KBR effectively produced, distributed, stored, and maintained potable water in bulk for use in dining and medical facilities according to approved potable water standards. KBR also produced potable water for shower and latrine units, exceeding the TB MED 577 minimum quality level of “disinfected fresh (nonpotable)”¹¹. Even though treatment procedures produced potable water, water officials conspicuously posted signs at personal hygiene facilities stating, “Nonpotable Water, Do Not Drink.” The postings were appropriate because, according to oversight officials, not all distribution trucks and storage containers were certified and maintained at the potable level.

The LOGCAP contract required KBR to implement quality control procedures that included conducting periodic (hourly and daily) tests to maintain the required quality during production, distribution, and storage (production and point-of-use). As of January 30, 2007, KBR had established and were conducting daily tests at 413 point-of-use testing locations at the three campsites we visited.

Treatment and Testing at Camp Victory. At Camp Victory, KBR did not perform water quality tests at point-of-use storage containers from November 2004 to February 2006. KBR began distributing water on November 2, 2004, and, therefore, was contractually responsible for performing those tests. During that period, military preventive medicine personnel conducted monthly oversight tests at Camp Victory point-of-use storage containers. Test results showed that the quality of water met Army field water standards. On February 11, 2006, the MNC-I Chief of Preventive Medicine issued a memorandum, “Clarification of Specifications for Potable Water Production and Testing in Iraq,” requiring daily testing at point-of-use water storage containers. Since the issuance of that memorandum, KBR performed the required testing at Camp Victory.

¹⁰ KBR records included hourly and daily production, distribution, and storage tests of equipment settings and water quality readings (pH and Free Available Chlorine levels).

¹¹ See section titled “Established Standards” under “Background” in this report.