



safe drinking water hotline
annual report
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**Fiscal Year 2006
Annual Report**

October 2005 – September 2006

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Safe Drinking Water Hotline

National Toll-free No.: (800) 426-4791

See past monthly reports at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline>

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Under Contract #GS-23F-0135N/1140

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Introduction

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the national law that ensures the quality of America's drinking water and furthers EPA's mission to protect human health and safeguard the environment. The Act, as amended in 1996, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide a toll-free hotline that consumers can call to obtain accurate and real-time information about annual water quality reports and drinking water contaminants (42 U.S.C. 300g-3, Section (4)(A) and (4)(B)). The Safe Drinking Water (SDW) Hotline, operated by Booz Allen Hamilton, provides this essential public outreach service for EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW), the office that is responsible for implementing the SDWA. The Hotline also answers questions about federal drinking water regulations and standards, source water protection, and the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. **In fiscal year 2006 (FY 2006), the Hotline responded to 11,492 phone calls and 920 incidents (i.e., Enterprise Customer Service Solution (ECSS) incidents) which, in aggregate, resulted in more than 16,000 questions.** The questions came from a diverse audience including public water systems (PWSs), federal, state and local governments, businesses, and citizens. The questions reflected several "hot topics" and initiatives, including the following:

- *Consumer Confidence Reports* – The Hotline experienced its annual increase in the volume of calls and electronic correspondence related to the nationwide distribution of the consumer confidence reports (CCRs). The CCR contains information about substances detected in drinking water, possible sources of the substances, potential health effects of the substances and other valuable information. The increase in inquiries was primarily during the months of June and July.
- *Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule* – The Hotline fielded numerous calls regarding the Long Term 2 Rule published on January 5, 2006. Topics of questions regarding this rule included applicability, compliance dates for submissions, and use of the Data Collection System used to submit cryptosporidium data.
- *Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule* – The Hotline fielded numerous calls concerning the Stage 2 Rule published on January 4, 2006. One frequent question received was how systems determine their compliance schedule, which is based on the population in the largest system in a combined distribution system. Other common Stage 2 questions included compliance requirements for submission of Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) plans and requests for IDSE guidance materials.

The SDW Hotline's staff of drinking water regulatory experts responded to an average of 64 questions from callers each operating day of FY 2006, providing real-time assistance to Hotline users' questions regarding regulatory and policy clarifications, document requests, and referrals for additional sources of information. Questions were received from federal and state officials, non-governmental organizations, local public water system operators, and consumers, among others. Additionally, Spanish-speaking staff responded to over 240 requests for drinking water information from Spanish-speaking individuals. Information Specialists recommended thousands of documents and processed requests for hard copies, provided about 5,800 referrals to relevant agencies and organizations (when inquirers required information beyond the purview of the Hotline), and drafted 33 formal Questions and Answers and 35 Federal Register summaries.

The Hotline's mission of providing quality technical assistance continues to be enhanced through technological advances and operational improvements. The SDW Hotline phone system offers callers several self-serve options intended to provide useful information and reduce the hold time required to reach an Information Specialist. During this fiscal year, over 8,000 callers opted to hear recorded messages about consumer confidence reports, local drinking water quality and tap water testing for public water system (PWS) customers, and drinking water quality and tap water testing for household well

owners. The phone system also provides an option for direct transfers to the Water System's Council Wellcare Hotline for callers seeking information on private household wells. Over 2,700 callers utilized this option.

In addition, The SDW Hotline offers a choice for callers to select a citizen's line for general inquiries and a technical line for more in-depth questions regarding SDWA regulations and programs. Over 9,500 callers selected the citizen's line and about 1,900 callers selected the technical line.

In order to provide real-time outreach service to water professionals, regulators, and the general public the Hotline must maintain the most current information and consistently strive to understand each caller's needs and interests. The SDW Hotline report, *Water Lines*, is published in response to those needs. *Water Lines* contains typical questions answered by Hotline staff, abstracts of pertinent Federal Register entries, call and ECSS incident statistics, caller profiles, and water facts. The FY 2006 Safe Drinking Water Hotline Annual Report is a review of the cumulative statistics, trend analyses, Questions and Answers, and Federal Register summaries gathered from the *Water Lines* reports.

Note: Booz Allen Hamilton produces three quarterly issues of *Water Lines*. Information from the fourth quarter of each fiscal year is incorporated into this annual report, which is a cumulative review of the fiscal year. This annual report includes an addendum of statistics for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year.

Hotline Annual Statistics Summary

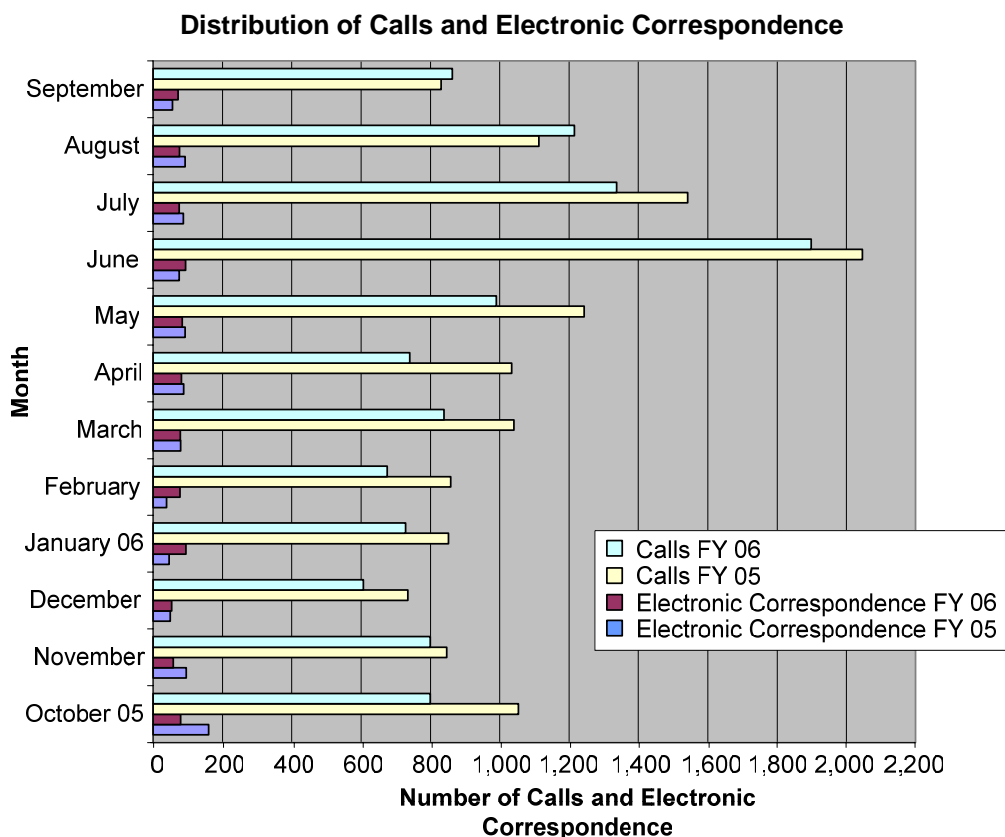
The Safe Drinking Water Hotline answers questions, via telephone and through the ECSS application, related to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. The Hotline previously responded to questions through e-mail but discontinued the practice in favor of ECSS. ECSS is an interactive knowledge base, accessible through the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water's Web site, that allows Web users the opportunity to search for answers to common questions or to submit a question to the Hotline. Hotline Information Specialists also assist customers in accessing relevant regulations, Federal Register notices, and EPA guidance documents, via Internet and in hard copy, and by providing helpful referrals for questions beyond the Hotline's purview. Additionally, the Hotline offers its services in both English and Spanish. **During FY 2006, the Hotline responded to 11,492 telephone calls, and 920 incidents (i.e., ECSS incidents).** A single call often generates multiple questions, and **a total of 15,082 questions from callers were answered by the Hotline in FY 2006.** Detailed statistics of the breakdown in type of callers and the topics of questions asked are included in the Hotline Annual Statistics section of this report

Telephone Calls and Electronic Correspondence Comparison: The telephone call and electronic correspondence volumes for FY 2006 are lower than the total volumes received during FY 2005. This is possibly attributed to an increase in the use of the Internet to obtain documents and general information as well as increased familiarity with consumer confidence reporting and a decrease in significant regulatory development over the past year.

Contact Mode	FY 2006	FY 2005
Calls	11,492	13,197
E-mails*	0*	472
ECSS Incidents	920	488
Total	12,416	14,157

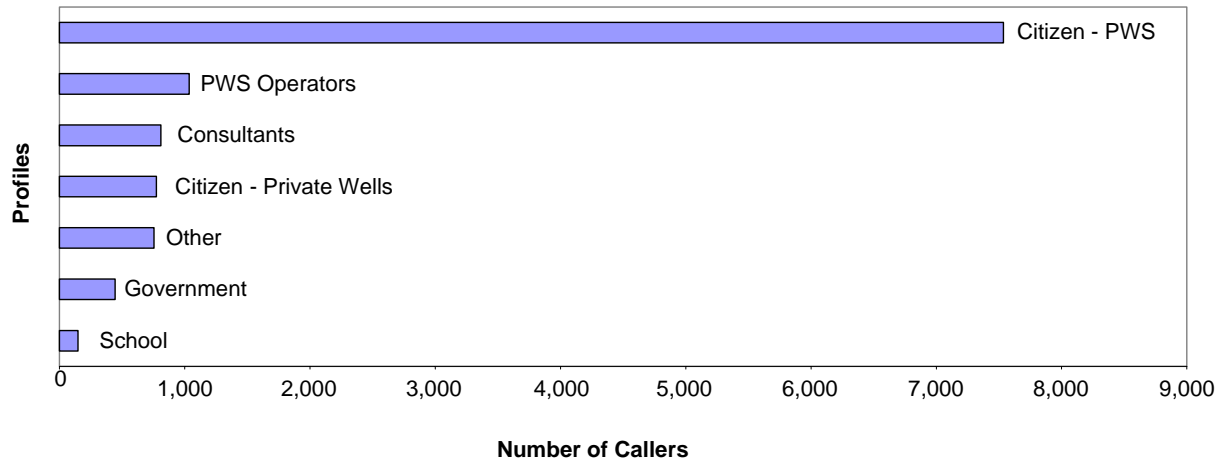
* The Hotline transitioned from e-mail correspondence to ECSS correspondence during FY 2005.

The following chart illustrates the distribution of calls and electronic correspondence in FY 2006, compared to FY 2005. The total number of calls peaked in June and July due to the annual distribution of consumer confidence reports.



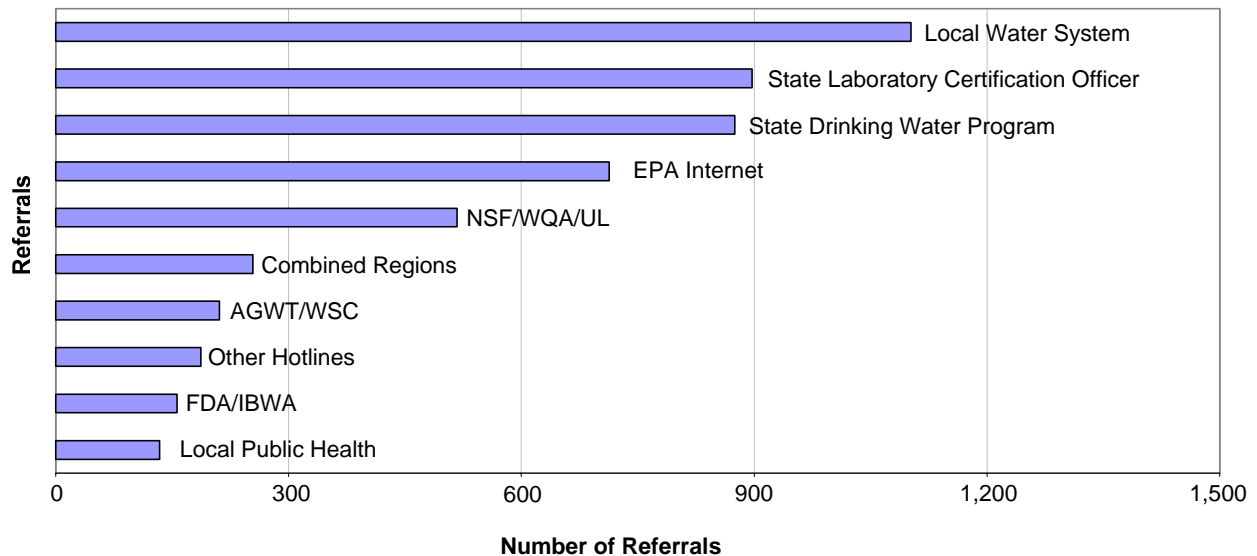
Caller Profiles: As illustrated by the chart below, the Hotline serves a diverse group of customers. Of the more than 11,000 calls received during the FY 2006, **the largest category of Hotline customers, by far, are citizens who obtain their drinking water from public water systems.** Citizens are followed by PWS operators, consultants, citizens who obtain their water from a private household well, others, government officials, and academic institutions. The “other” category in the chart below includes analytical laboratories, people who accessed the Hotline from other countries, environmental groups, individuals who communicated with Hotline staff in Spanish, medical professionals, and news media representatives. It should be noted that PWS operators were the second most frequent caller category. Previous years had the “other” category or consultants as the second most frequent caller. Two prominent rulemakings, the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule were finalized and undoubtedly influenced the influx of PWS operator calls. This trend may continue as additional rulemakings are finalized or come into effect (e.g., UCMR 2, Ground Water Rule).

Caller Profiles



Top Ten Referrals: Referrals are often provided when questions require input from state and local water programs, not-for-profit organizations, or other federal agencies. In FY 2006, the Hotline provided 5,786 referrals, including local water systems for water system specific information water quality information, state laboratory certification offices for questions about labs that can test drinking water, and state drinking water programs for information best addressed by the primacy agency such as compliance questions or citizen complaints about PWS service. The top ten referrals are displayed below.

Referrals Frequently Provided by the Safe Drinking Water Hotline



Top Ten Caller Topics: Year after year, certain issues, such as local drinking water quality and tap water testing, consistently top the list of the most frequently discussed topics at the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. The Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule is new to the list this year as many callers contacted the Hotline leading up to and following the publishing of the rulemaking. The table below lists the ten topics that were most frequently discussed with Hotline callers during FY 2006.

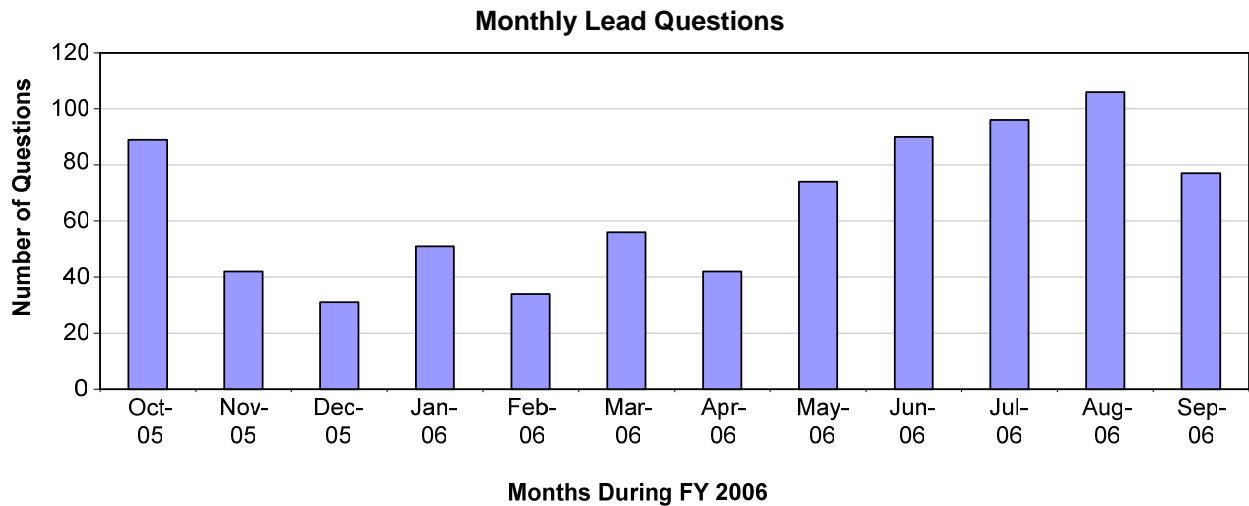
Topic	Questions	Percent of Total Caller Questions*
Local Drinking Water Quality	1,774	12
Tap Water Testing	1,559	10
Consumer Confidence Reports	1,374	9
Home Water Treatment Units	795	6
Lead	788	5
Coliforms	668	4
Complaints About PWSs	602	4
Safe Drinking Water Act	502	4
Public Notification	500	3
Stage D/DBP Rule	483	3

* Callers asked a total of 15,082 questions.

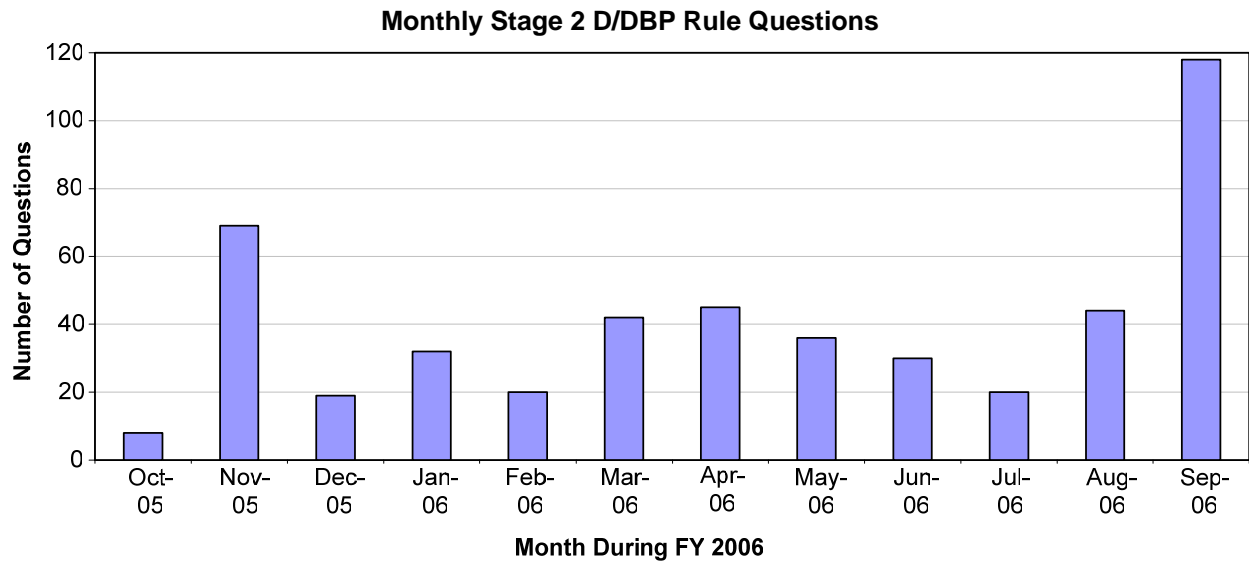
Annual Trends

The Hotline staff gathers general statistical data on the calls to which it responds. These data, combined with the staff members' insight and observations, provide a unique opportunity to identify and analyze trends in the number and types of Hotline inquiries. Some examples of these trends are illustrated below.

Lead Questions: Questions about lead in drinking water are consistently among the most frequently asked questions of the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. EPA released the 3Ts Guidance and Toolkit to provide information to schools and child care providers on how to implement voluntary programs to reduce exposure to lead in drinking water. The increase in lead questions during the latter half of FY 06 can be attributed to the nationwide distribution of CCRs, which include specific language about lead as a contaminant of concern as well as general inquiries about tap water testing for lead.

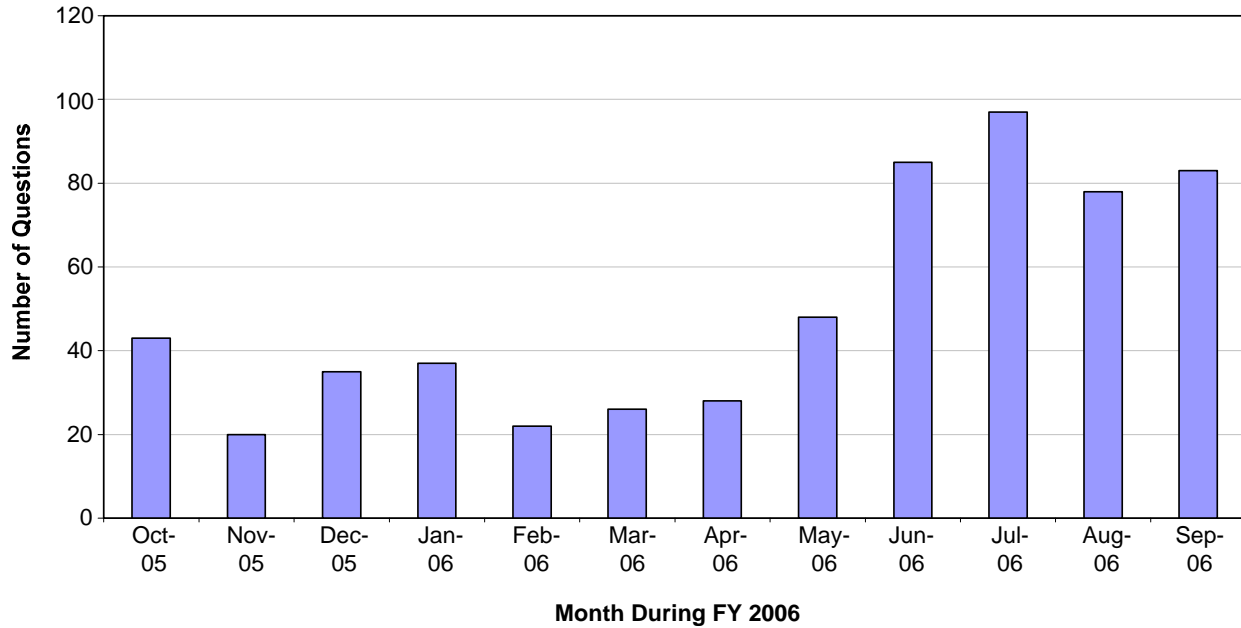


Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule Questions: The Safe Drinking Water Hotline received numerous questions about the Stage 2 Rule. Many of the questions prior to the finalization of the rule in January 2005 were regarding a potential finalization date and subsequent compliance dates. The large increase in questions during September 2005 was due to the pending deadline of October 1, 2006 for submissions for Schedule 1 systems.



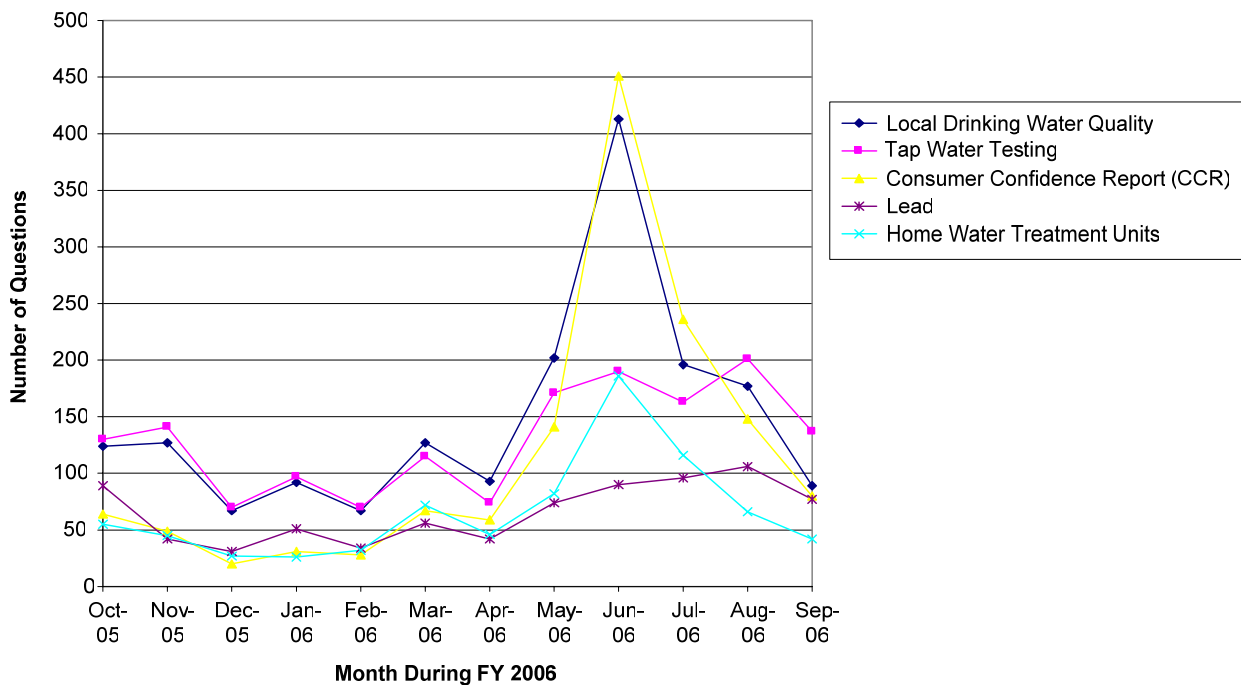
Complaints About Public Water Systems: The Hotline receives many questions regarding citizen concerns about their drinking water quality. In addition, many callers complain about various aspects of the public water system such as the quality of the water being provided, inattention to customers' requests, lack of information, and delays in public notification. The increase in complaints received during the months of May to August 2005 can be attributed to the receipt of consumer confidence reports by customers. The reports provide a vehicle for customers to voice complaints by providing contact information for both the local water system and the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

Monthly Complaints About PWSs



Monthly Trends: The top five commonly asked questions concern local drinking water quality, tap water testing, local drinking water quality, consumer confidence reports (CCRs), home water treatment units, and lead in drinking water. The following chart illustrates the distribution of those questions throughout FY 2006. The dramatic increase in CCR questions and local drinking water quality questions in June and July coincided with the nationwide distribution of the reports.

Monthly Trends in Water Quality Topics



Questions and Answers

The following questions and answers, organized by subject, represent the range of questions addressed by the Hotline on a variety of topics. These questions were included in FY 2006 quarterly Hotline reports. Questions addressed during the fourth quarter of FY 2006 are noted with an asterisk (*) and were not included in any previous reports.

General Information

Q: Is there a national list of all state certified laboratories that analyze drinking water?

A: Information concerning state-certified drinking water laboratories is available from the state certification officer. The contact information for each state is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/labs.

Q: How does distillation work and what contaminants will it remove from my drinking water?

A: Distillation is an effective water treatment technology for commercial and household use. When water is purified by distillation, it is boiled in a container and the steam is sent into cooling tubes. The steam is condensed and then collected as purified water in a second container. The impurities in the water are left behind in the first container and can be discarded. The distillation process removes almost all impurities from water. Distillers are commonly used for removing nitrates, bacteria, sodium, hardness, dissolved solids, most organic compounds, and lead. Contaminants that easily turn into gases, such as gasoline components or radon, may remain in the water unless the system is specifically designed to remove them. Distilled water may taste flat to some people because the water's natural minerals and dissolved oxygen often have been removed (*Water Health Series: Filtration Facts*, EPA816-K-05-002; September, 2005). More filtration facts are available at www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/pdfs/fs_healthseries_filtration.pdf.

Q: What is the "white stuff" that appears in a glass as ice cubes melt and where does it come from?

A: The "white stuff" is a concentration of minerals dissolved in the water. Water freezes from the outside in. Ice is pure water, so as the water freezes, any dissolved minerals in the water are forced to the center. As the water continues to freeze, the minerals concentrate in the center, forming the "white stuff" (*Plain Talk About Drinking Water*, American Water Works Association, 2001).

Q: Is the secondary maximum contaminant level (SMCL) for aluminum based on total aluminum?

A: The analytical method for aluminum is based on total aluminum, so the SMCL is for total aluminum.

A list of all SMCLs is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/consumer/2ndstandards.html.

Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts

***Q:** Do public water systems need to notify their customers when changing methods of disinfection?

A: There is no federal requirement to inform the public of a change in disinfectant practice. However, proper preparation for a changeover should include a public notification and education campaign. This can be especially important when converting from chlorination to chloramination as kidney dialysis patients can be adversely affected if chloramines are not removed from the water. Public water systems are encouraged to cooperate with and notify state and local health departments, appropriate interest groups, and the media. (*Alternative Disinfectant and Oxidants Guidance Manual*, EPA815-R-99-014, April 1999)

***Q:** Are chloramines harmful to fish?

A: The use of chloramines in disinfection by public water systems is known to be fatal to fish. The residuals can damage the gill tissues, enter the red blood cells, and cause an acute blood disorder. Chloramine residuals should be removed from the water prior to contacting any fish. As such, fish hobbyists should be notified by the public water system, along with pet stores and aquarium supply establishments. (*Alternative Disinfectant and Oxidants Guidance Manual*, EPA815-R-99-014, April 1999).

Q: What are some natural sources of organic matter (a disinfection byproduct precursor) in ground water?

A: In ground water, there are three main natural sources of organic matter: organic matter deposits such as buried peat, kerogen, and coal; soil and sediment organic matter; and organic matter present in waters infiltrating into the subsurface from rivers, lakes, and marine systems (United States Geological Survey, water.usgs.gov/ogw/pubs/ofr0289/ga_organic.htm).

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule

***Q:** Should the results from the Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) standard monitoring required under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule be included in the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)?

A: Results from IDSE standard monitoring must be included in the range of levels a public water system reports in its CCR (71 FR 388, 419-420; January 4, 2006)

Additional information on IDSE monitoring is available in the *Initial Distribution System Evaluation Guidance Manual* (EPA815-B-06-002, January 2006) located online at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/compliance_idse.html.

***Q:** Should results from the Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) standard monitoring required under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) be used to determine compliance with maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) of the Stage 1 DBPR rule?

A: Results from the IDSE standard monitoring should not be used to determine compliance with the MCLs of the Stage 1 DBPR rule (71 FR 388, 419-420; January 4, 2006).

Additional information on IDSE monitoring is available in the *Initial Distribution System Evaluation Guidance Manual* (EPA815-B-06-002, January 2006) located online at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/compliance_idse.html.

***Q:** When conducting Stage 2 DBPR compliance monitoring, are all sites required to be sampled on the same day?

A: It is not necessary to sample all sites on the same day. For example, a system on quarterly monitoring could sample in the third full week of every third month. (*Initial Distribution System Evaluation Guidance Manual*, EPA815-B-06-002, January 2006).

Q: What are the purpose and options for the requirement in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart U, to complete an initial distribution system evaluation (IDSE) under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule?

A: The IDSE is intended to identify sample locations for Stage 2 compliance monitoring that represent distribution system sites with high disinfection byproduct (i.e., THM and HAA5) concentrations (71 FR 388, 419; January 4, 2006). A system may meet the IDSE requirement by

conducting standard monitoring or a system specific study, certifying to the state that they meet the 40/30 certification criteria, or qualifying for a very small system waiver (40 CFR 141.600(d)).

More information about the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2.

Q: Under the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, a wholesale system or consecutive system must comply with the requirements in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart U, at the same time as the system with the earliest compliance date in the combined distribution system, unless the state determines otherwise (40 CFR 141.600(c)). What are the definitions of wholesale system, consecutive system, and combined distribution system?

A: A wholesale system is a public water system (PWS) that treats source water as necessary to produce finished water and then delivers some or all of that finished water to another PWS. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems (40 CFR 141.2).

A consecutive system is a PWS that receives some or all of its finished water from one or more wholesale systems. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems (40 CFR 141.2).

A combined distribution system is the interconnected distribution system consisting of the distribution systems of wholesale systems and of the consecutive systems that receive finished water (40 CFR 141.2).

The preamble of the January 4, 2006, final rule discusses these definitions (71 FR 388, 409). The final rule and additional information about the rule are available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/regulations.html.

Q: Is a public water system (PWS) required to follow the Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts Rule requirements if it meets all the conditions in 40 CFR 141.3?

A: The Stage 2 Rule does not change any findings under 40 CFR 141.3 concerning coverage for PWSs. In other words, if a system is relieved from complying with 40 CFR Part 141 because it meets all criteria in 40 CFR 141.3, the Stage 2 Rule does not alter or modify the system's requirements. Public water systems should check with their state drinking water office to see if they have more stringent requirements.

Additional information on the Stage 2 rule is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2. State drinking water office contact information is available by selecting the appropriate state at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo.

Q: As of the publication of the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfections Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR), what are EPA's conclusions for the potential association between chlorinated drinking water and adverse health effects?

A: EPA concluded that there is at least a potential health concern from chlorinated drinking water based on a collective evaluation of the human epidemiology and animal toxicology data on cancer and reproductive and developmental health effects. EPA also took into consideration the large number of people exposed to chlorinated byproducts in drinking water (more than 260 million). Specifically, EPA concluded that (1) new cancer data since the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfections Byproducts Rule (Stage 1 DBPR) (63 FR 69389; December 16, 1998) strengthen the evidence of a potential association of chlorinated water with bladder cancer and suggests an association for colon and rectal cancers; (2) current reproductive and developmental health effects data do not support a conclusion at this time as to whether exposure to chlorinated drinking water or disinfection byproducts causes adverse developmental or reproductive health effects, but do support a potential health concern; and (3) there is a need for public health protection beyond that provided by the Stage 1 DBPR, as indicated by the combined health data (71 FR 388, 394; January 4, 2006).

A further discussion of EPA's conclusions on the health effects of chlorinated drinking water, including a summary of the epidemiology studies reviewed for the Stage 2 DBPR, is available in the preamble of the Stage 2 DBPR (71 FR 388, 394-406; January 4, 2006). The rule and additional information are available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2.

Q: Are Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) submissions provided to EPA's Information Processing and Management Center (IPMC) subject to FOIA requests?

A: IDSE submissions will not be considered confidential business information and are subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). IDSE submissions should not contain information that poses a security risk to the public water system (PWS). Chapters 5, 6, and 7 of the *Initial Distribution System Evaluation Guidance Manual* (EPA815-B-06-002, January 2006) provide guidelines on the kinds of information a PWS owner or operator may want to exclude from the distribution system schematic for security reasons.

Additional information about IDSE submissions is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/compliance_idse.html.

Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule

***Q:** What type of funding is available to assist systems in complying with the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) requirements?

A: Funding may be available from programs administered by EPA and other Federal agencies. EPA developed the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) to assist systems with financing the costs of infrastructure needed to achieve or maintain compliance with SDWA requirements. Through the DWSRF, EPA awards capitalization grants to States, which in turn can provide low-cost loans and other types of assistance to eligible systems. Funding may also be available for qualified systems from the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service (RUS) and Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. RUS provides loans, guaranteed loans, and grants to improve, repair, or construct water supply and distribution systems in rural areas and towns of up to 10,000 people. The CDBG program includes direct grants to States, which in turn are awarded to smaller communities, rural areas, and colonias in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas and direct grants to U.S. territories and trusts.

Basic information about the Long Term 2 Rule is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/lt2/basicinformation.html.

Q: What are the requirements for public water systems (PWSs), including PWSs that only purchase water, storing finished water in uncovered storage facilities?

A: PWSs subject to Subpart P of Part 141 are not permitted to construct uncovered finished water storage facilities as of February 16, 1999 (40 CFR 141.170(c)). PWSs subject to Subpart T must cover finished water reservoirs (storage facilities) constructed on or after March 15, 2002 (40 CFR 141.511). PWSs (Subpart H systems) with existing uncovered finished water storage must notify the state of use of uncovered finished water storage facilities. PWSs must cover all uncovered finished water storage facilities or treat discharge from the finished water storage facilities to the distribution system to an inactivation/removal of 4-log virus, 3-log *Giardia lamblia*, and 2-log *Cryptosporidium*. Alternatively, a PWS must be in compliance with a state-approved schedule (40 CFR 141.714).

The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations are available at www.epa.gov/safewater/regs.html#cfv.

Q: A consecutive system is a public water system that receives some or all of its finished water from one or more wholesale systems. Delivery may be through a direct connection or through the distribution system of one or more consecutive systems (40 CFR 141.2). Are consecutive systems exempt from the requirements of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment (LT2) Rule?

A: Consecutive public water systems (PWSs) that purchase treated water from wholesale PWSs that fully comply with the monitoring and treatment requirements of the LT2 Rule are not required to take additional steps (e.g., conduct additional monitoring or install additional treatment) for that water under the rule (71 FR 654, 657; January 5, 2006).

Additional information on the LT2 is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/lt2.

Q: What are the source water monitoring requirements of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2)?

A: The LT2 Rule requires public water systems (PWSs) using surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water sources to monitor their source water to assess the level of *Cryptosporidium*, *E. coli*, and/or turbidity. However, filtered systems are not required to conduct source water monitoring if the system will provide a total of at least 5.5-log of treatment for *Cryptosporidium* (40 CFR 141.701(d)(1)), and unfiltered systems are not required to conduct source water monitoring if the system will provide a total of at least 3-log *Cryptosporidium* inactivation (40 CFR 141.701(d)(2)). The requirements for the initial round of monitoring in 40 CFR 141.701(a) differ by PWS size (above or below 10,000 people served) and treatment plant type (filtered or unfiltered PWS). Systems that do not meet the monitoring avoidance criteria in 40 CFR 141.701(d) must monitor as follows:

- 1) Filtered systems serving at least 10,000 people must sample their source water for *Cryptosporidium*, *E. coli*, and turbidity at least monthly for 24 months.
- 2) Unfiltered systems serving at least 10,000 people must sample their source water for *Cryptosporidium* at least monthly for 24 months.
- 3) Filtered systems serving fewer than 10,000 people must sample their source water for *E. coli* at least once every two weeks for 12 months, unless they notify the state that they will monitor for *Cryptosporidium*. Filtered systems

serving fewer than 10,000 people must sample their source water for *Cryptosporidium* if they exceed the screening level of *E. coli* based on source type. The state may approve an alternate indicator other than *E. coli* or an alternate screening level.

- 4) Unfiltered systems serving fewer than 10,000 people must sample their source water for *Cryptosporidium* at least twice per month for 12 months or at least monthly for 24 months.

More information on the source water monitoring requirements of the LT2 Rule is available in the document *Source Water Monitoring Guidance for Public Water Systems* (EPA815-R06-005). The document and additional information on the LT2 Rule are available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/lt2.

Stage 2/LT2 Training and Tools

Q: What types of training are available for the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts (Stage 2) Rule and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment (LT2) Rule?

A: EPA has scheduled both web-based and in-person trainings to assist in the implementation of these new rules. EPA has scheduled four web casts in January 2006 that are open to the public. These trainings will include an overview on the new rules and guidance tools to assist with any early implementation activities. EPA has also scheduled in-person trainings that cover the requirements of the rules that include workshops to reinforce and practice key concepts. Additional information on LT2 and Stage 2 training is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html.

Q: What is the Information Processing and Management Center (IPMC)?

A: EPA created IPMC as both a receiving facility and a Web-based data management system that allows EPA and states to access, track, and respond to Initial Distribution System Evaluation (IDSE) submissions (e.g., IDSE plan, IDSE report) required by the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (*Initial Distribution System Evaluation Guidance Manual*, EPA815-B-06-002, January 2006).

Additional information about EPA's data management system is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/tools/tools-dcts.html.

Q: What is the Long Term 2/Stage 2 Data Collection and Tracking System (LT2/Stage 2 DCTS) and how do I access it?

A: The LT2/Stage 2 DCTS is a tool designed to help manage data submissions and notifications associated with early implementation activities of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproduct Rule (DBP). There are two parts of the DCTS – the LT2 Data Collection System and the LT2/Stage 2 Tracking System. The LT2 Data Collection System collects and tracks the *Cryptosporidium*, *E. Coli*, and turbidity data generated during the LT2 monitoring program. The LT2/Stage 2 Tracking System is designed for state and EPA staff to use during the implementation of the LT2 and Stage 2 DBP rules.

The DCTS can be accessed through the Central Data Exchange (CDX) at cdx.epa.gov.

More information, including instructions for registering for the DCTS, is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/tools/tools-dcts.html.

Arsenic

Q: What resources are available for public water systems to comply with the revised 0.010 mg/L standard for arsenic by the January 23, 2006, the effective date for the purpose of compliance?

A: EPA has designed a Web site to provide guidance materials to help states and water systems comply with the revised arsenic standard. The Web site provides information about the sources and health effects of arsenic, guidance and fact sheets about the rule, tools and training for compliance, guidance for states to implement the rule, information on funding sources, publications, and a link to the Office of Research and Development's arsenic research program. The Web site is URL is www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic.

Q: Can a system request an exemption if it will not be able to comply with the revised arsenic MCL by January 23, 2006?

A: A state may grant a three-year exemption to any size system that has demonstrated that it cannot comply with the revised arsenic MCL by January 23, 2006. A system is eligible for an exemption if:

1. It cannot comply with the MCL due to a “compelling factor” such as serving a disadvantaged community.
2. It was in operation before January 23, 2006.
3. The exemption will not result in an “unreasonable risk to health.”

4. It cannot reasonably make management or restructuring changes that would result in compliance or improve the quality of the drinking water if compliance is not achieved.

A new system that begins operations after January 23, 2006, must show that it has “no reasonable alternative source of drinking water” as well as meeting all other eligibility criteria in order to qualify for an exemption.

A system that serves less than 3,300 individuals may request an extension of the initial exemption of up to six years if the system continues to be eligible for an exemption (40 CFR 142.20(b), 40 CFR 142.50(a)(1)). Implementation guidance concerning arsenic exemptions is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/guidance.html.

Q: Is dermal exposure to arsenic in drinking water from bathing a concern?

A: Hand washing and bathing do not pose a known risk to human health (*Arsenic Treatment Technology Evaluation Handbook for Small Systems*, EPA816-R-03-014, July 2003). The primary mode of exposure to arsenic is ingestion of water containing arsenic. Dermal exposure (i.e., skin contact) with water containing arsenic is believed to be low because dermal absorption of arsenic is minimal. At this time, EPA is basing health risks on estimates of arsenic exposure from food and water (65 *FR* 38887, 38894; June 22, 2000).

Additional information on arsenic is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/regulations.html.

Lead and Copper

***Q:** Are non-transient, non-community water systems (NTNCWSs) (e.g., hospitals) required to monitor for lead and copper?

A: All community water systems (CWSs) and NTNCWSs must collect lead and copper tap samples. The frequency of the monitoring and number of samples to be collected and analyzed is based primarily on the number of people served and tap water monitoring results. For an outline of monitoring requirements (e.g., number of samples) consult the *Lead and Copper Monitoring and Reporting Guidance for Public Water Systems* (EPA816-R-02-009, February 2002). This document as well as additional regulatory guidance is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrrm/compliancehelp.html.

Q: What are the public education requirements for non-transient, non-community water systems (NTNCWSs) that have exceeded the lead action level?

A: Within sixty days of exceeding the lead action level, NTNCWSs must distribute public education materials by

placing informational posters in public places or in common areas of buildings served by the system, and distribute informational pamphlets and/or brochures to each person served by the NTNCWS. The NTNCWS must repeat the distribution of this information annually for as long as it exceeds the lead action level. A NTNCWS can stop delivering public education materials whenever its 90th percentile lead level is at or below the action level for one monitoring period. If the system exceeds the action level again in the future, the NTNCWS must resume the public education requirements within sixty days (40 CFR 141.85(c)(4-6)).

Radionuclides

Q: What is tritium and what are its health effects?

A: Tritium (H₃) is a radioactive isotope of the element hydrogen (H) that emits ionizing radiation in the form of a weak beta particle. Tritium is produced naturally in the upper atmosphere and as a man-made byproduct from nuclear activities including weapons explosions or energy production. Tritium is commonly found in the environment in (tritiated) water because it readily reacts with oxygen to form tritiated water. People are exposed to small amounts of tritium since it is widely dispersed in the environment and the food chain. Tritium primarily enters the body when (tritiated) water is ingested, but may also enter through inhalation or absorption through the skin. Exposure to tritium increases the risk of cancer. However, tritium is considered one of the least dangerous radionuclides because it emits very weak radiation and passes through the body relatively quickly.

This and additional information is available at EPA's online tritium fact sheet:
www.epa.gov/radiation/radionuclides/tritium.

Q: How is tritium regulated?

A: Tritium is regulated under the Radionuclides Final Rule (65 FR 76708; December 7, 2000) as part of the beta particle and photon radioactivity standard, for which the maximum contaminant level is four millirems/year and the maximum contaminant level goal is zero (40 CFR 141.66 and 141.55, respectively). Community water systems designated by the states as vulnerable to, or contaminated by, beta particle emitters must monitor annually for tritium. If the beta particle activity exceeds the appropriate screening level, the dose for measured level of tritium must be calculated and combined with the doses of other identified beta particle emitters to determine compliance (40 CFR 141.26(b)).

Q: Why is there no standard for gamma radiation (rays)?

A: Photon emitters and gamma rays are essentially the same. Gamma ray emissions are captured in the 4 millirem/year standard for beta particles and photon emitters. By regulating the total amount of radiation absorbed by tissue from exposure to beta particles and photon emitters, EPA is essentially regulating the amount of gamma radiation to which the public is exposed.

Additional information on radionuclides is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/radionuc.html.

Underground Injection Control (UIC)

Q: How can I determine if my state has primary responsibility (primacy) for the UIC program?

A: EPA has the ability to implement the UIC program through one of its regional offices, to authorize states to implement the program, or to share the responsibility. Information regarding primacy allocation for each state or Native American tribe, is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/primacy.html.

Contaminant Candidate List

Q: Is blue-green algae regulated in drinking water?

A: Cyanobacteria or blue-green algae is not regulated by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), other freshwater algae, and their toxins are listed on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List 2 (CCL2). The CCL is the primary source of priority contaminants on which EPA conducts research to make decisions regarding whether regulations are needed. The contaminants on the list are known or anticipated to occur in public water systems. The CCL alone does not impose any requirements on public water systems. However, EPA may regulate contaminants on the list in the future. More information about the CCL is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/ccl.

Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring

Q: What is the timeframe for a laboratory to register for approval to conduct analysis under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR2)?

A: EPA began accepting requests for registration forms for methods associated with the UCMR contaminant list on August 22, 2005. Laboratories can immediately send a written request to register to participate in the UCMR2 laboratory approval process. In response to such requests, EPA will send the registration material and a copy of the UCMR2 Laboratory Approval Manual. Completed

registration materials can be submitted during the proposal period but no later than 90 days after EPA publishes the final UCMR2 rule. EPA will then provide each laboratory with a customized application package that includes materials and instructions for the methods. Completed applications for the selected methods should be returned as soon as possible, but must be submitted to EPA no later than 210 days after the final rule is published.

Laboratories wishing to be considered for UCMR2 can send a letter requesting the registration material to the following address:

UCMR2 Laboratory Approval Coordinator
US EPA, Technical Support Center
26 West Martin Luther King Drive (MS 140)
Cincinnati, OH 45268

Laboratories may also e-mail their request to UCMR_Sampling_Coordinator@epa.gov.

Information regarding the UCMR2 laboratory registration and approval process is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/labs.html.

Federal Register Summaries

FINAL RULES

“Underground Injection Control Program – Revision to the Federal Underground Injection Control Requirements for Class I Municipal Disposal Wells in Florida” November 22, 2005 (70 FR 70513)

This final rule amends the current federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) requirements by providing a regulatory alternative to owners and operators of Class I municipal disposal wells in specific areas of Florida that have caused or may cause movement of fluid into an Underground Source of Drinking Water (USDW). Because operation of Class I wells with fluid movement into a USDW is prohibited by federal UIC regulations, this new rule offers owners and operators of municipal disposal wells in certain counties in Florida the ability to continue to operate their wells provided they meet additional wastewater treatment requirements. These new treatment requirements, which apply only to injection operations in certain counties of Florida, are designed to provide an equivalent level of protection to USDWs that is afforded by the no-fluid-movement standard. This regulation was effective December 22, 2005.

“National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule” January 4, 2006 (71 FR 388)

The final Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR) contains maximum contaminant level goals for chloroform, monochloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid; National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, which consist of maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and monitoring, reporting, and public notification requirements for total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5); and revisions to the reduced monitoring requirements for bromate.

EPA is also approving additional analytical methods for the determination of disinfectants and DBPs in drinking water.

The Stage 2 DBPR applies to public water systems (PWSs) that are community water systems (CWSs) or non-transient noncommunity water systems (NTNCWs) that add a primary or residual disinfectant other than ultraviolet light or deliver water that has been treated with

a primary or residual disinfectant other than ultraviolet light.

“National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule” January 5, 2006 (71 FR 654)

Key provisions in the final Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) include the following: source water monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*, with a screening procedure to reduce monitoring costs for small systems; risk-targeted *Cryptosporidium* treatment by filtered systems with the highest source water *Cryptosporidium* levels; inactivation of *Cryptosporidium* by all unfiltered systems; criteria for the use of *Cryptosporidium* treatment and control processes; and covering or treating uncovered finished water storage facilities.

CORRECTIONS

Correction – “National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule” January 27, 2006 (71 FR 4644)

EPA published corrections for the January 4, 2006, Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

Correction – “National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule” January 30, 2006 (71 FR 4168)

EPA published corrections for the January 5, 2006, Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

Correction – “National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule” February 6, 2006 (71 FR 6136)

EPA published a correction for the January 5, 2006, Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

**Correction – “National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule”
June 29, 2006 (71 FR 37168)**

EPA published corrections for the January 4, 2006, Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

PROPOSED RULES

**“National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Lead and Copper: Short-term Regulatory Revisions and Clarifications; Proposed Rule”
July 18, 2006 (71 FR 40827)**

EPA proposed seven targeted regulatory changes to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR) for lead and copper. This proposal strengthens the implementation of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) in the following areas: monitoring, treatment processes, customer awareness, and lead service line replacement. These changes will provide more effective protection of public health by reducing exposure to lead in drinking water. The proposed changes do not affect the basic requirements of the LCR, the lead or copper maximum contaminant level goals, or the lead and copper action levels.

Comments were accepted on or before September 18, 2006.

NOTICES

**“Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council--Notice of Public Meeting”
October 25, 2005 (70 FR 61614)**

EPA gave notice for a meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC or Council). The principal items on the agenda for this meeting include: A report from the Council's Working Group on the near-term efforts to revise performance measures and indicators for the drinking water program; a presentation and discussion of the water program's sustainable infrastructure initiative; an update on the implementation of the recommendations in the Report on Water Security Practices, Incentives, and Measures, which the Council sent to EPA's Administrator in June 2005. Other EPA drinking water program activities were to be addressed if sufficient time was available. The meeting was held on November 17 and 18, 2005, in Long Beach, California, and was open to the public.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revisions for the State of Indiana”
November 1, 2005 (70 FR 65899)**

Indiana has revised its Public Notification (PN) Rule, its Lead and Copper Rule Minor Revisions (LCRMR) Rule, its Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants and revisions to Laboratory Certification Requirements, its revisions to Analytical Methods for Radionuclides Rule, and its Removal of the Prohibition on the Use of Point of Use Devices for compliance with National Primary Drinking Water Regulations Rule. EPA has determined that these revisions by the state are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these revisions to the State of Indiana's Public Water System Supervision Program effective December 1, 2005. This approval action does not extend to public water systems (PWSs) in Indian Country.

**“Safe Drinking Water Act Determination; Underground Injection Control Program, Determination of Indian Country Status for Purposes of Underground Injection Control Program Permitting”
November 2, 2005 (70 FR 66402)**

EPA must determine whether any of the approximately 160 acres of land located in the southeast portion of Section 8, Township 16N, Range 16W, in the State of New Mexico, is part of a dependent Indian community under 18 U.S.C. 1151(b) and, thus, considered to be “Indian country.” This determination is necessary in order to establish whether EPA or the New Mexico Environment Department is the appropriate agency to issue a particular underground injection control permit under the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA sought comments and information from the public and all interested parties regarding the possible Indian country status of this land and is considering whether to hold a public hearing on the matter.

**“National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Working Group on Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Meeting Announcement”
November 4, 2005 (70 FR 67167)**

EPA announced the second public meeting of the Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) on the Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (WGPE). The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the WGPE members to continue discussions on the public education requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule. The second meeting of the WGPE was held in Washington, DC, on December 15 and 16, 2005.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revisions for the State of Michigan”
November 14, 2005 (70 FR 69151)**

Michigan is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Michigan has: revised its administrative penalty authority for public water systems; adopted the Consumer Confidence Report Rule, which requires annual drinking water quality reports from all community water systems; adopted the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, which will help improve control of microbial pathogens in drinking water; adopted the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, which will set new requirements to limit the formation of chemical disinfection byproducts in drinking water; and adopted the Public Notification Rule, which revises the general public notification regulations (sets requirements for public water systems to follow regarding the form, manner, frequency, and content of a public notice).

EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these program revisions effective December 14, 2005.

**“Safe Drinking Water Act Determination; Underground Injection Control Program, Determination of Indian Country Status for Purposes of Underground Injection Control Program Permitting”
December 15, 2005 (70 FR 74318)**

On November 2, 2005, EPA published a notice of prospective determination of the Indian country status of approximately 160 acres of land located in the southeast portion of Section 8, Township 16N, Range 16W, in the State of New Mexico (70 FR 66402). That notice requests public input regarding whether the Section 8 land is part of a dependent Indian community under 18 U.S.C. 1151(b) and, thus, considered to be “Indian country.” This determination is necessary in order to establish whether EPA or the New Mexico Environment Department is the appropriate agency to issue a particular underground injection control permit under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

EPA sought responses to the notice by January 3, 2006. In response to requests from the public seeking additional time to fully analyze the issues, gather requested information, and prepare comments, the period for submitting comments and information was extended to January 31, 2006.

**“Notice of an Initial Scoping Workshop on the Development of Regulations for Aircraft Public Water Systems”
December 28, 2005 (70 FR 76815)**

EPA held an initial workshop on the development of regulations for aircraft public water systems. This workshop will examine and discuss the various aspects of aircraft public water systems, including an overview of aircraft water systems and watering points, existing drinking water regulations for aircraft water systems, the scope of issues for proposing regulations tailored to aircraft water systems, as well as preliminary options for a proposed rulemaking. This workshop was the first in a series designed to gain perspectives from representatives from industry, government, public interest groups, and the general public. EPA has been working with the Food and Drug Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration to plan this event.

The workshop was held January 18 and 19, 2006 in Washington, DC.

**“National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Working Group on Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Meeting Announcement”
January 13, 2006 (71 FR 2228)**

EPA announced the third public meeting of the Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) on the Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (WGPE). The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the WGPE members to continue discussions on the public education requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule.

The third meeting of the WGPE was held in Washington, DC, on February 1 and 2, 2006 at RESOLVE.

**“Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council”
February 27, 2006 (71 FR 9821)**

EPA gave notice of the forthcoming conference call meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council. The Council listened to a report from the NDWAC's working group on Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule. The Council will determine whether it will make specific recommendations to EPA relating to the report from the working group.

The Council meeting, held on March 10, 2006, was open to the public.

**“Small Drinking Water Systems Variances--
Revision of Existing National-Level
Affordability Methodology and Methodology To
Identify Variance Technologies That Are
Protective of Public Health”
March 2, 2006 (71 FR 10671)**

EPA currently determines if there are affordable compliance technologies available to small systems by comparing (for a representative system) the current household cost of water plus the estimated additional cost to comply with a new rule to an affordability “threshold” of 2.5 percent of the median household income. EPA requested comment on revisions to this existing national-level affordability methodology for small drinking water systems and an approach for determining if an affordable variance technology is protective of public health. EPA is committed to working with State and local officials and stakeholders to update and improve affordability analyses under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Comments must have been received on or before May 1, 2006.

**“Program Requirement Revisions Related to the
Public Water System Supervision Programs for
the States of Connecticut, New Hampshire and
Rhode Island”
March 9, 2006 (71 FR 12197)**

EPA gave notice that the States of Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island are in the process of revising their respective approved Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) programs to meet the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).

Connecticut has adopted drinking water regulations for the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule (66 FR 31086-311054) promulgated on June 8, 2001. After review of the submitted documentation, EPA has determined that Connecticut's Filter Backwash Recycling Rule is no less stringent than federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve Connecticut's PWSS program revision for the Filter Backwash Rule.

New Hampshire has adopted drinking water regulations for the new Public Water System definition (63 FR 23362, 23364) promulgated on April 28, 1998. After review of the submitted documentation, EPA has determined that New Hampshire's public water system definition is no less stringent than federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve New Hampshire's PWSS program revision for the Public Water System definition.

Rhode Island has adopted drinking water regulations for the Variances and Exemptions Rule (63 FR 43834-43851) promulgated on August 14, 1998. After review of the

submitted documentation, EPA has determined that Rhode Island's Variances and Exemptions Rule is no less stringent than federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve Rhode Island's PWSS program revision for the Variances and Exemptions Rule.

The effective date for these actions was April 9, 2006.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program
Revision for the State of New Mexico”
March 17, 2006 (71 FR 13844)**

New Mexico is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. New Mexico has adopted the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR). The purpose of the LT1ESWTR is to improve control of microbial pathogens, specifically protozoan *Cryptosporidium*, in drinking water, and address risk trade-offs with disinfection byproducts. EPA has determined that the LT1ESWTR revisions submitted by New Mexico are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulation. Therefore, EPA intends to approve the program revisions.

The effective date for this action was April 17, 2006.

**“Notice of Tentative Approval and Solicitation of
Request for a Public Hearing for Public Water
System Supervision Program Revision for the
Commonwealth of Virginia”
March 21, 2006 (71 FR 14218)**

The Commonwealth of Virginia has revised its approved Public Water System Supervision Program and revised its regulations for issuing variances and exemptions. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding Federal regulations. Therefore, EPA has decided to tentatively approve these program revisions. All interested parties were invited to submit written comments on this determination and request a public hearing.

The effective date for this action was April 20, 2006.

**“National Primary Drinking Water Regulations;
Ground Water Rule; Notice of Data Availability”
March 27, 2006 (71 FR 15105)**

On May 10, 2000, EPA published the proposed Ground Water Rule (GWR), a national primary drinking water regulation. The purpose of the proposed rule is to provide for increased protection against microbial pathogens in public water systems that use ground water sources. In the proposed rule, EPA presented 16 occurrence studies. Since the rule was proposed, new data have become available that further delineate pathogen and fecal indicator occurrence in groundwater. The purpose of this

notice of data availability is to present additional occurrence studies that EPA may use in performing its economic analysis of the final GWR, and to solicit comment on those additional studies and on whether EPA should consider any additional ground water microbial occurrence data not mentioned in the proposed rule or in this notice.

Comments were accepted on or before April 26, 2006.

**“National Drinking Water Advisory Council's Working Group on Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Meeting Announcement”
March 31, 2006 (71 FR 16305)**

EPA announced the fourth public meeting of the Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC) on the Public Education Requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule (WGPE). The purpose of this meeting is to provide an opportunity for the WGPE members to continue discussions on the public education requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule.

The fourth meeting of the WGPE was held in Washington, DC, on April 19 and 20, 2006 at RESOLVE, Inc.

**“Semiannual Regulatory Agenda”
April 24, 2006 (71 FR 23226)**

EPA published the spring 2006 Unified Agenda which contained rulemaking information concerning several Safe Drinking Water Act regulations, including the Groundwater Rule, the Radon Rule, modifications to the Lead and Copper Rule, the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, the Contaminant Candidate List 3, Total Coliform Rule and Airline Drinking Water Regulations.

**“Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Information Collection Request for Contaminant Occurrence Data in Support of EPA's Second Six-Year Review of National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, EPA ICR Number 2231.01., OMB Control No. 2040.New”
June 5, 2006 (71 FR 32340)**

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this document announced that EPA planned to submit a new Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA solicited comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection.

Comments were accepted on or before August 4, 2006.

**“Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Fund Program; EPA ICR No. 1803.05, OMB Control No. 2040-0185”
June 5, 2006 (71 FR 32342)**

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this document announced that EPA planned to submit a request to renew an existing approved Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). This ICR is scheduled to expire on November 30, 2006. Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA solicited comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection.

Comments were accepted on or before August 4, 2006.

**“Agency Information Collection Activities: Proposed Collection; Comment Request; 2007 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey Agency Information Collection; EPA ICR No. 2234.01, OMB Control No. 2040.New”
June 5, 2006 (71 FR 32344)**

In compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.), this document announces that EPA is planning to submit a request for a new Information Collection Request (ICR) to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Before submitting the ICR to OMB for review and approval, EPA is soliciting comments on specific aspects of the proposed information collection.

Comments were accepted on or before August 4, 2006.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revisions for the State of Ohio”
June 12, 2005 (71 FR 33749)**

The State of Ohio is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Ohio has revised its definition of a Public Water System, Consumer Confidence Report Rule, Public Notification Rule, Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule; and Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule. EPA has determined that these revisions by the state are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these revisions to the State of Ohio's Public Water System Supervision Program.

The effective date of this action was July 12, 2006.

**“Notice of Tentative Approval and Solicitation of Request for a Public Hearing for Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for the State of Maryland”
July 11, 2006 (71 FR 39116)**

Maryland has adopted the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule to improve control of microbial pathogens in drinking water, including specifically the protozoan *Cryptosporidium*. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA has decided to tentatively approve these program revisions.

The effective date for this action was August 10, 2006.

**“Public Water Supply Supervision Program; Program Revision for the State of Idaho”
July 19, 2006 (71 FR 41021)**

The State of Idaho has revised its approved State Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) Primacy Program. Idaho has revised its PWSS program with respect to administrative penalty authority, has adopted a revised definition of public water system, and has adopted drinking water regulations requiring consumer confidence reports from all community water systems. Idaho has also adopted regulations for the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, the Lead and Copper Rule Minor Revisions, the Public Notification Rule, the Radionuclides Rule, the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule, the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule, and the Arsenic Rule. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these state program revisions.

The effective date for this action was August 18, 2006.

**“Notice of Tentative Approval and Solicitation of Request for a Public Hearing for Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for the State of West Virginia”
July 21, 2006 (71 FR 41443)**

West Virginia has revised its approved Public Water System Supervision Program and revised its regulations for issuing variances and exemptions. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA has decided to tentatively approve these program revisions.

The effective date of this action was August 21, 2006.

**“Tentative Approval and Solicitation of Request for a Public Hearing for Public Water Supply Supervision Program Revision for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico”
August 10, 2006 (71 FR 45830)**

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is revising its approved Public Water Supervision Program. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding Federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve program revisions for Consumer Confidence Reports, Microbials and Disinfection Byproducts Rules, and Arsenic regulations. The application demonstrates that Puerto Rico has adopted drinking water regulations which satisfy the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. EPA has determined that Puerto Rico's regulations are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations and that Puerto Rico continues to meet all requirements for primary enforcement responsibility as specified in 40 CFR 142.10.

The effective date for this action was September 11, 2006.

**“Notice of Intent To Provide Internet Publication of Proposed Penalties under the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act”
August 29, 2006 (71 FR 51193)**

EPA gave notice that the Agency intends to issue notices of proposed penalty orders issued under the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act via the Internet. EPA is encouraging the Regions to use the Internet as a more effective and efficient means to provide such notice.

To ensure wide public acceptance of public notice provided through the Internet, the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance is recommending procedures designed with two objectives in mind: making the public aware that notices will be available on the website for the Region issuing the order, and providing easy access to the notices.

**“Sole Source Aquifer Designation of the Troutdale Aquifer System; Clark County, WA”
September 6, 2006 (71 FR 52541)**

In response to a petition from a group of Clark County residents (two private groups and 8 individuals), the EPA Region 10 Administrator has determined that the Troutdale aquifer system, in Clark County, Washington, is a sole or principal source of drinking water, and that if contaminated, would create a significant hazard to public health. As a result of this action, all federal financially-assisted projects proposed over the designated aquifer

system will be subject to EPA review to ensure that they do not create a significant hazard to public health.

**“Notice of a Public Meeting to Discuss the Draft Simultaneous Compliance Guidance Manual for the Stage 2 Rules”
September 22, 2006 (71 FR 55465)**

EPA announced a public meeting to discuss the draft Simultaneous Compliance Guidance Manual for Stage 2 Rules. The meeting was held to discuss the purpose and organization of the draft. EPA presented the process for the public to provide suggestions and recommendations to strengthen the technical basis and make the manual more user-friendly.

The public meeting was held on Thursday, October 26, 2006, at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

Hotline Annual Statistics

Annual Summary of Hotline Service

Total number of calls answered	11,492
Total number of ECSS incidents	920
Average wait time (in seconds)	51
Percent of calls satisfied immediately	99.9%
Percent of all calls answered in < 5 min	94.9%
Percent of callbacks answered in 5 days	100%
Number of times callers were transferred to the WSC Wellcare Hotline	2,728
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about CCRs	2,420
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about local drinking water quality for PWS customers	2,297
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about tap water testing and quality for household well owners	1,557
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about tap water testing for PWS customers	2,973

Comparison to Previous Year

	Calls	Electronic Correspondence
FY06	11,492	920
FY05	13,197	960

Top Ten Referrals

Customer Referred to:	Number of Referrals	Percent of Total* Referrals
1. Local Water System	1,102	19
2. State Lab Certification	897	16
3. State PWSS	875	15
4. EPA Internet	713	12
5. NSF/WQA/UL	517	9
6. Combined Regions	254	4
7. AGWT/WSC	211	4
8. Other Hotlines	187	3
9. FDA/IBWA	156	3
10. Local Public Health	134	2

*5,786 total referrals to other resources, agencies, and organizations were provided by the Hotline in FY 2006.

Caller Profiles

Customer	Calls
Analytical Laboratories	106
Citizen - Private Well	774
Citizen - PWS	7,534
Consultants/Industry/Trade (DW)	639
Consultants/Industry/Trade (Other)	168
Environmental Groups	8
EPA	75
Other Federal Agency	71
Government, Local	99
Government, State	190
Government, Tribal	9
Spanish Speaking	178
International	49
Media	22
Medical Professional	32
Public Water System	1,033
Schools/University	147
Other	358
TOTAL	11,492

ECSS Incidents

Topic	Number of Incidents
Analytical Methods	25
Arsenic	44
Bottled Water	19
Compliance/Issues (PWS)	51
Consumer Concerns	76
Contaminants and Standards	143
Definitions	15
Facts, Figures, and Databases	43
Household Wells	111
Local Drinking Water Quality	74
Long Term 2 Rule	18
Other	226
Source Water Protection	22
Stage 2 Rule	25
Tap Water Testing	20
Underground Injection Control	8
TOTAL	920

Caller Question Topics

Topic	Number of Questions
Microbials/Disinfection Byproducts	
Chlorine	143
Coliforms	668
Cryptosporidium	317
Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts (Other)	153
Disinfection – Home Water	139
Long Term 2 Rule	237
Other Microbials	134
Stage 2 DBP Rule	483
Storage – Home Water	44
Surface Water Treatment (SWTR, ESWTR, LT1FBR)	70
Trihalomethane (THM)	118
Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)/Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)	
Arsenic	202
Fluoride	138
Methyl- <i>tertiary</i> -butyl-ether (MTBE)	31
Perchlorate	6
Phase I, II & V	107
Sodium Monitoring	41
Sulfate	7
Lead and Copper	
Copper	102
Lead	788
Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA)/Lead Ban	23
Radionuclides	
Radionuclides (Other)	214
Radionuclides (Radon)	307
Secondary DW Regulations	
Secondary DW Regulations	284
SDWA Background/Overview	
Definitions & Applicability	133
MCL List	378
Other Background	250
SDWA	502

Topic	Number of Questions
Water on Tap	13
Other DW Regulations	
Analytical Methods (DW)	118
Contaminant Candidate List/ Drinking Water Priority List	23
Consumer Confidence Report (DW)	1,374
DW Primacy (PWS)	23
Operator (PWS) Certification	21
Other Drinking Water Security	68
Public Notification (PWS)	500
Security Planning Grants	1
State Revolving Fund (DW)	17
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	83
Other Drinking Water	
Additives Program	40
Bottled Water	396
Complaints about PWS	602
Compliance & Enforcement (PWS)	149
Home Water Treatment Units	795
Infrastructure/Cap. Development	47
Local DW Quality	1,774
Tap Water Testing	1,559
Treatment/BATs (DW)	67
Drinking Water Source Protection	
Ground Water Rule	28
Sole Source Aquifer	14
Source Water/Wellhead Protect.	89
UIC Program	72
Out of Purview	
Household Wells	385
Non-Environmental	185
Non-EPA Environmental	328
Other EPA (Programs)	292
TOTALS	15,082

**Addendum:
Fiscal Year 2006
Fourth Quarter Statistics**

Hotline Fourth Quarter FY 2006 Statistics

Top Ten Caller Topics

Topic	Questions	Percent of Total* Questions
Tap Water Testing	501	11
Consumer Confidence Reports	464	10
Local Drinking Water Quality	462	10
Lead	279	6
Complaints About PWSs	258	5
Coliforms	251	5
Home Water Treatment Units	224	5
Stage 2 D/DBP Rule	182	4
Household Wells	153	3
Public Notification	125	3

*A total of 4,659 questions from callers were answered by the Hotline in the 4th Quarter of FY 2006.

Calls and ECSS Incidents		
Calls**	ECSS Incidents***	Total
3,417	219	3,636

** A single call may generate multiple questions.

*** Incidents registered through EPA's Enterprise Customer Service Solution knowledge base at the OGWDW Web site.

Quarterly Summary of Hotline Service

Total number of calls answered	3,417
Total number of ECSS incidents	219
Average wait time (in seconds)	0:37
Percent of calls satisfied immediately	99.9%
Percent of all calls answered in < 5 min	96.8%
Percent of callbacks answered in 5 days	100%
Number of times callers were transferred to the WSC Wellcare Hotline	688
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about CCRs	686
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about local drinking water quality for PWS customers	585
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about tap water testing and quality for household well owners	397
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about tap water testing for PWS customers	722

Comparison to Previous Year

	Calls	ECSS Incidents
4 th Quarter FY06	3,417	219
4 th Quarter FY05	3,485	218

Top Ten Referrals

Customer Referred to:	Number of Referrals	Percent of Total* Referrals
1. Local Water System	405	21
2. State Lab Certification	311	16
3. State PWSS	307	16
4. EPA Internet	183	10
5. NSA/WQA/UL	181	9
6. Combined Regions	89	5
7. FDA/IBWA	66	3
8. Other Hotlines	64	3
9. AGWT/WSC	55	3
10. Local Public Health	43	2

*A total of 1,925 referrals to other resources, agencies, and organizations were provided by the Hotline in the 4th Quarter of FY 2006.

