



The UCMR Update

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Maria Tomashot and Jillian Hutson, Editors
 O.R.I.S.E. Fellows
 Technical Support Center

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UCMR Update Issue Number 12-Issued by the Technical Support Center (TSC) of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW). Future Updates will be distributed as needed to maintain the flow of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) information.

The UCMR2 glass is half full!

Editors' notes

Important Announcement! The first half of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR2) monitoring period is over! Monitoring began in January 2008 and continues until December 2010, with 12 month monitoring cycles for each public water system (PWS). The halfway point is marked by the first release of UCMR2 occurrence data to the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD), where all UCMR2 data will eventually be posted. In this issue of the Update, we will quench your thirst for UCMR2 knowledge with these topics:



- ◆ UCMR2 occurrence data are now available on the Internet
- ◆ Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) and Public Notifications (PNs)
- ◆ Quality control information for PWSs and Labs

Raise your half full glasses and celebrate the first half of UCMR2 in your workplace today!



Fill your glass with these dates to remember...

Stakeholder	Action
EPA Approved Laboratories	Must post monitoring results to the Safe Drinking Water Accession and Review System (SDWARS) within 120 days from sample collection.
Large Public Water Systems (serving over 10,000)	Must review and approve data using SDWARS within 60 days of the Laboratory posting your results. CCR and PN requirements also apply.
Small Public Water Systems	Paper reports are sent from EPA directly to small PWSs and States. No further action is required by the small PWS following sample collection, other than compliance with CCR and PN requirements.

UCMR2 data continue to flow

As the first half of UCMR2 monitoring period ends, reflect on what has already been accomplished (as of June 2009):



Admire your hard UCMR2 work.

PWS size and monitoring type	Percent complete
Screening Survey for Small Systems	62% Complete (297 of 480)
Screening Survey for Large Systems	436 out of 720 systems have reported data to SDWARS
Assessment Monitoring for Small Systems	61% Complete (488 out of 800)
Assessment Monitoring for Large Systems	1,959 out of 3,356 systems have reported data to SDWARS

Note that data reporting typically lags monitoring by 3-6 months. Note also that the small system screening survey is occurring over a two-year period, whereas all other monitoring is over a three year period. Thanks everyone for all you have accomplished. Please keep up the great work and raise your half full glass, toast, and celebrate your progress.

UCMR occurrence data availability

Download UCMR2 monitoring results:

<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/ucmr/data.html>

Where does the data flow after you turn the SDWARS approval tap? Links to both historic and current UCMR data are on the UCMR Web site (<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/ucmr/data.html>). UCMR2 data are available in text (.txt) files, which can be imported and viewed with nearly any Microsoft Word or data processing software. Analyze and draw conclusions from the UCMR2 data with caution at this point, as this is a dynamic dataset until monitoring is complete. Details about the data and information about UCMR2 are included in the PDF file, which can be downloaded from the Web site with the data.

UCMR2 word search

Take a break from UCMR data and fill up your cup with letters instead! How many of these UCMR2-related terms can you find?



- CCR
- Contaminant
- GLEC
- Ground water
- Inventory
- NCOD
- Schedule
- SDWARS
- UCMR



A glass full of acronyms: UCMR, CCRs, and PNs



Information on CCRs and PNs:

[www.epa.gov/safewater/
consumerinformation/
index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/consumerinformation/index.html)

You must inform your customers about UCMR2 detections (i.e. measurements above reporting limits) through your annual consumer confidence report (CCR). A tier three public notice (PN) is also required to announce the availability of UCMR2 data. The U.S. EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water has recently launched a new Web site with information on both processes. The Web site will also wet your whistle with information on many other topics, so check it out!

Quality control for PWSs

You receive a huge box in the mail, dutifully collect your samples, and send them to the lab. But what happens after that? You see the results of the sample analyses you pay for, but quality control (QC) also occurs behind the scenes.

Internal Laboratory QC samples check for things like the accuracy and precision of the analytical equipment. These samples include the following:

⇒ **Calibration check standards** ensure the calibration curve used to determine contaminant concentrations are accurate.

⇒ **Daily performance checks** make sure the analytical equipment is accurately measuring low concentrations (at or below the minimum reporting level, or MRL).

⇒ **Laboratory fortified sample matrix (LFSM) and duplicates (LFSMD)** are PWS samples collected from a PWS spiked with a known concentration of a contaminant. This determines if any matrix bias exists, which could cause inaccurate measurements. These results can be requested from your lab.

Remember, ask your lab if you have any questions about quality control—they will be happy to accommodate you—their customer!

Quality control for labs

As laboratories well know, quality control is the foundation of good data. The availability of quality control data is also important to productive client relationships. Building trust with your clients is easily done by supporting the validity of your results with quality control information.

For your large PWS clients (PWSs serving over 10,001 customers), remember that you must report LFSM and LFSMD results to SDWARS. The LFSM and LFSMD must be reported when the fortified sample yields acceptable internal standard and surrogate recoveries and all other batch QC are valid. Monitoring data may not be rejected based on the recovery of fortified target analytes or the precision between LFSM and LFSMD.



Questions trickle in

So many questions, so little time! Here is a list of potential UCMR2 issues and who to contact for answers.

Problem	Contact (see also below)
How do I reset my CDX password?	You can automatically reset your password in CDX. Click the here link at the top of the login screen. You can also click Forgot Password next to the password box.
I need help using SDWARS.	The UCMR Message Center.
My inventory (sample locations) in SDWARS are incorrect.	The UCMR Sampling Coordinator (remember to include your PWS ID and an explanation).
I need to change my schedule (either for the entire PWS or a few sample points).	UCMR Sampling Coordinator (remember to include your PWS ID and a reason for the request).
I am a small PWS and have an issue with sampling.	The UCMR Message Center.
I am not sure what I am required to do for UCMR2.	The UCMR Message Center or visit the UCMR2 Web site.

Do you have suggestions for future *Updates*? Let us know! Send feedback to:

UCMR_Sampling_Coordinator@epa.gov
Thank you!

The UCMR2 Web site:
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2>

Contact EPA

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: General UCMR questions: (800)426-4791

CDX/SDWARS Help Desk: SDWARS/UCMR registration and electronic reporting system questions: (888)890-1995

UCMR Message Center: UCMR implementation questions: (800)949-1581

UCMR Sampling Coordinator Correspondences:

Mail: UCMR Sampling Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Technical Support Center (MS-140)
26. W. Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45268

Fax: (513)569-7191

E-mail: UCMR_Sampling_Coordinator@epa.gov

Laboratories and PWSs:
When contacting EPA about UCMR issues, please use your UCMR Lab ID or Federal PWS ID, respectively.

Please contact the UCMR Sampling Coordinator if you are not the correct person to receive this newsletter, your address needs to be corrected, or you do not want to receive this newsletter. Please include your **name**, **PWS ID** (or **Lab ID**), and the **name of the PWS** (or **Laboratory**). Thank you.