



# The UCMR Update

## With Wisdom Comes Change

### Editor's Notes

Those of you who have an outstanding memory might notice that as the seasons change, so have the interns. Not only am I the newest person on the team, I am the first female editor of **The UCMR Update!**

Issue 8  
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Some of you might be wondering, "Who is this lady, and what did she do with Cory Wagner?" Cory is in DC if you want to look him up in the phone book, and I am an Oak Ridge Interning Fellow with the Technical Support Center in Cincinnati. I recently shifted from recycling (a.k.a. garbage or solid waste) to water. My family seems to think that I am moving up in the world. Now my father can proudly say that his daughter works with water instead of garbage.

Life in Cincinnati is great, and we are working night and day to bring you the next cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR). The UCMR 2 Rule was proposed on August 22, 2005. Do not worry; the next cycle is easier! Believe me, my mentor made me read both UCMR 1 and 2, and UCMR 2 appears simpler. The UCMR team has listened to comments, and improved many aspects for UCMR 2. Thus, the changes they made were done to make your life easier.

Just in case you were wondering if you should read this, the main goals are to:

- Bring closure to UCMR 1 so we all can sleep at night.
- Introduce UCMR 2 so we can prepare for the next adventure.

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**UCMR Update Issue Number 8-**  
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.

# UCMR 1

UCMR 1 is a success! Of the 3900 public water systems (PWSs) required to monitor, 99.7% have reported all or part of their data. We recognize that some of you have yet to complete your data reporting, and may be collecting additional data per Administrative Orders from your Region. Regardless of your circumstances we urge you to complete what you have started. We cannot stress enough the importance of the UCMR program.

In 1996 the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) was amended requiring the EPA to establish criteria to monitor unregulated contaminants, and to identify a maximum of 30 contaminants to monitor every five years. As a result, the UCMR program was developed. The program was developed to coordinate with the Candidate Contaminant List (CCL) and the National Drinking Water Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD). The data collected through the program is stored in the NCOD to facilitate analysis, review contaminant occurrence, and to guide the development of subsequent CCLs.

The UCMR program benefits the environment and public health by providing EPA and other interested parties with scientific data on the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water, permitting assessment of the population potentially being exposed, and the levels of that exposure. This is the primary source of occurrence and exposure data the Agency uses to determine whether to regulate these contaminants in the interest of protecting public health. How great is that? Knowing that you are participating in such an important process that protects the environment and public health.

**NEWS FLASH!** The Safe Drinking Water Accession and Review System (SDWARS) is closing! This is not a joke. On September 30 the Central Data Exchange (CDX) will no longer allow anyone to register for UCMR 1. Everyone needs to be registered to submit data. The SDWARS will not accept UCMR 1 data after December 9! Please approve, review and submit any data that needs to be included in UCMR 1.

## Changes Between UCMR 1 & 2

Times have changed since UCMR 1 was initiated in 1999. The price of gas was only \$1.16 per gallon and everyone was preparing for Y2K. We all are aware of the changes to the price of gas, and Y2K has become a distant memory. Kids born in 1999 started first grade this fall! Just think, as you sit in your “green vehicle” behind a line of traffic following a school bus this fall, students are not the only ones who are learning. The UCMR team learned from UCMR 1, and made positive changes to the proposed UCMR 2. Note your cheat sheet of changes.

<b>Topic</b>	<b>1999-UCMR 1</b>	<b>2005-Proposed UCMR 2</b>
Number of Contaminants	25	26
Number of Methods	25	9 (4 are perchlorate methods)
Number of Reporting Elements	18	15
Laboratory Approval	Most methods required state certification. <i>Aeromonas</i> and perchlorate required EPA approval	EPA approval required for all contaminants
Posting and Approving Data	PWSs used SDWARS to approve data	PWSs use SDWARS to approve data. Defaults to approved 60 days after posted by lab
PWS's Population	Subject to multiple interpretations	Set as of June 30, 2005
Number of Small PWSs Considered for Screening Survey (List 2)	180	480
Number of Large PWSs Considered for Screening Survey (List 2)	120	≈ 325 PWSs serving more than 100,000 people, and 320 randomly selected PWSs serving 10,000-100,000 people
Screening Survey (List 2) Monitoring Period	12 months of monitoring within a 1-year period	12 months of monitoring within a 2-year period
Contact Info	Unspecified	Large PWSs must submit information to SDWARS
Large PWS Sampling Schedule	Scheduled by a sampler within a 3 year time frame	Scheduled by EPA with allowances for changes if needed
Sampling Location	EPTDS or phase II/V sample points. In addition, <i>Aeromonas</i> samples were collected at 3 locations in the distribution system	EPTDS or a representative EPTDS for PWSs with multiple ground water entry points. In addition, nitrosamine samples are collected at the maximum residence time location in the distribution system
Calculating PWS Population Served	Subject to many interpretations	Clearly defined as total population; retail + wholesale
<b>Acronyms:</b> EPTDS = entry point to the distribution system; PWS = public water system; SDWARS = Safe Drinking Water Accession and Review System		

# Proposed UCMR 2

Since I already went over the changes from UCMR 1 there is little to say about UCMR 2. You might say that not much has changed since I was able to summarize a 168 page document into a small table.

Three key points to remember about UCMR 2 are listed.

1. **Assessment Monitoring (List 1)** – uses six methods to monitor 11 contaminants (four of the six methods are for perchlorate)
  - Sampling occurs during a 12-month period between July 2007-June 2010
  - Requires all PWSs serving more than 10,000 people to monitor
  - Requires a representative sample of 800 PWSs serving 10,000 or fewer people to monitor

Assessment Monitoring (List 1) Contaminants	
Dimethoate	2,2',4,4'-tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-47)
Terbufos sulfone	2,2',4,4',5-pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-99)
1,3-dinitrobenzene	2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromobiphenyl (245-HBB)
Perchlorate	Hexahydro-1,3,5-trinitro-1,3,5-triazine (RDX)
2,4,6-trinitrotoluene (TNT)	2,2',4,4',5,5'-hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-153)
	2,2',4,4',6-pentabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-100)

2. **Screening Survey (List 2)** – uses three methods to monitor 15 contaminants
  - Sampling occurs during a 12-month period between July 2007-June 2009
  - Requires all PWSs serving 100,000 or more people to monitor
  - Requires a representative sample of 320 PWSs serving 10,001-100,000 people to monitor
  - Requires a representative sample of 480 small PWSs serving 10,000 or fewer people to monitor

Screening Survey (List 2) Contaminants	
Alachlor	Metolachlor OA
Alachlor ESA	N-nitroso-diethylamine (NDEA)
Alachlor OA	N-nitroso-dimethylamine (NDMA)
Acetochlor	N-nitroso-di-n-butylamine (NDBA)
Acetochlor ESA	N-nitroso-di-n-propylamine (NDPA)
Acetochlor OA	N-nitroso-methylethylamine (NMEA)
Metolachlor	N-nitroso-pyrrolidine (NPYR)
Metolachlor ESA	

3. **Laboratory Approval Program** – requires laboratories wishing to analyze samples request and be granted EPA approval.

# Partnership Agreements for States **Thank You**

Back by popular demand...the PA! Your comments from UCMR 1 have driven the design of this document to be more user friendly and easier to read. It identifies activities performed by the state that are key to the success of the program. Since the PAs needs to be in place by December 31, 2005, State officials should be hearing from their Region soon.

**THANK YOU!** The states helped make UCMR 1 a success. We truly appreciate all their support, assistance and suggestions. We look forward to working with them on UCMR 2.

## Laboratory Approval Program

Laboratories interested in analyzing samples for public water systems (PWSs) must be aware of the UCMR 2 laboratory approval requirements. They need to register for the Laboratory Approval Program, and complete the method-specific application packages. Upon review, qualified labs will be eligible to participate in a proficiency testing (PT) program. Laboratories that successfully complete the PT program are granted method-specific approval to analyze samples once the final UCMR 2 is promulgated. To begin this process, please write:

UCMR 2 Laboratory Approval Coordinator  
US EPA, Technical Support Center  
26 West Martin Luther King Drive (MS 140)  
Cincinnati, OH 45268

**PWSs need to notify their contracting laboratory to make sure that they are aware of the Laboratory Approval Program.**

## Remember These Dates

August 22, 2005	UCMR 2 published in Federal Register
October 21, 2005	Public comment period ends
Mid-2006	Anticipated UCMR 2 final rule published
July 1, 2007	Proposed date that UCMR 2 monitoring will begin

## Reporting Deadlines Before Monitoring Begins

Within 90 Days from final rule publication	Large PWSs (serve > 10,000 people) report contact information to SDWARS
Within 210 Days from final rule publication	Large PWSs must: (1) Review and edit sampling location and inventory information; and (2) Review and edit monitoring schedule

After 210 Days from final rule publication	Large PWSs must: (1) Notify EPA of sampling location and inventory changes; and (2) Notify EPA if unable to sample according to established schedule
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### Reporting Monitoring Results

Within 120 Days from sample collection	Labs must post monitoring results to EPA's electronic reporting system
Within 60 Days from lab posting data	Large PWSs review and approve data

### Want to Know More?

#### Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 2

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/>

### Contact Information

**Laboratories and PWSs:** when contacting EPA about UCMR issues, please use your U. S. EPA Lab ID or PWSID, respectively.

**Drinking Water Hotline:** General UCMR questions may be directed to:  
1-800-426-4791

**SDWARS Help Desk:** SDWARS/UCMR registration and reporting system questions may be directed to:  
1-888-890-1995

**TSC Correspondence:** May be directed to:  
UCMR Coordinator  
Technical Support Center (MS-140)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive  
Cincinnati, OH 45268  
Fax: 513-569-7191