FEBRUARY 2013

United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
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Drinking Water Program

Public Water Systems Newsletter

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Spring Training for Small Non-Community Systems (guest ranches, campgrounds, etc)

Do you operate a transient non-community (TNC) public water system and want detailed training geared just for you? Then you are in luck! EPA Region 8 will be conducting half day trainings in the northwest part of Wyoming in the first week of May. We will demonstrate drinking water sampling and provide tips and tricks to staying compliant with Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. We will also review and answer questions about why you are a public water system, trouble shooting techniques and other questions that you have. We will email information about the training to TNC systems as we get closer to the training dates. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to contact Tiffany Mifflin at 303-312-6521 or Bre Bockstahler at 303-312-6034.

New EPA Region 8 Rule Managers!

In 2012, we welcomed several new staff members to the drinking water team who will be your new primary contacts for drinking water regulations and compliance. For a complete list of current contacts and EPA staff, please see the updated contact list on our website at: http://epa.gov/region8/water/dwhome/contactlist.pdf

Sylvia Bienzle is the new manager for water system inventory and changes. Please notify Sylvia of any changes to your water system source, treatment, operations, or contact information. Examples of things you should let Sylvia know about include: a new well that you plan to bring into service, changes to the operating season at your system, or changes in staff. Sylvia also coordinates the EPA WaterSense conservation program, and helps to administer our drinking water database. Prior to joining the drinking water team, Sylvia worked in the Water Program here at EPA.

Jake Crosby is the new manager for the all of the Surface Water Treatment Rules as well as the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule. Jake will continue to work with Gary Weston in reviewing monthly operating reports for surface water systems, and is your main point of contact for filtration, treatment credits, and related questions. Prior to joining the drinking water team, Jake ran the Tribal Set Aside Grant Program for EPA Region 8. Jake's background is in environmental engineering.

Kim Le is the new manager for both the Lead and Copper Rule and Radionuclides Rule. Kim is the main point of contact for any questions about your monitoring requirements or any compliance issues you may have with either of these rules. Prior to joining the drinking water team, Kim was the polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) inspector in EPA Region 8. Kim is an electrical engineer by training.

Three Ways to Access Information from the EPA Region 8 Drinking Water Program

Drinking Water Online - A handy and informative website *especially FOR YOU*

Operators and Utility Managers can access key information and retrieve forms from the EPA day or night by visiting the Drinking Water Online Website. Some of the features of the website include:

- Emergency guidance, such as what to do when a total coliform (BacT)sample is positive;
- Reporting forms and instructions such as public notice forms, changes to source or treatment, and compliance reporting forms with built-in calculations such as for disinfectant byproduct precursor removal calculations;
- Rules and regulations, including general information on what is required for compliance;
- Information regarding sampling techniques, where to find a certified lab, what a sanitary survey entails, and how to prepare for emergencies;
- Copies of newsletters and notices of training opportunities; and
- Useful links to other EPA and external websites regarding drinking water treatment, technology and techniques.

This information and more can be accessed at http://www.epa.gov/region8/waterops

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Drinking Water Watch - Access to information about YOUR public water system(s)

Access to information about your specific public water supply system(s) is available through *Drinking Water Watch* from the *Drinking Water Online* website. *Drinking Water Watch* (DWW) allows you to review:

- Sampling schedules, including the most recent copies of your system's annual monitoring and reporting requirements and email reminder notices;
- Monitoring results that EPA has received and entered to date;
- History of violations incurred by your water system;
- Water system schematics and inventory data (wells, storage tanks, etc); and
- Past sanitary survey reports.

You can email or call us if any corrections to your system's information are needed.

For instructions on how to register for DWW, please see the insert later in the newsletter. Access to each system's data will be limited to those who work for or provide technical assistance to the system.

Monthly Email Reminders of Sampling Requirements for YOUR public water system(s)

Region 8 sends out monthly email reminders of required sampling for current and upcoming monitoring periods to contacts for whom we have email addresses and others who have opted in. The reminders are updated each month based on completed sampling. If you are interested in signing up for these monthly emails, please email us or call Tsegaye Hailu at 303-312-6273 or Charles Weinberg at 303-312-6557.

To see the latest sampling reminders for your system(s), log in to DWW and click on "Sample Schedules and Reminders". If you want to opt out from receiving the reminders you may log in to DWW and choose the unsubscribe option for email sampling reminders for your system(s).

You may contact us about any of these resources by email at r8dwu@epa.gov. We look forward to extending our technical assistance to you through this website.

For those who do not have Internet access

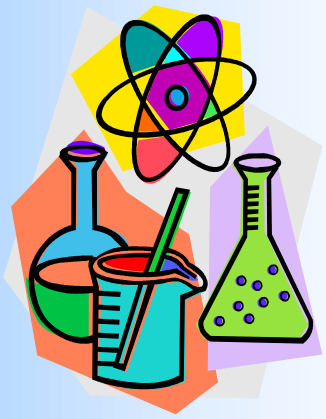
Please check with public libraries, schools, or other facilities. Your library may also give you leads on how you may obtain a free email address.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR LAB TRANSFER ALL YOUR MICROBIAL, CHEMICAL AND RADIOLOGICAL TEST RESULTS DIRECTLY TO EPA REGION 8?

When public water systems (PWSs) send their drinking water samples to laboratories for analysis, some of those labs store the sample results electronically. They can then transmit those results electronically to the state or EPA through Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) on behalf of their clients. So far, many PWS in Wyoming and a few tribal PWSs in Montana have made arrangements with their labs to EDI total coliform data directly to EPA. This has the advantage of the lab taking on the responsibility to quickly send the results to EPA instead of the operator sending the sample results, and eliminates potential errors from manual data entry at EPA.

Region 8 is in the process of expanding the EDI service to all chemical and radiological analytical results. This includes annual nitrate data, as well as the suite of chemical analytes including DBPs. Attached below is a chart showing which of the primary labs used by Wyoming and Tribal water systems in Region 8 currently report the sampling data to us using the EDI service. This shows which labs currently use EDI for bacteriological samples, which labs are currently working with EPA to set up EDI capability for chemical and radiological analytes in the near future, and those others that do not currently use EDI to report to EPA Region 8 (although some of these labs may have this capability). If the lab you use is not currently using EDI, we encourage you to make arrangements with your lab to transmit your data to EPA through EDI. If any lab needs assistance to start using EDI, have the lab call Tsegaye Hailu at 303-312-6273 and we will work with them to set up the EDI process where it is possible.

Please note that the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) stipulates that the ultimate responsibility for making sure that EPA receives all of your monitoring data, including total coliform, rests with you, the water system. So, to make sure that we have received your water quality data in our database, login to our Drinking Water Watch website at https://sdwisr8.epa.gov/Region8DWW/default.jsp and check. If for any reason monitoring data in compliance with SDWA is not received by EPA within the time stipulated by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWR), the water system will incur a potential non-compliance violation. Measures to mitigate any failure to submit data to EPA electronically should be discussed and agreed upon between the utility and the lab.



Status of Laboratories for Electronic Data Reporting to EPA Region 8

Labs who now use EDI to send Bac-T (TCR) data to EPA Region 8	Labs working towards using EDI for nitrate, chemical, DBP, and RADS data	Labs not currently using EDI to report to EPA Region 8 (NOTE: These labs may have the capability to use EDI)
Energy Labs-Casper	Energy Labs-Casper	Teton County Water Lab
Energy Labs-Gillette	Energy Labs-Gillette	Sweetwater Cty-Environmental Health Lab
Energy Labs-Billings	Energy Labs-Billings	EnviroService (NE)
Energy Labs-Rapid City (coming soon)	Energy Labs-Rapid City	WY Dept of Agriculture Lab
Energy Labs-Helena (coming soon)	Energy Labs-Helena	Lander Valley Med Center
Lincoln Water Quality Lab-Afton		Inter-Mountain Labs-Sheridan
WY Dept of Health Lab		Inter-Mountain Labs-Gillette
Chemtech Ford-UT		Precision Analysis
		Mid-Continent Lab-SD
		ND Dept. of Health Lab
		SD Dept of Health Lab
		UT Dept of Health Lab
		CO Dept of Health Lab
		Cheyenne BOPU
		City of Craig
		National Park Service-Mammoth Water

NEW PRINTABLE SAMPLE FORM FOR NITRATE, CHEMICAL AND RADS ANALYSES

EPA has created a new printable form for water operators to submit to the lab with their sample bottles for nitrate and other chemical analyses. This form automatically includes your water system name and ID number, sample location, the frequency and period of sampling and the contaminants that the lab has to test for. We encourage you to print out this form and submit it to the lab along with your sample bottle(s) for each analyte or analyte group you are sampling. Use of this form ensures that the lab conducts all the required analyses and that you get compliance credit for the samples that you collect and pay for.

To access the form: After you login to Drinking Water Watch, click on "Sample Schedules and Reminders" and then on "Latest Reminder to Sample and Report." Just above the table of analytes to sample, you will see the following message:

"To create a printable ChemRad Sample form to submit with your samples, click here"

This link will take you to the screen below. Click on the drop down arrow at the top right below the PWS Name and ID #, to select the analyte or analyte group that you want to sample for. Then hit the "Generate Chemrad Sample Form" bar to display the sample form.

Community-Based Water Emergency Preparedness Tools Available

Is your community prepared for a day without water? Flooding, drought, aging infrastructure and intentional contamination are among the many challenges water utilities face in an effort to operate uninterrupted. The EPA has a number of new tools and resources available for evaluating your water system and for training personnel. One example is the Vulnerability Self Assessment Tool, or VSAT. It enables a system (water, wastewater or combined) to conduct a self assessment of vulnerabilities by evaluating the man-made and natural risks that may threaten your system. It also incorporates the preparation of an Emergency Response Plan as part of the evaluation. The VSAT and many other community-based emergency preparedness tools are available for free download on the EPA Water Security website at: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity/index.cfm.

QUICK TIPS FOR CHOOSING LEAD & COPPER SAMPLING SITES

The Lead & Copper Rule (LCR) requires water system operators to sample at locations that may be particularly susceptible to high lead or copper concentrations, such as those where lead and copper fixtures and/or pipes have been installed during a particular time period. The LCR establishes a tiering system for prioritizing sampling sites. If you do not have a LCR sample siting plan or conditions in your system have changed in recent years, please review the following information to help you select sampling sites for lead and copper.

Sampling sites for Community Water Systems (CWS) - Three Tiers:

Tier #1 sites: Single family structures that:

- Contain copper pipes with lead solder installed between 1983 to 1988 or contain lead pipes, and/or
- are served by a lead service line.

Tier #2 sites: Buildings, including multiple family residences that:

- contain copper pipes with lead solder installed between 1983 to 1988 or contain lead pipes, and/or
- are served by a lead service line.

Tier #3 sites: Single family structures with copper pipes having lead solder installed before 1983.

Sampling sites of a Non Transient Non Community Water System (NTNCWS) – Two Tiers:

Tier #1 sites: Buildings that:

- contain copper pipes with lead solder installed between 1983 to 1988 or contain lead pipes, and/or
- Are served by a lead service line.

Tier #2 sites: Single family structures with copper pipes having lead solder installed before 1983.

A community or non-transient non-community water system with insufficient Tier 1, 2, or 3 sites must complete its sampling pool with representative sites throughout the distribution system. A representative site is the site in which the plumbing materials used at the site would be commonly found at other sites served by the water system.

Once sampling begins, you should use the same sites unless a site is no longer accessible or no longer meets the tiering criteria. If you are unable to collect all samples from Tier 1, then: 1) complete the sampling pool with Tier 2 sites; 2) for CWSs without sufficient Tier 1and 2 sites, complete the sampling pool with Tier 3 sites; 3) Any water system that cannot complete its sampling at sites that meet these tiering criteria must complete sampling at representative sites through the distribution system. Do not sample at buildings with lead solder installed after the effective date of the lead ban (1988) or at sites that have water softeners. If you have no lead service lines, but you have lead goosenecks or pigtails, you can collect tap water samples at the sites with the goosenecks and/or pigtails.

Please contact Ms. Kim Le, LCR rule manager for assistance with questions at 303 312-6973 or le.kim@epa.gov.

Total Coliform Rule Sample Siting Plans

Operators-does this term ring a bell? If not then be sure to read this carefully.

Every water system needs to submit a sample siting plan as a part of their Total Coliform Monitoring requirements. If you cannot remember submitting a plan, then it has probably been too long. The purpose of the sample siting plan is to identify the specific locations where you intend to collect bacteriological samples for the given year. This plan will assist you in ensuring your system's entire distribution is properly represented in your sampling scheme. You should also consider factors such as access to sample taps as well as sites where you could potentially collect repeat samples should the need arise. Your sample siting plan should be updated regularly to account for any distribution system changes. If you have any questions or want further assistance please contact TCR Rule Manager Bre Bockstahler at 303-312-6034.

Consumer Confidence Reports: E-Delivery is Now Acceptable

The purpose of the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) or annual drinking water quality report, is to raise customers' awareness of where their drinking water comes from, the quality of their drinking water, what it takes to deliver water to their home and the importance of protecting drinking water sources.

Most community systems directly mail a hard copy of the CCR to customers; however EPA recently clarified that new forms of electronic delivery could instead be used, within certain parameters as described below.

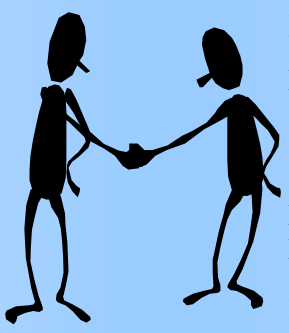
- Electronic delivery must provide the CCR in a manner that is "direct." Water systems can use direct mailings such as utility bills that include an internet URL that takes customers directly to the CCR. The bill or other mailing must prominently display the URL with a message about accessing the CCR through the link.
- Another acceptable means of notifying customers is sending an email to each bill paying customer with: a notice that the CCR is available and providing a direct link to the CCR; **and/or** attaching a copy of the CCR to the email; **and/or** embedding a copy of the CCR in the email.
- A URL that does not take the customer to the entire CCR but requires navigation to another webpage(s) to find any required CCR content (e.g., a zipcode search mechanism or webpage with multiple links to view required information) is not an acceptable form of direct delivery.
- If a customer cannot receive, or does not want, an e-delivery of the CCR, a paper copy must be mailed to the customer.
- Social media such as Twitter and Facebook or automated telephone calls are not acceptable means of delivering the CCR to bill-paying customers.

To learn about the specifics of electronic CCR delivery and read the EPA memorandum (which includes specific examples), please go to http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/rulesregs/sdwa/ccr/upload/ccrdeliveryoptionsmemo.pdf **For compliance,** a copy of the CCR must still be submitted to the EPA Region 8 by July 1 every year and the system must also certify to the EPA that the CCR was distributed to its consumers. These documents must be submitted annually. In 2013, EPA Region 8 will require both the 2012 CCR and the Certification Form to be submitted or a violation may be issued.

Become a WaterSense Partner!

Water is in high demand and short supply in many markets, but especially here in the arid west. Using water efficiently today makes sense for consumers, communities, and the environment. More importantly, it helps us to conserve resources for our future generations. As we face growing populations, supply issues, aging infrastructure, climate change and inefficiency, the time has come to amplify water-efficiency efforts.

EPA created WaterSense as a credible, national brand with a strong and consistent water-efficiency message to embrace these goals. Working together, we can promote the value of water and help consumers and organizations make smart choices regarding water use and water-using products.



One way to increase your efforts this year is to become a WaterSense Partner. As a Drinking Water Utility Partner, your primary role would be to promote the value of water efficiency and WaterSense labeled products to your customers.

WaterSense partnership is free! Simply sign and submit a partnership agreement to join the program. This important step initiates the partnership and demonstrates your organization's commitment to WaterSense and water efficiency. By becoming a partner, you will join a national network of partners, learn from those who have excelled in water efficiency and receive access to free marketing tools to help support your efforts! Learn more at www.epa.gov/watersense. For questions and/or to join contact the WaterSense network, call EPA toll free at (866) WTR-SENS (987-7367) or email watersense@epa.gov

Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2) is here!

All Community and Non-transient non-community water systems that deliver chlorinated water for public use must start to take total trihalomethane (TTHM) and 5-haloacetic acids (HAA5) samples after October 1, 2013 to comply with the Stage 2 DBP Rule. Stage 2 was promulgated on January 4, 2006 to supplement the TTHM/HAA5 part of the Stage 1 Rule to better protect public health.

Stage 2 requires monitoring for TTHM/HAA5 at high risk locations (e.g. locations with high TTHM/HAA5 levels) in the distribution system during the system's peak historical month. The TTHM/HAA5 compliance determination is also changed from a running annual average (RAA) to a locational running annual average (LRAA) basis.

At least 6 months prior to beginning the Stage 2 compliance monitoring, each system must prepare a Stage 2 Monitoring Plan and submit it to our office for approval. The Stage 2 Monitoring Plan must include proposed monitoring locations, monitoring dates, compliance calculation procedures and peak historical month. To help you prepare your Monitoring Plan, we have developed an easy to follow template; you can download a copy of this Template at our Drinking Water Online website at www.epa.gov/region8/waterops. For systems that completed an IDSE Report in 2010-2011, this report can be a substitute for the Stage 2 Monitoring Plan.

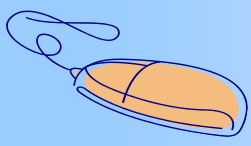
The table below shows the required routine Stage 2 TTHM/HAA5 monitoring locations and frequencies. A system may be granted reduced monitoring after completing a year of sampling and meeting the reduced monitoring criteria. If you have questions regarding your Stage 2 responsibility, you can contact Mary Wu at 303-312-6789, or email her at wu.mary@epa.gov.

Stage 2 DBPR Routine Monitoring Locations and Frequencies

Source Water Type	Population Size	Monitoring Frequency[1]	Distribution System Monitoring Location			
			Total per monitoring period[2]	Highest TTHM locations	Highest HAA5 locations	Existing Stage 1 compliance location
Subpart H	*<500*	*per year*	*2*	*1*	*1*	-
	500-3,300	*per quarter*	*2*	*1*	*1*	-
	3,301-9,999	per quarter	2	1	1	-
	10,000-49,999	per quarter	4	2	1	1
	50,000-249,999	per quarter	8	3	3	2
Ground Water	*<500*	*per year*	*2*	*1*	*1*	-
	500-9,999	*per year*	*2*	*1*	*1*	-
	10,000-99,999	per quarter	4	2	1	1
	100,000-499,999	per quarter	6	3	2	1

1. All systems must monitor during month of highest DBP concentrations.
2. Systems on quarterly monitoring must take dual sample sets every 90 days at each monitoring location, except for subpart H systems serving 500-3,300. Systems on annual monitoring and subpart H systems serving 500-3,300 are required to take individual TTHM and HAA5 samples (instead of a dual sample set) at the locations with the highest TTHM and HAA5 concentrations respectively. Only one location with a dual sample set per monitoring period is needed if highest TTHM and HAA5 concentrations occur at the same location, (and month, if monitored annually).

REGISTRATION AND LOG-IN PROCEDURES FOR DRINKING WATER WATCH



Drinking Water Watch (DWW) Registration:

1. Contact us at r8dwu@epa.gov to get your Outreach ID. If you haven't provided your contact information to EPA before, you will need to do that as well.
2. Once you have this information, access the "Drinking Water Online" website at http://www.epa.gov/region8/waterops/index.html
3. Click on the "**Registration and Account Maintenance**" link near the middle of the page
4. Click on "Non-EPA users only - request a new account" and follow the instructions to complete the registration. You will need to provide the following information:
   - First name
   - Last name
   - Email address
   - Password (created at the time of registration); and
   - Outreach User ID
5. When you complete your registration, a new window should pop up to congratulate you on successful registration. When the registration process is complete, please allow up to 6 hours before you log in.
6. Add Drinking Water Watch to your favorites and log in at the following secure website: https://sdwisr8.epa.gov/Region8DWW/JSP/loginForm.jsp

A few useful tips:

- If you have more than one water system, you will use the same password to access information about any of the systems.
- Make a note of how you type in your first name and your last name. This will become your log in name and must be typed exactly as they were entered.
- Be sure to record your password exactly as it appears, including all upper and lower case letters.
- If you attempt to register and run into a problem because the information does not match what we have on file for you, such as your email address, we will be notified and will work with you to resolve the problem.
- Your password will last 90 days. You will receive an email reminder to update your password with instructions on how to do so.

Drinking Water Watch Log In:

To log in:

1. Type in your first name and your last name as you typed it in during registration in the "User Name" field. Leave a space between first name and last name. If you used a middle initial, use that in your entry as well.
2. Enter the password you selected during registration into the "PASSWORD" field. The password is case-sensitive, so it must be typed exactly as it was during registration.
3. Select the type of system (Wyoming or Tribal).
4. You will be presented with a list of the system(s) for which you are authorized to access. Select the system(s) whose data you wish to view.

Monitoring Requirements for Back-up or Emergency Wells

If you wish to keep wells on-line (i.e. physically connected to your system) for a backup source and/or for emergencies, you must monitor those wells for compliance in the same way you would if the well was used on a regular basis.

Inactive wells are wells that have been either plugged and abandoned or physically disconnected from the system (Note: physically disconnected means either the line from the well to the pump house or to the transmission line is severed and properly capped, or the pump is removed. Closing a valve or turning off power to the well is not considered a physical disconnection.)

Inactive wells do not have to be regularly monitored.

Before you reconnect any inactive wells for use as a source, contact EPA to learn what your monitoring requirements are. We recommend you place a sign on your inactive wells (or near the spare parts needed to reconnect them) to remind you to call EPA before the well is reconnected and used.