Consumer Confidence Report
Rule Revisions: Background and Overview

Disclaimer

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Agenda, Objective, and Overview

- History/Background
- Timeline and Ways to Participate
- SDWA Required Content & AWIA Revisions
- Resources and Handouts

History and Background
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- 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments created “Right to Know” rules to increase the amount of information made available to community water system (CWS) consumers
- Founded on the principle that water system consumers have a “right to know what is in their drinking water and where it comes from”
- At least annually, CWSs are required to provide a summary of water quality related information

History and Background Cont.

- CCRs help to:
  - Raise consumer awareness of where their water comes from
  - Inform consumers of the process by which their water is delivered
  - Educate consumers on the importance of water safety measures (e.g., source water protection)
  - Start a dialogue between consumers and their CWS and increase consumer participation in decisions impacting their drinking water
  - Allow consumers (especially those with special health needs) to make more informed decisions regarding their drinking water
America’s Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was signed into law in 2018

- Improves America’s water infrastructure, water health and safety, and enhances public health through increased investments

AWIA required the CCR Rule to be amended within a 2-year deadline

A 2021 lawsuit was brought against EPA for failure to meet SDWA statutory deadlines for rule promulgation

- **FRN for Proposed consent decree**
CCR Required Content

- Source water information
- Definitions of Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), variances, exemptions, and action level
- Information on detected contaminants (regulated and unregulated contaminants)
- Required health effects language for MCL violation
- Information on Cryptosporidium and Radon

CCR Required Content (Cont.)

- National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) compliance, including violations and if operating under a variance or exemption
- Statements related to presence of contaminants in drinking water, including bottled water
- Statement that the presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily indicate a health risk
- Additional information to educate consumers on the water supply
- Information to contact EPA's Safe Drinking Hotline for more information
Distribution and Delivery

• Mail, or provide by electronic means, to each customer

• With state Governor’s approval, systems serving less than 10,000:
  • May publish their CCR in the local newspaper, inform customers that the CCR will not be delivered, and make CCRs available upon request
  • Systems serving less than 500 may provide notice to customers that the CCR is available upon request

Revisions Required by AWIA

• Revise the CCR Rule to increase readability, clarity, and understandability of the reports
• Revise the CCR Rule to increase the accuracy of information and risk communication in the reports
• Revise delivery requirements
AWIA Revisions to Delivery

- Delivery
  - Require systems serving at least 10,000 consumers to provide CCRs biannually and;
  - Allow electronic methods of CCR delivery
    - Consistent with EPA policy memorandum [Water Supply Guidance 189 (January 2013)] ‘Safe Drinking Water Act–Consumer Confidence Report Rule Delivery Options’

SDWA Section 1414(c)(4)
SDWA CCR Delivery Options Memo

LCR Content Changes

- AWIA requires CCRs to include information on the CWS’s LCR-required corrosion control treatment
- CCRs must also include all lead action level exceedances (ALEs) for which corrective actions were required by the primacy agency during the monitoring period

Timeline and Ways to Participate

• EPA will consult with PWSs, environmental groups, public interest groups, risk communication experts, states, and other interested parties about the revisions.

• Timeline:
  • Stakeholder engagement – through summer 2022
  • Proposed rule – anticipated March 2023*
  • Final rule spring – anticipated March 2024*

• More information on upcoming engagements will be available on: https://www.epa.gov/ccr

Resources and Handouts

- EPA Consumer Confidence Report
- SDWA CCR Section
- AWIA Section 2008
- Notice of proposed consent decree
- Contact Information
  - OGWDWCCRrevisions@epa.gov
Questions