



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION III

Four Penn Center
1600 John F. Kennedy Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2852

City of Baltimore	:	Proceedings Pursuant To
PWS ID No. MD0300002	:	Section 1414(g) and 1445 of the Safe
	:	Drinking Water Act,
Respondent	:	42 U.S.C. §§ 300g-3(g) and 300j-4
	:	
	:	Docket No. SDWA-03-2023-0109DS
	:	

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

1. The following FINDINGS are made and this Order is issued under the authority vested in the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (“EPA”) by Section 1414(g) of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (“SDWA” or the “Act”), 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g). The Administrator of EPA has delegated the authority to take these actions to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region III, who has redelegated these authorities to the Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA Region III.
2. Section 1445 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-4, authorizes the Administrator of EPA to require the submission of information by Public Water Systems to ensure that such Systems are providing drinking water in compliance with the Act. The Administrator of EPA has delegated the authority to take these actions to the Regional Administrator of EPA, Region III, who has redelegated these authorities to the Director, Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, EPA Region III.
3. This Order supersedes the Administrative Order on Consent, Docket No. SDWA-03-2010-123-DS, entered into between EPA and the City of Baltimore (hereinafter the “AOC”).

**EPA’S FINDINGS OF FACT, JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS,
AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

4. Section 1414(g) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g), provides that, “[i]n any case in which the Administrator is authorized to bring a civil action under this section or under section 300j-4 of this title with respect to any applicable requirement, the

Administrator also may issue an order to require compliance with such applicable requirement.”

5. Section 1445 of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-4, authorizes the Administrator of EPA to require the submission of information by Public Water Systems to ensure that such Systems are providing drinking water in compliance with the Act.
6. A “public water system” (“PWS”) is defined in the Act as “a system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five individuals.” Section 1401(4) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300f(4).
7. The City of Baltimore (“Respondent”) is the owner and operator of a PWS, PWS Identification Number MD0300002 (“System”).
8. The Respondent is a “person” as defined by Section 1401(12) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300f(12) and 40 C.F.R. § 141.2. The System is a “public water system” and a “community water system” as defined respectively by Sections 1401(4) and 1401(15) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f(4) and 300f(15), and 40 C.F.R. § 141.2.
9. Section 1412(b)(7)(A) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-1(b)(7)(A), authorizes the Administrator of EPA to establish treatment techniques in lieu of establishing a maximum contaminant level, if the Administrator makes a finding that it is not economically or technologically feasible to ascertain the level of the contaminant.
10. EPA has promulgated the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (“LT2”), 40 C.F.R. § 141.700 – 141.723, which established treatment techniques for the control of *Cryptosporidium*.
11. 40 C.F.R. §141.714 (Requirements for uncovered finished water storage facilities) provides:
 - (c) Systems must meet the conditions of paragraph (c)(1) or (2) of this section for each uncovered finished water storage facility or be in compliance with a State-approved schedule to meet these conditions no later than April 1, 2009.
 - (1) Systems must cover any uncovered finished water storage facility.
 - (2) Systems must treat the discharge from the uncovered finished water storage facility to the distribution system to achieve inactivation and/or removal of at least 4-log virus, 3-log *Giardia lamblia*, and 2-log *Cryptosporidium* using a protocol approved by the State.

12. Pursuant to Section 1413 of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-2, until a state acquires primary enforcement authority for the Public Water Supply Supervision (“PWSS”) Program and for revisions to the Program, EPA is the “State” for the purposes of implementing 40 C.F.R. Part 141 and the PWSS Program and Program revisions in the State. When a state acquires primary enforcement authority for the PWSS Program and revisions to the Program, EPA retains authority to enforce the PWSS Program and the revisions in the State pursuant to Section 1414 of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3.
13. The Respondent’s public water system is a community water system that serves a population of approximately 1,600,000 people.
14. The Respondent notified the Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE”) on March 19, 2008, that the System had five (5) uncovered finished water reservoirs.
15. On January 12, 2009, the Respondent submitted a schedule to MDE setting out the dates by which the Respondent would bring its five open finished drinking water reservoirs into compliance with 40 C.F.R. § 141.714(c).
16. On April 1, 2009, MDE approved the Respondent’s schedule (“Schedule”). The Schedule provided deadlines for the Respondent for covering and/or providing treatment for its uncovered finished water storage facilities by December 31, 2018.
17. EPA sent a Notice of Violation and Request for Information (“NOV”), dated July 20, 2009, to the Respondent. In the NOV, EPA stated that it found that the Respondent was in violation of 40 C.F.R. § 141.714(c) because the Respondent had not covered its five uncovered reservoirs, installed treatment for the discharge from the uncovered reservoirs, or been in compliance with a State-approved schedule to cover them by the April 1, 2009 deadline.
18. In response to EPA’s NOV, the Respondent contended that it had not violated 40 C.F.R. § 141.714(c) because MDE had approved the schedule for covering and/or installing treatment facilities at its open drinking water reservoirs by the April 1, 2009 deadline in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 141.714 (c).
19. On September 2, 2009, the Respondent and MDE executed a settlement agreement which incorporated the Schedule.
20. On June 30, 2010, EPA and the Respondent executed the AOC to address compliance with the SDWA.
21. At the time EPA and the Respondent executed the AOC, the State of Maryland did not have primary enforcement authority for LT2 in the State and, as a result, did not have the authority to enforce a State approved schedule pursuant to the SDWA.

22. The AOC required the Respondent to comply with the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 141.714(c) for all five of its uncovered reservoirs. Compliance was required for the Ashburton Reservoir by February 16, 2016, and for the Druid Lake Reservoir by June 25, 2018.
23. Upon the submission of a petition from the Respondent on March 31, 2015, which included the justification for requested deadline extensions, EPA agreed to extend the deadline for completion of work for the Druid Lake Reservoir to August 31, 2021, and for the Ashburton Reservoir to December 31, 2021.
24. EPA granted the extensions because the Respondent had changed its plans to cover the reservoirs in response to public input and decided to replace the two reservoirs, the Ashburton and the Druid Lake Reservoirs, with tanks and no longer use the two reservoirs as finished water reservoirs.
25. The Respondent met the requirements set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 141.714(c) and in the AOC for the other three of its formerly uncovered reservoirs on the following dates: for the Towson Reservoir on May 31, 2013; for the Montebello Reservoir on June 30, 2014; and for the Guilford Reservoir on July 1, 2019.
26. The AOC required the Respondent to submit a quarterly report to EPA detailing its progress in complying with the AOC.
27. In its May 28, 2021 quarterly report, Respondent notified EPA that it would be unable to meet the deadlines for completing the work at Druid Lake and Ashburton. After a meeting on August 10, 2021, Respondent submitted a time extension request that discussed the uncompleted work for the two reservoirs and provided projected completion dates and the reasons for the delays that were causing Respondent to miss the deadlines. Respondent projected that the tanks at Druid Lake would be functional by August 31, 2022, and Ashburton by July 1, 2023.
28. On November 2, 2021, EPA sent a letter to Respondent asking for more information to justify extending the deadlines to 2022 for Druid Lake and to 2023 for Ashburton.
29. After Respondent provided additional information, EPA responded on April 27, 2022, that Respondent had justified an April 30, 2022 date for completion of Druid Lake, but additional information was needed for Ashburton.
30. On May 10, 2022, Respondent notified EPA that it would need additional time to complete the required work because of site conditions as well as contractor and supply issues related to the Covid pandemic, and asked to extend the deadlines for both reservoirs to February 2023.

31. On June 6, 2022, Respondent supplied additional information about the causes for the additional delays and on June 23, 2022, EPA and Respondent met to discuss the issues.
32. In the August 31, 2022 quarterly report, the Respondent represented that it could achieve functional use of the tanks at the Ashburton Reservoir by February 13, 2023, and at the Druid Lake Reservoir by February 23, 2023.
33. Respondent has not met the February 13, 2023 deadline for completion of work for the Ashburton Reservoir or the February 23, 2023 deadline for the Druid Lake Reservoir.
34. On September 5, 2022, the Respondent issued a boil water notice for the West Baltimore section of the City because *E. coli* and total coliform contaminants were found in drinking water samples taken in the West Baltimore section.
35. The Druid Lake Reservoir and/or the Ashburton Reservoir supply drinking water to at least part of the West Baltimore section of the City.
36. The Respondent's failure to comply with the SDWA and the LT2 requirement to cover or treat the discharge from the two uncovered finished water reservoirs by the deadlines in the AOC violated the requirements of 40 C.F.R. § 141.714(c), and thus violated an applicable requirement of the SDWA, as defined by Section 1414(i) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-4(i). Respondent remains in noncompliance with the LT2 requirement and the SDWA.
37. On April 7, 2023, pursuant to Section 1414(a)(1)(A) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(a)(1)(A), EPA issued a Notice of Violation ("NOV") to the Respondent due to its noncompliance with the AOC and the SDWA.
38. On April 7, 2023, EPA sent notice of the NOV's issuance to the State of Maryland.
39. Pursuant to Section 1414(g)(2) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g)(2), EPA conferred with MDE regarding this Order on May 1, 2023.

ORDER FOR COMPLIANCE

Based on the foregoing FINDINGS, and pursuant to the authority of Section 1414(g) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g), as well as the information request authority of Section 1445(a)(1)(B), 42 U.S.C. § 300j-4(a)(1)(B) EPA hereby ORDERS the following:

40. Within seven (7) days of the Effective Date of this Order send written correspondence to EPA and MDE at the contacts listed in Paragraph 48 (Reporting Contacts) below, outlining the actions Respondent has taken and plans to take to comply with this Order.

Functional Use of Tanks

41. The Respondent shall achieve “functional use of the tanks” at Ashburton Reservoir by November 30, 2023, and at Druid Lake Reservoir by December 30, 2023.
42. For purposes of this Order, “functional use of the tanks” shall mean that the Respondent is no longer using either the Druid Lake Reservoir or the Ashburton Reservoir to store finished water but is storing the finished water in tanks prior to distribution to its customers.
43. The schedule for achieving “functional use of the tanks” is set forth in Attachment A (Schedule to Complete Tanks for Druid Lake and Ashburton) to this Order.

Monthly Water Monitoring and Sampling

44. Respondent shall solicit a bid for lab analysis of monthly sampling for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* from the Druid Lake Reservoir and Ashburton Reservoir. Respondent will provide EPA monthly updates concerning the status of the solicitation by the fifteenth (15th) day of each month.
45. Within seven (7) days of securing services for lab analysis, and continuing until the Respondent achieves functional use of the tanks, the Respondent shall collect monthly samples for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* at the outlet of the Druid Lake Reservoir and Ashburton Reservoir. The Respondent shall provide a summary of the results for these contaminants of concern and submit the results in a written report to EPA via electronic mail by the fifteenth (15th) day of the month following each sampling event.
46. Within 1 hour of receiving results indicating the presence of *Cryptosporidium* or *Giardia*, the Respondent shall make contact, by phone and email with both contacts identified in Paragraph 48 (Reporting Contacts) and shall also notify the National Response Center:

National Response Center
800-424-8802

Respondent shall also provide EPA and MDE a written summary of the results within 24 hours, via email to the contacts identified in Paragraph 48 (Reporting Contacts).

Reporting Requirement

47. The Respondent shall submit written reports describing the Respondent’s progress on the installation of the tanks to replace the two uncovered finished water reservoirs. The written reports shall be submitted by the Respondent by the fifteenth (15th) day of each month via electronic mail to the EPA and MDE

contacts noted in Paragraph 48 (Reporting Contacts). The Respondent shall submit the first progress report within fourteen (14) days of the Effective Date of this Order. The Respondent shall continue submitting such reports until EPA closes out this Order by written correspondence to Respondent in accordance with the TERMINATION Section, below. Such a report shall describe, in detail:

- a. Respondent's status in meeting the deadlines in Paragraph 41 for achieving functional use of the tanks, and interim milestone dates in Attachment A for the Druid Lake and Ashburton Reservoirs, including the status of the Respondent's work on the construction of each of the tanks at the reservoirs.
- b. Any unanticipated and unavoidable events which might delay compliance with this Order, including:
 - i. The cause and the anticipated length of the delay;
 - ii. The efforts taken to prevent or minimize the delay; and
 - iii. A description of any future deadlines which could be affected by the present or anticipated delay.

48. Reporting Contacts. All reports shall be sent to following email address:

Cohen.Amy@epa.gov

Amy Cohen

SDWA & Wetlands Section (3ED31)

Enforcement & Compliance Assurance Division

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III

(215) 814-3296

and

Maryland Department of the Environment

water.supply@maryland.gov

49. The submission of progress reports shall not excuse the obligation of the Respondent to comply with this Order.

50. An "unanticipated and unavoidable" event, for purposes of this Order, is defined as any event arising from causes beyond the control of the Respondent, of any entity controlled by the Respondent, or of the Respondent's contractors, that delays or prevents the performance of any obligation under this Order despite the Respondent's best efforts to fulfill the obligation. The requirement that the Respondent exercise "best efforts to fulfill the obligation" includes using best efforts to anticipate any potential unanticipated and unavoidable event and best efforts to address the effects of any potential unanticipated and unavoidable event (a) as it is occurring and (b) following the potential unanticipated and unavoidable event, such that the delay and any adverse effects of the delay are minimized.

- a. The Respondent shall be deemed to know of any circumstance of which the

Respondent, any entity controlled by the Respondent, or the Respondent's contractors knew or should have known.

- b. An extension of the time for performance of the obligations affected by the unanticipated and unavoidable event shall not, of itself, extend the time for performance of any other obligation.

Public Notifications

51. The Respondent shall issue an annual Public Notification, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 141.203, informing its consumers of the ongoing use of uncovered reservoirs, and describing the Respondent's progress towards completion of the Schedule. The annual Public Notification language the Respondent shall use is shown in Attachment B (Annual Public Notification). Annual Public Notification shall continue until EPA terminates this Order in writing. The annual Public Notification shall include minimum health effects language in 40 C.F.R. Part 141, Subpart Q, Appendix B. The Respondent shall provide annual Public Notification, pursuant to 40 C.F.R. §141.203(c)(1), by:

- a. Direct mail or other direct delivery to each customer receiving a bill and to other service connections to which water is delivered by the System; and
- b. Any other method reasonably calculated to reach other persons regularly served by the System, if they would not normally be reached by the direct mail notice, such as persons who do not pay water bills (e.g., renters, apartment dwellers, university students, nursing home patients). Other methods may include publication in a local newspaper, delivery of multiple copies for distribution by customers that provide their drinking water to others (e.g., large private employers, landlords, etc.), posting in public places or on the Internet, or delivery to community organizations.

52. Within ten (10) days of the distribution of the annual Public Notification required by the previous paragraph, Respondent shall provide to EPA a certification, in accordance with Paragraph 60 (Certification), that Respondent has issued the Public Notification and also provide a copy of the Public Notification, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 141.31(d). Annual Public Notification shall continue until EPA terminates this Order in writing.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

53. The provisions of this Order shall apply to and be binding upon the Respondent and its officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents, trustees, successors and assigns of the Respondent. From the Effective Date of this Order until the Termination Date as set out in Paragraph 62 below, Respondent must give written notice and a copy of this Order to any successors in interest prior to any transfer of ownership or control of any portion of or interest in the reservoirs. Simultaneously with such notice, Respondent shall provide written notice of such transfer,

assignment, or delegation to EPA. In the event of any such transfer, assignment, or delegation, Respondent shall not be released from the obligations or liabilities of this Order unless EPA has provided written approval of the release of said obligations or liabilities.

54. This Order does not waive, suspend, or modify the requirements of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300f - 300j-26, and its implementing regulations found in 40 C.F.R. Part 141, which remain in full force and effect. Issuance of this Order is not an election by the EPA to forgo any civil or criminal action otherwise authorized under the SDWA. The Respondent's failure to comply with all the requirements of SDWA, 40 C.F.R. Part 141, and deadlines required under this Order, may subject the Respondent to additional enforcement action, including but not limited to administrative actions, as appropriate, for penalties under Section § 1414(g)(3)(A) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g)(3)(A), Section 1445(c) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-4(c), and/or injunctive relief.
55. Violation of any term of this Order may subject the Respondent to further EPA enforcement action including the imposition of a civil penalty of up to \$67,544 per day of violation under Section 1414(g) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300g-3(g), and up to \$67,544 per day of violation under Section 1445(c) of the SDWA, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-4(c), as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996, and the subsequent Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule, 40 C.F.R. Part 19.
56. This Order shall not prohibit, prevent, or otherwise preclude EPA from taking whatever action it deems appropriate to enforce the SDWA in any matter and shall not prohibit, prevent, or otherwise preclude EPA from relying on this Order in subsequent administrative proceedings.
57. EPA reserves the right to commence an action against any person, including the Respondent, in response to any condition which EPA determines may present an imminent and substantial endangerment to the public health.
58. Compliance with the terms and conditions of this Order shall not in any way be construed to relieve the Respondent of its obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of federal, state, or local law, nor shall it be construed to be a determination of any issue related to any federal, state, or local permit. Compliance with this Order shall not be a defense to any actions subsequently commenced for any violation of federal laws and regulations administered by EPA, and it is the responsibility of the Respondent to comply with such laws and regulations.
59. EPA and its authorized representatives, including contractors, shall have authority upon the presentation of proper identification to enter any establishment, facility, or other property of the Respondent at any time without prior notification to monitor the activities required by this Order, verify any data or information submitted pursuant to this Order, obtain samples, and inspect and review any

records generated and/or maintained pursuant to this Order. EPA reserves all existing inspection and information request authorities and does not waive any.

60. Certification. All reports and other documentation submitted under this Order shall be accompanied by the following certification:

The City certifies that any information or representation it has supplied to EPA concerning this matter was, at the time of submission true, accurate, and complete and that there has been no material change regarding the truthfulness, accuracy or completeness of such information or representation. EPA shall have the right to institute further actions to recover appropriate relief if EPA obtains evidence that any information provided and/or representations made by the City to the EPA regarding matters relevant to this Order are false or, in any material respect, inaccurate. This right shall be in addition to all other rights and causes of action that EPA may have, civil or criminal, under law or equity in such event. The City and its officers, directors and agents are aware that the submission of false or misleading information to the United States government may subject a person to separate civil and/or criminal liability.

Signed:

Title:

Date:

61. Respondent may seek federal judicial review of the Order pursuant to Section 1448(a) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. § 300j-7(a).

TERMINATION

62. The obligations of this Order shall terminate when EPA determines that the Respondent has fully complied with the Order's terms and conditions and EPA provides written notice of its determination to Respondent.
63. The Respondent may submit to EPA a Certification of Compliance and Request for Termination of this Order, including documentation to demonstrate that it has met all requirements of this Order. If, following review of any Certification of Compliance and Request for Termination of this Order, EPA agrees that the Respondent has adequately complied with all requirements of this Order, EPA shall provide written notification of termination of this Order, as described in in the previous paragraph.

OPPORTUNITY TO CONFER

64. Respondent may request a conference with the EPA concerning the violations alleged in this Order as well as the terms and conditions of this Order. Respondent may present evidence bearing on the findings of violation, on the nature of the violations, and on any efforts it may have taken or it proposes to take to achieve compliance. Respondent may have legal counsel at the conference.
65. Respondent's request for a conference must be confirmed in writing via email within five (5) days of receipt of this Order. Any such conference shall be held no later than ten (10) days after the conference is requested. If the requested conference is held, this Order shall become effective five (5) days after the conference is held. If Respondent does not request a meeting within five (5) days of receipt of this Order, Respondent waives its rights to a conference, and this Order shall become effective five (5) days from its receipt. Any request for a conference, or other inquiries concerning this Order should be made in writing to: Philip Yeany, Senior Assistant Regional Counsel, at Yeany.Philip@epa.gov.

EFFECTIVE DATE

66. This Order shall become effective five (5) days from the date of receipt of this Order, or, if a conference is requested per Paragraphs 64 and 65, this Order shall become effective five (5) days after the conference is held.

SO ORDERED

[digitally signed and dated]

Karen Melvin, Director

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division

U.S. EPA, Region III

ATTACHMENT A

Schedule to Complete Tanks at Druid Lake and Ashburton

Druid Lake	
Action Item	Date of Completion
Remanufacture of lost manhole #38 base	June 15, 2023
Complete the remaining portion of the storm drain facilities at the water pipe tie-in area	July 27, 2023
Install remaining 30” and 48” potable pipes, multiple bends, three valves, then weld and purge all joints. Complete remaining I&C and ductbank installation which commenced on 2/6/2023.	September 29, 2023
Fill and disinfect piping. and then conduct leak, pressure, and bacteriological tests	October 27, 2023
Conduct 1st effluent tie-in	November 3, 2023
Disinfect, fill, and conduct biological/turbidity, and other water quality tests of Tank 1 and place it in service. (Note that in an effort to shorten the time to achieve functional use, that is, place a tank in operation and take the open reservoir off-line, only one tank is required to meet the current operational requirements of the water system.)	December 1, 2023
Conduct 2nd and 3rd effluent tie-ins	December 15, 2023
Tie-in influent piping and take the reservoir off-line. (As a result, the Respondent will no longer be using Druid Lake as a potable water source.)	December 30, 2023

Ashburton	
Action Item	Date of Completion
Distribution Building	May 19, 2023
Remaining tank and slide gate testing	May 26, 2023
I&C/SCADA – 3 months concurrent, this assumes I&C/SCADA testing does not encounter significant issues	July 25, 2023
Leak test tanks	August 3, 2023
Disinfect tanks, piping system and perform biological/turbidity testing	October 5, 2023
Complete tie-ins for pipes C & D	October 19, 2023
Disconnect influent 84” pipe to lake/disconnect effluent valve vault from lake effluent and existing water system. (As a result, the Respondent will no longer be using Ashburton as a potable water source.)	November 9, 2023
Finalize Gate Housework to maintain lake drain.	November 30, 2023

Attachment B – Annual Public Notification

For the Annual Consumer Confidence Report

Water systems with uncovered finished water reservoirs are required to cover these reservoirs, treat the discharge from these reservoirs, or be in compliance with a state-approved schedule to cover the reservoirs or provide treatment by April 1, 2009. The City currently has two finished water reservoirs that are uncovered. (The City originally had five uncovered reservoirs but has completed the conversion of three of them.) The City is continuing to move toward implementation of coverage and treatment options for the remaining two reservoirs in accordance with the following schedule:

- 1) Druid Lake projected construction substantial completion - December 30, 2023.
- 2) Ashburton Lake projected construction substantial completion – November 30, 2023.

An uncovered reservoir used to store treated drinking water is susceptible to contamination from animals, such as birds or insects. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause such symptoms as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. These symptoms, however, are not caused only by organisms in drinking water, but also by other factors.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised people such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their healthcare providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1 (800) 426-4791 or by email at safewater@epa.gov. If you have specific health concerns, consult your doctor.