

Water Lines

SDW Hotline Report

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Top Ten Topics

Topic	Questions (phone & email)	Percent of Total* Questions
Consumer Confidence Report	841	16
Local Drinking Water Quality	589	11
Tap Water Testing	474**	9
Home Water Treatment Units	324	6
Cryptosporidium	301	6
Household Wells	228	4
Lead	215	4
Bottled Water	187	4
Other Drinking Water Background	175	3
Complaints About PWS	144	3

*A total of 5,282 questions were answered by the Hotline (via telephone and email) in June 2002.

**Citizens who obtain their drinking water from private household wells asked 28% of the tap water testing questions.

Published Monthly

See past reports at <http://intranet.epa.gov/ow/hotline>

Safe Drinking Water Hotline: National Toll-free No.: (800) 426-4791 or (877) EPAWATER

For More Information Contact: Harriet Hubbard, EPA Project Officer (202) 564-4621

Operated by Booz Allen Hamilton Under Contract #GS-10F-0090J

What's New

New Documents:

- *Guidance for Implementing a Point-of-Use (POU) or Point-of-Entry (POE) Treatment Strategy for Compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act-Revised Final Draft* is now available at www.epa.gov/safewater/openc.html
- *Using DWSRF Funds to Comply with the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule*, EPA816-F-02-006, is now available for review at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html
- *Using DWSRF Funds to Comply with the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule*, EPA816-F-02-005, is now available at www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/ccrwriter.html
- *Using DWSRF Funds to Comply with the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule*, EPA816-F-02-007, is now available at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html
- *Using DWSRF Funds to Comply with the Radionuclides Rule*, EPA816-F-02-008, is now available at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html
- *Fact Sheet: Announcement of Preliminary Regulatory Determinations for Priority Contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List*, EPA816-F-02-003, is now available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/cc/cclregdetermine.html>
- *Protecting Public Health and Drinking Water Resources (UIC Program Poster)*, EPA816-H-02-005, is now available in Spanish by contacting the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.
- *Checklist: Disinfection Profiling for the LT1ESWTR*, EPA816-F-02-009, is now available by

contacting the Safe Drinking Water Hotline.

- *Class V Determination Factsheet*, EPA816-F-02-010, is now available at www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/classv.html

New Legislation:

- On June 12, 2002, Title IV of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-188) amended the Safe Drinking Water Act by adding Section 1433 (Terrorist and Other Intentional Acts), Section 1434 (Contaminant Prevention, Detection and Response), Section 1435 (Supply Disruption Prevention, Detection, and Response), and by modifying existing language in the Act. Title IV addresses public water system vulnerability assessments, emergency response plans, and funding appropriations.

Add This To Your Calendar:

- On June 19, 2002, EPA announced a public meeting to discuss the results of the Agency's preliminary regulatory determinations for nine contaminants, presently listed on the Contaminant Candidate List (CCL), together with the determination process, rationale, and supporting technical information for each (67 FR 41722). The stakeholder meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern Time, on July 16, 2002.

Frequently Asked Qs & As

Q: When is a new community water system required to deliver its first Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)?

A: A new community water system must deliver its first CCR by July 1 of the year after its first full calendar year in operation and annually thereafter (40 CFR 141.152(c)).

Q: The operator of a public water system (PWS) is preparing his annual consumer confidence report (CCR). The testing laboratory detected arsenic during the past year at a level less than the maximum contaminant level (MCL), but above the minimum detection limit. When reporting the amount of arsenic found in the drinking water in the system's CCR, the operator must include language describing the likely sources of arsenic in the drinking water. How does a PWS determine the source of a contaminant?

A: Specific information regarding contaminants may be available in sanitary surveys and source water assessments, and should be used when available to the operator. If the operator lacks reliable data on the specific source of the contaminant, the CCR should include one or more of the typical sources listed in 40 CFR Part 141, Subpart O, Appendix A, that is most applicable to the situation (40 CFR 141.153(d)(4)(ix)).

Q: Is there a safe level of lead in drinking water for children?

A: Lead is a toxic metal that can be harmful to human health even at low exposure levels because it is persistent and can bioaccumulate in the body over time (56 FR 26460, 26468; June 7, 1991). Young children, infants, and fetuses are particularly vulnerable to lead because the physical and behavioral effects of lead occur at lower exposure levels in children than in adults. A dose of lead that would have little effect on an adult can have a significant effect on a child. In children, low levels of exposure have been linked to damage to the central and peripheral nervous system, learning disabilities, shorter stature, impaired hearing, and impaired formation and function of blood cells (40 CFR 141.85(a)(1)(ii)). Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, EPA has set an MCLG for lead at zero, indicating that there is no safe level of lead for children (56 FR 26460, 26469; June 7, 1991).

Q: When must a public water system serving less than 10,000 people comply with the turbidity requirements of the Long Term 1 rule?

A: Surface water systems or GWUDI systems serving fewer than 10,000 people must comply with the applicable LT1ESWTR provisions for turbidity by January 14, 2005 (Long Term One Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule: A Quick Reference Guide, EPA816-F-02-001, January 2002).

Q: A laboratory uses a mass-type method (laser phosphorimetry) to determine uranium levels in the drinking water. In order to calculate the "net" alpha (gross alpha minus uranium and radon) used to determine compliance with the gross alpha MCL, the laboratory result must be converted from mass to activity. What mass to activity ratio must be used?

A: If uranium (U) is determined by mass-type methods (i.e., fluorometric or laser phosphorimetry), a 0.67 pCi/ug uranium conversion factor must be used (40 CFR 141.25 Footnote 12).

Q: Does the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 1 DBPR) apply to transient noncommunity water systems (TNCWS)?

A: Yes, a TNCWS using chlorine dioxide as a disinfectant or oxidant must comply with the chlorine dioxide requirements of the Stage 1 DBPR (40 CFR 141.130(b)(2)). The Stage 1 DBPR does not apply to TNCWS that use disinfectants other than chlorine dioxide.

Q: The underground injection control (UIC) requirements in 40 CFR 144.81(9) do not apply to single family residential septic system wells or to non-residential septic system wells, which are used solely for the disposal of sanitary waste and have the capacity to serve fewer than 20 persons a day. Is the word capacity defined by EPA?

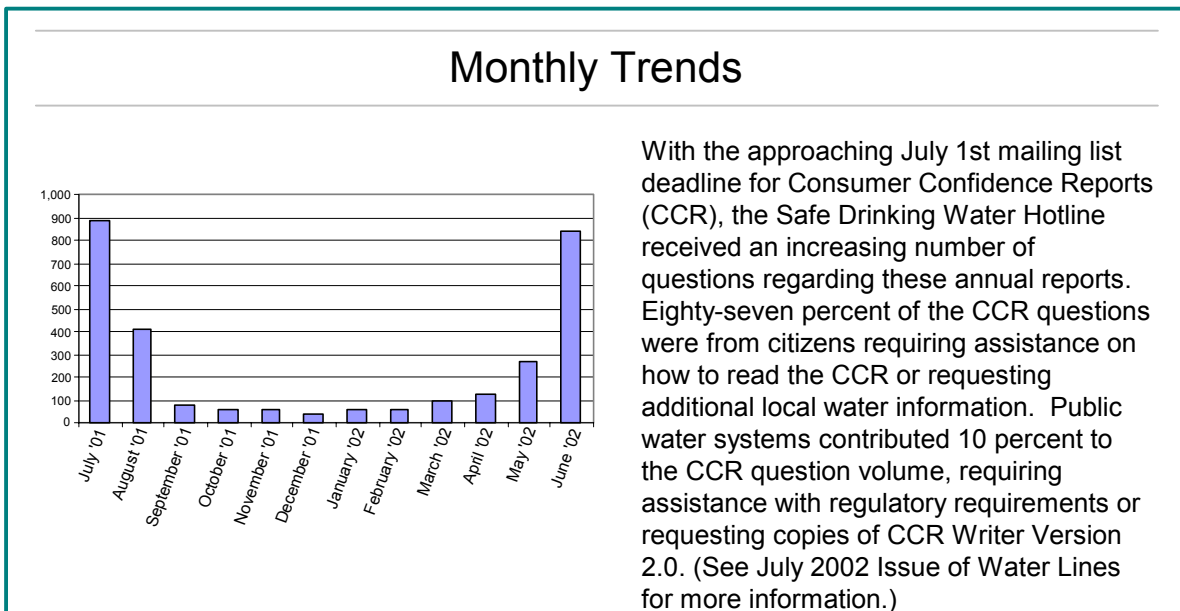
A: According to Robyn Delehanty from EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW), questions regarding the applicability of UIC regulations should be directed to the appropriate state or regional implementing agency. There is no published EPA definition for the term capacity as used in this section.

Q: How can a person investigate whether the development of new homes utilizing septic systems as the only form of wastewater treatment might adversely affect a nearby stream used as a drinking water source for several small communities downstream?

A: The state Source Water Assessment and Protection Program contact can assist with information on protecting sources of drinking water. Information is also available at the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/swp.html.

Q: Under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulations (UMCR), is composite sampling permitted for samples collected in accordance with the UCMR regulations in 40 CFR 141.40?

A: No. Public water systems, unless otherwise informed by the State or EPA of other sampling arrangements, must not composite (combine, mix, or blend) samples taken in accordance with the UCMR regulations in 40 CFR 141.40. Each sample must be collected, preserved, and tested separately (40 CFR 141.40(5)).



Did You Know?

“Without a change in the way we manage water, up to 107 million people will die from water-related diseases over the next 20 years.”

Peter H. Gleick, President of the Pacific Institute
In a speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Monthly Summary of Hotline Service

Total number of calls answered	3,718
Total number of emails received	279
Average wait time (in seconds)	0:19
Percent of calls satisfied immediately	99.4%
Percent of all calls answered in < 1 min	91.7%
Percent of callbacks answered in 5 days	100%
Percent of emails answered in 5 days	100%
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about local DW quality	2,945
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about arsenic rule	136

Comparison to Previous Years

	Calls	Emails
June 2002	3,718	279
June 2001	5,106	389

Top Ten Referrals

Inquiry Referred to:	Number of Referrals	Percent of Total* Referrals
1. Local Water System	458	15
2. State Lab Certification	457	15
3. NSF/WQA/UL	390	13
4. EPA Internet	386	12
5. State PWSS	331	11
6. Local Public Health	192	6
7. AGWT/WSC	141	5
8. FDA/IBWA	141	5
9. Non-EPA Internet	85	3
10. Other Hotlines	81	3

*3,107 total referrals to other resources, agencies, and organizations were provided by the Hotline in June 2002.

Customer Profiles

Customer	Calls	Emails
Analytical Laboratories	9	2
Citizen - Private Well	391	39
Citizen - PWS	2,212	105
Consultants/Industry/Trade (DW)	94	20
Consultants/Industry/Trade (Other)	88	27
Environmental Groups	9	2
EPA	31	1
Other Federal Agency	10	4
Government, Local	24	9
Government, State	36	7
Government, Tribal	1	0
Spanish Speaking	19	0
International	3	23
Media	8	1
Medical Professional	15	2
Public Water System	164	11
Schools/University	27	23
Other	37	3
TOTALS	3,718	279

Daily Call Data

	Total Calls Answered	Average Wait Time mm:sec
3-June	92	00:21
4-June	99	00:16
5-June	89	00:19
6-June	91	00:11
7-June	120	00:46
10-June	84	00:15
11-June	97	00:14
12-June	82	00:26
13-June	105	00:12
14-June	105	00:13
17-June	89	00:17
18-June	91	00:16
19-June	76	00:13
20-June	120	00:21
21-June	114	00:17
24-June	109	00:21
25-June	94	00:18
26-June	115	00:26
27-June	128	00:18
28-June	135	00:22
TOTALS	3,718	00:19

Topic Categories

Category	Calls	Emails
Microbials/Disinfection Byproducts		
Chlorine	40	5
Coliforms	105	11
Cryptosporidium	300	1
Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts (Other)	27	8
Disinfection – Home Water	58	4
Other Microbials	42	1
Surface Water Treatment (SWTR, ESWTR, LT1FBR)	44	7
Trihalomethane (THM)	39	3
Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)/Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)		
Arsenic	73	11
Fluoride	42	5
Methyl- <i>tertiary</i> -butyl-ether (MTBE)	11	0
Perchlorate	2	0
Phase I, II & V	63	11
Sodium Monitoring	21	3
Sulfate	3	0
Lead and Copper		
Copper	47	3
Lead	210	5
Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA)/Lead Ban	4	0
Radionuclides		
Radionuclides (Other)	50	4
Radionuclides (Radon)	86	4
Secondary DW Regulations		
Secondary DW Regulations	93	6
SDWA Background/Overview		
Definitions & Applicability	42	2
MCL List	66	4
Other Background	157	18
SDWA	30	1

Category	Calls	Emails
Water on Tap	54	2
Other DW Regulations		
Analytical Methods (DW)	29	6
Contaminant Candidate List/ Drinking Water Priority List	7	1
Consumer Confidence Report (DW)	830	11
DW Primacy (PWS)	3	0
Operator (PWS) Certification	1	1
Other Drinking Water Security	27	7
Public Notification (PWS)	24	1
Security Planning Grants	38	7
State Revolving Fund (DW)	2	4
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	37	0
Other Drinking Water		
Additives Program	7	3
Bottled Water	177	10
Complaints about PWS	142	2
Compliance & Enforcement (PWS)	28	2
Home Water Treatment Units	305	19
Infrastructure/Cap. Development	3	1
Local DW Quality	574	15
Tap Water Testing	455	19
Treatment/BATs (DW)	35	6
Drinking Water Source Protection		
Ground Water Rule	7	1
Sole Source Aquifer	6	0
Source Water/Wellhead Protect.	28	7
UIC Program	12	4
Out of Purview		
Household Wells	211	17
Non-Environmental	60	13
Non-EPA Environmental	83	31
Other EPA (Programs)	122	13
TOTALS	4,962	320

SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE MONTHLY REPORT

June 2002

APPENDIX A: FEDERAL REGISTER SUMMARIES

FINAL RULES

“Underground Injection Control Program; Notice of Final Determination for Class V Wells, Final Rule”

June 7, 2002 (67 FR 39583)

EPA announced a final determination for all sub-classes of Class V injection wells not included in the final rulemaking on Class V motor vehicle waste disposal wells and large-capacity cesspools (December 7, 1999). These include shallow non-hazardous industrial waste disposal wells, large-capacity septic systems, agricultural and storm water drainage wells, and other wells. The Agency determined that the existing Federal UIC regulations are adequate to prevent these Class V wells from endangering underground sources of drinking water (USDWs) and no new rulemaking is necessary at this time.

NOTICES

“Announcement of Preliminary Regulatory Determinations for Priority Contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List”

June 3, 2002 (67 FR 38222)

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, directs EPA to publish a list of contaminants (referred to as the Contaminant Candidate List, or CCL) to assist in priority-setting efforts. EPA announced the preliminary regulatory determinations for nine contaminants from the current CCL and described the supporting rationale for each.

“Notice of Final Decision on Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Wells in EPA Region 8; Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class V Program”

June 4, 2002 (67 FR 38403)

EPA announced a decision under which each motor vehicle waste disposal well in Colorado, Montana, or South Dakota (regardless of whether it is in Indian country) or in Indian country in North Dakota, Utah, or Wyoming must either be closed or covered by a Class V UIC permit application no later than January 1, 2007.

“OMB Approvals Under the Paperwork Reduction Act; Technical Amendment”

June 10, 2002 (67 FR 39712)

This document announced the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) response to Agency clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et. seq.). EPA ICR No. 1812.02, “Safe Drinking Water Act; Annual Public Water Systems Compliance Report,” was approved September 28, 2001. The expiration date for this ICR, OMB No. 2020-0020, is September 30, 2004. EPA ICR No. 1928.03 (later this ICR No. was changed to 2052.01), “Information Collection Request for Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment

Rule (final Rule),” was approved October 25, 2001. The expiration date for this ICR, OMB No. 2040-0229, is October 31, 2004.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revisions for Iowa”
June 10, 2002 (67 FR 39722)**

EPA announced that Iowa is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding Federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these program revisions. All interested parties may request a public hearing on the approval.

**“National Drinking Water Advisory Council: Request for Nominations to Contaminant Candidate List Working Group and Small Systems Affordability Working Group”
June 19, 2002 (67 FR 41717)**

EPA announced the formation of a Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Working Group and Small Systems Affordability Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, and is soliciting nominations to these working groups.

**“Announcement of a Stakeholder Meeting on Preliminary Regulatory Determinations for Priority Contaminants on the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List”
June 19, 2002 (67 FR 41722)**

EPA announced a public meeting to discuss the results of the Agency's preliminary regulatory determinations for nine contaminants on the Contaminant Candidate List (67 FR 38222; June 3, 2002) together with the determination process, rationale, and supporting technical information for each.

**“Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request: EPA Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for Analysis of Cryptosporidium Under the Safe Drinking Water Act”
June 26, 2002 (67 FR 43109)**

EPA announced that it has forwarded the Information Collection Request (ICR) entitled, “EPA Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for Analysis of Cryptosporidium under the Safe Drinking Water Act,” ICR No. 2067.02, OMB Control No. 2040-0246, to OMB for review and approval. The expiration date is July 31, 2002.

**“Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request: Reliability, Validity, and Variability in Behavioral Determinants of Drinking Water Disinfection By-Product Exposure”
June 28, 2002 (67 FR 43594)**

EPA announced that it has forwarded the ICR entitled, “Reliability, Validity, and Variability in Behavioral Determinants of Drinking Water Disinfection By-Product Exposure,” EPA ICR No. 2030.01, to OMB for review and approval.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for the State of Florida”
June 28, 2002 (67 FR 43598)**

EPA announced that the State of Florida is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Florida has adopted drinking water regulations for the Stage 1 Disinfection Byproducts Rule. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding Federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve this state program revision.