



Spigot News

A Newsletter for Ohio's Public Drinking Water Systems

Winter 2013
Volume 6, Issue 2

Save a Dime. Sample on Time!

New Program Raises the Stakes for Monitoring Violations

The Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) is launching a new program to reduce total coliform and nitrate monitoring violations at public water systems (PWSs). Failure to monitor for these acute contaminants creates uncertainty about the quality of water PWSs deliver to customers.

This new program will provide a deterrent to violations and increase public health protection by making it more expensive for PWSs to fail to sample than it is to sample.

Beginning January 1, 2014, PWSs that fail to monitor for total coliform or nitrate will receive a penalty of \$150 or more for each monitoring violation.

DDAGW will include information about the new financial deterrent in your sampling reminders, as one more step toward increasing compliance and further ensuring that PWSs are providing safe drinking water.

Avoiding the penalty is entirely within your control. You should know and understand your monitoring schedule in order to complete timely monitoring and reporting. A copy of the monitoring schedules are posted on the Ohio EPA website at epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/pws.aspx.

There are also companies that provide drinking water sample collection services. Although they charge an additional fee for sample collection, it is still likely less expensive than paying the penalty for missing a sample. A list of companies that provide this service is available at <http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/pws/DWSample.pdf>.

Any questions about the monitoring requirements should be directed to your Ohio EPA district office: <http://epa.ohio.gov/Districts.aspx>.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- New Program for Monitoring Violations.....1
- Harmful Algal Bloom Survey.....2
- What's New in Drinking Water SRF Program.....2
- 2014 Spring Exam Info.....2
- Laboratory Compliance.....2, 6
- Raw Water Sample Taps: Hidden Gems.....3-4
- Learn from Each Other.....5
- Rule-making Activities.....5
- Dear Answer Place.....5
- 50 Years of Fluoride.....6
- Subscribe.....6

Harmful Algal Bloom Survey

In early 2014 Ohio EPA, will survey public water systems that use surface water in order to determine the overall impact of algae blooms. Survey data may be used to determine watershed impairments, which could trigger total maximum daily loads (TMDL) development and nutrient reduction strategies. The information may also help raise awareness of water system algae impacts and support additional funding for research, monitoring, and restoration projects. Please respond to this important survey!

What's New in the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program?

The Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund operates on program years, which run from July through June. The 2015 Program Year, which covers the period from July 2014 through June 2015, brings some significant changes. In particular, general plan approval is required for treatment projects.

Visit epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/dwaf/WhatNewSRF_10.03.13.pdf for more information on the requirements. If you have questions, please contact Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters' loans unit at (614) 644-2752.

Coming Soon!

Beginning in 2014, examinations to become a certified water or wastewater operator will be available throughout the year in more locations via a third-party exam provider. Ohio EPA will continue providing exams as noted in the adjacent column. More information will be available at epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx.

Laboratory Compliance Program

Ohio EPA's Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) is evaluating reporting performance for certified drinking water laboratories, including enforcement of the laboratory reporting requirements. Late reporting and inaccuracy of results delays actions taken by both DDAGW and public water systems (PWSs). This delay could have detrimental effects on public health.

Ohio Administrative Code rule 3745-89-08 sets reporting requirements for certified drinking water laboratories. These laboratories are required to report the following results electronically to Ohio EPA.

- Routine microbiological samples must be reported by the tenth day of the month following the month in which a sample is collected.

Continued on page 6

OHIO EPA'S 2014 SPRING EXAM DEADLINES AND DATES

Wastewater:

Application due Feb. 5, 2014
Exam - May 6, 2014

Water:

Application due Feb. 6, 2014
Exam - May 7, 2014

Class A Water/Wastewater:

Application due
Dec. 26, 2013
Exam - March 26, 2014

Application due
Feb. 27, 2014
Exam - May 28, 2014

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the Operator
Certification hotline at
1-866-411-OPCT (6728)
or visit [epa.ohio.gov/
ddagw/opcert.aspx](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx)

Applications are available
online at [epa.ohio.gov/
ddagw/opcert.aspx#Liv](http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/opcert.aspx#Liv)



RAW WATER SAMPLE TAPS: HIDDEN GEMS

Different components of the water system become more important with each new regulation or shift in the drinking water industry. One water system component that has not been relied on much in the past is the raw water sample tap. With the implementation of the Ground Water Rule (GWR), the raw water sample tap has taken on new significance.

Under the Total Coliform Rule (TCR), public water systems (PWSs) must monitor their bacterial quality by taking representative routine total coliform samples throughout the distribution system. When any of these routine compliance samples are positive, a system must collect a set of four repeat samples in addition to a raw water sample, as required by the GWR. In Ohio, the TCR allows non-community PWSs with a population of less than 1,000 that are not using a disinfecting agent [for example, bleach (sodium hypochlorite, sodium permanganate, etc.)] to count one of the four repeat samples as their raw water sample.

The raw water sample is used to help determine if the bacterial contamination is originating in the raw water source or is an indication of problems in the distribution system. The results of the raw water sample help focus attention on the source of the bacterial issue. For this reason, the construction of a good raw water sample tap is very important, and Ohio EPA recommends the following construction methods.

1. The raw water sample tap should be located upstream of all treatment equipment, pressure tanks, pressure switches, pressure gauges and untreated lines to outside spigots.
2. The location of the raw water sample tap should provide sufficient clearance from the floor and walls to allow ease of collection.
3. Any line leading to the raw water sample tap off of the main line should be composed of copper or plastic (i.e., no galvanized pipe should be used), and should be as short as possible.

Continued on next page

Below are a few examples of “less than ideal” raw water sample taps:



Example #1: The sample tap is too close to the floor.



Example #2: The sample tap is of the threaded type.

HIDDEN GEMS

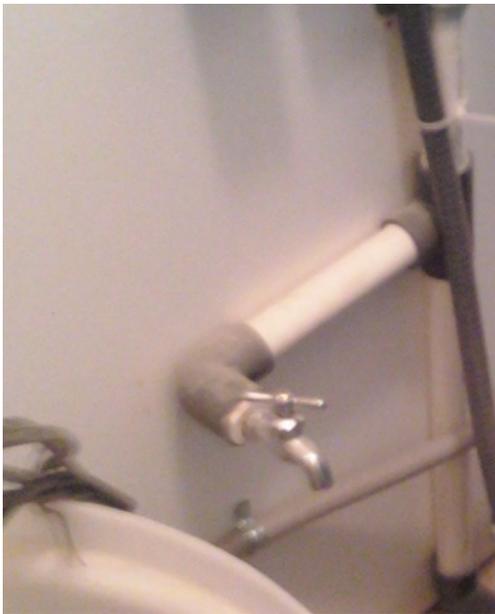
Continued from page 3

4. It should be a smooth-nosed sample tap (no threads inside or outside).
5. It should be a de-burred interior sample tap barrel.
6. The inside barrel diameter should be 3/8 inch to 1/2 inch.

Some additional considerations for the raw water sample tap include:

1. The sample tap should be properly labeled as “raw water sample tap;”
2. The room where the raw water sample tap is located should have adequate lighting;
3. The raw water sample tap should be used frequently to prevent valve maintenance issues (for example, sticking of valve) when the sample tap is needed; and
4. Raw sample(s) should be collected from the raw water sample tap only after at least one complete well pump cycling period (approximately 3 – 5 minutes of free-flow).

Below are a few examples of “better” raw water sample taps:



Example #1: The sample line is constructed using PVC and not galvanized piping.



Example #2: The sample tap is constructed to have good clearance from the floor.

LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

Why does a Notice of Violation matter?

It is important that public water system (PWS) owners and operators respond immediately to a notice of violation (NOV). These notices indicate a problem at the PWS. Most NOVs are initial or secondary notices of monitoring and reporting violations (for example, for failure to report required monitoring). Each NOV requires a response from the owner and/or operator of the system.

For one owner, failure to respond to multiple NOVs resulted in a \$1,000 financial penalty. The owner of *Mom's Burger Joint* received two NOVs because there was no Operator of Record listed for their classified water system. Rather than respond to the NOVs, the owner ignored them.

Subsequently, Ohio EPA issued a proposed enforcement action, in the form of an Expedited Settlement Agreement (ESA). An ESA is a newer enforcement tool, used to gain compliance from recalcitrant PWSs more quickly than traditional enforcement actions. ESAs include a penalty, which is significantly lower than those in traditional enforcement actions. The penalty incurred is dependent upon the violation in question and at times, the size of the PWS.

If you receive an NOV, please immediately respond to the person listed on the letter in order to work toward returning to compliance.

Have a hard-learned lesson to share? Submit it to susan.baughman@epa.ohio.gov.

RULE-MAKING ACTIVITIES

Below is a brief summary of recent and upcoming rule changes. For more details, including notice of opportunities to comment on draft rules, sign up for our electronic mailing list, or visit us at epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/rules.aspx.

Upcoming Proposed Rules

- Misc. Amendments: reference revised backflow prevention manual in rule, revise self-certification provisions, revise investigation of water use practices (propose spring 2014)
- PWS Definition and Water Source Designation: clarify definition of a PWS and who is under Ohio EPA's jurisdiction; allow Ohio EPA to designate the majority of water sources by rule (second round of interested party review, winter 2013-2014)

Interested Party Review

- Water Well Standards and Plan Approval: several amendments and clarifications (draft available winter/spring 2014)
- License to Operate PWSs: clarify requirements and remove redundant information (draft available winter 2013)

In the Works

- Laboratory Certification: update rule-by-reference to lab manuals, revise interim authorization requirements

Answer Place

Have questions?
Need help?
Click here to visit
the Answer Place.

DEAR ANSWER PLACE:

Someone from EPA came out and took pictures of my logbook. What is happening and should I be concerned?

- I-lack Documentation

DEAR I-LACK DOCUMENTATION:

Over the past several years, Ohio EPA has been conducting audits of the operations and maintenance records at both water and wastewater facilities. A number of enforcement actions have resulted due to these audits. It is the owner and operator's responsibility for maintaining records. You can find more information about record maintenance at http://epa.ohio.gov/portals/28/documents/rules/Final/3745-07-09_effective_02-23-12.pdf.

- Answer Place

HAVE A QUESTION?
ohioepa.custhelp.com

Ohio EPA Spigot News
Winter 2013
Page 5

OHIO EPA'S SPIGOT NEWS

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

Produced by the Division of
Drinking and Ground Waters

Editors: Julie Spangler and
Susan Baughman

Contributing Writers:
Ken Baughman, Susan Schell,
Andy Barienbrock
and Ray Shesky

Ohio EPA is an
Equal Opportunity Employer

24-HOUR EMERGENCY HOTLINE

For emergencies occurring
after 5 p.m. or on a weekend or
holiday, please call Ohio EPA's
**emergency hotline at
(800) 282-9378**

Ohio EPA Division of Drinking and Ground Waters

P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049

Phone: (614) 644-2752
Fax: (614) 644-2909

Visit us on the web at
epa.ohio.gov/ddagw

Printed on Recycled Paper



LABORATORY COMPLIANCE

Continued from page 2

- Routine chemical samples must be reported by the tenth day of the month following the month in which chemical analyses are completed.
- Total coliform positive samples, all total coliform repeat samples and chemical results that exceed any maximum contaminant level must be reported by the end of the next business day after the result was obtained. Additionally, the PWS must be notified of the result by the next business day.

Notices of violation will be issued to certified laboratories that fail to meet appropriate levels of performance (for instance, reporting results accurately and on time to Ohio EPA). Violating laboratories will be required to develop a plan of action to resolve their inadequate performance.

Certified drinking water laboratories that repeatedly fail to meet an appropriate level of performance could face escalated enforcement actions and may ultimately lose their certification to perform analysis of drinking water samples.

Note: PWSs must ensure they provide their laboratory with complete and accurate information pertaining to the samples they are having analyzed. Laboratories may not accept samples for analysis if information is incorrect or incomplete.

FIFTY YEARS OF FLUORIDATION

Marietta, Ohio (Washington County) celebrated its golden anniversary of community water fluoridation by receiving a National Fluoridation "Fifty Year Award" at the 2013 National Oral Health Conference. According to records kept by the Ohio Department of Health, Marietta began adjusting fluoride levels in its water system in August, 1962.

The Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors (ASTDD), the American Dental Association (ADA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) annually recognize hundreds of U.S. water systems that have continuously fluoridated for 50 years.

For more information, visit
epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/pws.aspx#LiveTabsContent113435.

SUBSCRIBE NOW!

The Spigot News is now sent only to subscribers! Sign up to receive it in electronic or hard copy at http://ohioepa.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/ohioepa.cfg/php/enduser/doc_serve.php?2=subscriptionpage. You can also subscribe to our free electronic mailing service for quick and timely updates on several other topics at epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/listserv.aspx.