

# Water Lines

## SDW Hotline Report

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### Top Ten Topics

Topic	Questions (phone & email)	Percent of Total* Questions
Tap Water Testing	322**	10
Consumer Confidence Report	265	9
Local Drinking Water Quality	237	8
Household Wells	199	6
Lead	176	6
Home Water Treatment Units	163	5
Other EPA	132	4
Other Drinking Water Background	111	4
Coliforms	98	3
Non-EPA Environmental	98	3

\*A total of 3,047 questions were answered by the Hotline (via telephone and email) in May 2002.

\*\*Citizens who obtain their drinking water from private household wells asked 33% 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

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

## What's New

### New Documents:

- *FACTOIDS: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for 2001*, May 2002, EPA815-D-02-004, is now available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/data/01factoids.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/01factoids.pdf)
- *Draft Implementation Guidance for the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule*, May 2002, EPA816-D-02-008, is now available for review at [www.epa.gov/safewater/mdbp/lt1eswtr.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mdbp/lt1eswtr.html)
- *CCRWriter - Version 2.0* is now available for download at [www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/ccrwriter.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/ccrwriter.html)
- Support documents for the Six-Year Review of Drinking Water Standards are now available at [www.epa.gov/safewater/review.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/review.html)

### Add This to Your Calendar:

- The Safe Drinking Water Hotline continues to take registrations for the regional Surface Water Treatment Rules workshops. Remaining workshops include Omaha, Nebraska (August 13-14) and Seattle, Washington (October 8-9). The Hotline also continues to accept registrations for regional Arsenic Rule workshops. Remaining workshops include Dallas, Texas (July 30-31) and Omaha, Nebraska (August 15-16).

## Did You Know?

In the United States, water utilities treat nearly 34 billion gallons of water every day.

(Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water Web Site  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/publicoutreach/index.html>)

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## Frequently Asked Qs & As

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**Q:** The operator of a Public Water System (PWS) is completing his Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) that is due by July 1, 2002. The system detected 0.008 mg/L of arsenic in the distribution system water during the previous year. Is the system required to use the specified arsenic informational statement in 40 CFR 141.154(b)(1)?

**A:** Beginning in the CCR due by July 1, 2002, a system that detects arsenic above 0.005 mg/L and up to and including 0.01 mg/L must include a short informational statement about arsenic in its report. The system may use the suggested language listed in 40 CFR 141.154(b)(1), or it may write its own educational statement, but only in consultation with its primacy agency (40 CFR 141.154(b)).

**Q:** Did the 2000 Radionuclides Rule include any new methods for analysis of uranium?

**A:** No. EPA is currently reviewing the Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) method (EPA method 200.8 or SM 3125) for uranium analysis (65 FR 76708, 76724).

**Q:** What is the detection limit for uranium radioanalysis?

**A:** A detection limit for uranium is not listed in 40 CFR 141.25 and none was proposed in the Radionuclides Proposed Rule (56 FR 33050, July 8, 1991). EPA did propose a practical quantitation limit (PQL) and an acceptance limit but in order to be consistent with other regulated radionuclides, EPA did not adopt the PQL. The Agency will propose a detection limit for uranium in a future rulemaking and will set the limit before December 8, 2003 (the compliance date for the Rule) (65 FR 76708, 76724).

**Q:** If a facility is installing a Class I injection well, the well must inject beneath the lowermost underground source of drinking water (USDW). How does EPA define a USDW?

**A:** A USDW is defined in 40 CFR 144.3 as any aquifer that: (1) supplies a public water system; or (2) contains a sufficient quantity of water to supply a public water system and currently supplies drinking water for human consumption or contains fewer than 10,000 mg/L of total dissolved solids.

**Q:** A state park utilizes a dry well to receive wastewater from shower facilities used by 8-10 crewmen working on a project. Do the underground injection control (UIC) requirements for Class V wells apply to this well?

**A:** The UIC requirements do not apply to dry wells that receive solely sanitary waste and have the capacity to serve fewer than 20 persons a day (i.e., non-residential cesspools) (40 CFR 144.81(2)).

**Q:** Are septic systems regulated as Class V wells under the underground injection control (UIC) program?

**A:** The UIC requirements for owners and operators of Class V injection wells are found in 40 CFR Part 144, Subpart G. This subpart applies to owners or operators of septic system wells used to inject solely sanitary waste from a multiple dwelling, business establishment, community or regional business establishment septic tank. The UIC requirements for Class V injection wells do not apply to single family residential septic system wells and to non-residential septic system wells that are used solely for the disposal of sanitary waste and have the capacity to serve fewer than 20 persons a day (40 CFR 144.81(9)).

**Q:** Under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) requirements, must the UCMR sampling data collected in accordance with 40 CFR 141.40 be submitted to EPA by the PWS, or by the laboratory that analyzes the samples?

**A:** According to the regulatory language in 40 CFR 141.35(e), public water systems must instruct the organization(s) responsible for the analysis of unregulated contaminant samples taken under 40 CFR 141.40 to enter the results into EPA's electronic reporting system. The PWS is responsible for reviewing those results and approving their submission to EPA. If the analytical organization or laboratory cannot enter these data electronically for the PWS, the PWS must obtain EPA's approval to use an alternate reporting procedure.

**Q:** How can a citizen determine whether or not the service line that connects her home to the water main is made of lead?

**A:** According to 40 CFR 141.85(a)(1)(iv)(B)(5), the best way to determine if a service line is made of lead is by either hiring a licensed plumber to inspect the line or by contacting the plumbing contractor who installed the line. To identify the plumbing contractor a person can check the city's record of building permits. A licensed plumber can at the same time check to see if a home's plumbing

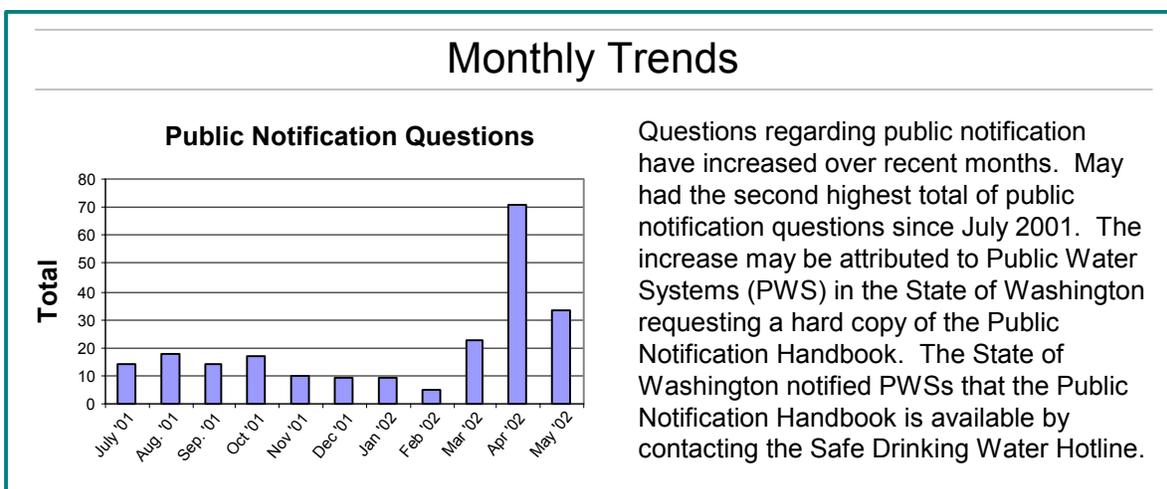
contains lead solder, lead pipes, or pipe fittings that contain lead. The public water system that delivers water to your home should also maintain records of the materials located in the distribution system.

**Q:** Must public water systems include Information Collection Rule (ICR) data in the Consumer Confidence Report?

**A:** ICR monitoring data collected pursuant to 40 CFR 141.142 and 141.143 must only be included in the Consumer Confidence Report for five years from the date of the last sample or until any of the detected contaminants becomes regulated (40 CFR 141.153(d)(3)(ii)).

**Q:** Can states use Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF) to implement their Source Water Protection (SWP) program?

**A:** The Safe Drinking Water Act as amended in 1996 allows up to 10 percent of a state's allotment for the DWSRF to be used to administer or provide technical assistance for SWP programs within the state (SDWA 1452(g)(2)(B)). Additional information on the DWSRF can be found at [www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html).



## Monthly Summary of Hotline Service

Total number of calls answered	2,293
Total number of emails received	298
Average wait time (in seconds)	0:20
Percent of calls satisfied immediately	98%
Percent of all calls answered in < 1 min	89.3%
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	1,700
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about arsenic rule	79

## Comparison to Previous Years

	Calls	Emails
May 2002	2,293	298
May 2001	3,382	511

## Top Ten Referrals

Inquiry Referred to:	Number of Referrals	Percent of Total* Referrals
1. State Lab Certification	338	15
2. EPA Internet	298	13
3. NSF/WQA/UL	212	9
4. State PWSS	195	9
5. Local Water System	194	9
6. AGWT/WSC	144	6
7. Local Public Health	144	6
8. Non-EPA Internet	95	4
9. Other Hotlines	90	4
10. FDA/IBWA	60	3

\*2,272 total referrals to other resources, agencies, and organizations were provided by the Hotline in May 2002.

## Customer Profiles

Customer	Calls	Emails
Analytical Laboratories	25	5
Citizen - Private Well	384	41
Citizen - PWS	1,233	87
Consultants/Industry/Trade (DW)	121	14
Consultants/Industry/Trade (Other)	104	45
Environmental Groups	16	0
EPA	42	1
Other Federal Agency	15	6
Government, Local	30	2
Government, State	43	13
Government, Tribal	5	1
Spanish Speaking	1	1
International	6	31
Media	9	1
Medical Professional	9	2
Public Water System	189	16
Schools/University	32	30
Other	29	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>298</b>

## Daily Call Data

	Total Calls Answered	Average Wait Time mm:sec
1-May	92	00:24
2-May	99	00:14
3-May	89	00:24
6-May	91	00:10
7-May	120	00:21
8-May	84	00:11
9-May	97	00:17
10-May	82	00:19
13-May	105	00:33
14-May	105	00:21
15-May	89	00:26
16-May	91	00:14
17-May	76	00:19
20-May	120	00:14
21-May	114	00:17
22-May	109	00:13
23-May	94	00:16
24-May	115	00:26
28-May	128	00:16
29-May	135	00:39
30-May	142	00:20
31-May	116	00:23
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>00:20</b>

**Hotline Statistics**

**Topic Categories**

Category	Calls	Emails
<b>Microbials/Disinfection Byproducts</b>		
Chlorine	27	4
Coliforms	94	4
Cryptosporidium	80	2
Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts (Other)	27	6
Disinfection – Home Water	19	1
Other Microbials	26	1
Surface Water Treatment (SWTR, ESWTR, LT1FBR)	46	7
Trihalomethane (THM)	18	1
<b>Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)/Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)</b>		
Arsenic	68	9
Fluoride	31	5
Methyl- <i>tertiary</i> -butyl-ether (MTBE)	15	2
Perchlorate	5	1
Phase I, II & V	33	13
Sodium Monitoring	10	0
Sulfate	6	0
<b>Lead and Copper</b>		
Copper	13	2
Lead	168	8
Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA)/Lead Ban	8	0
<b>Radionuclides</b>		
Radionuclides (Other)	22	2
Radionuclides (Radon)	74	7
<b>Secondary DW Regulations</b>		
Secondary DW Regulations	56	10
<b>SDWA Background/Overview</b>		
Definitions & Applicability	19	2
MCL List	43	12
Other Background	100	11
SDWA	25	1

Category	Calls	Emails
Water on Tap	46	3
<b>Other DW Regulations</b>		
Analytical Methods (DW)	22	13
Contaminant Candidate List/ Drinking Water Priority List	7	0
Consumer Confidence Report (DW)	256	9
DW Primacy (PWS)	1	3
Operator (PWS) Certification	3	2
Other Drinking Water Security	9	2
Public Notification (PWS)	33	0
Security Planning Grants	23	1
State Revolving Fund (DW)	1	2
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	28	1
<b>Other Drinking Water</b>		
Additives Program	6	5
Bottled Water	64	10
Complaints about PWS	33	4
Compliance & Enforcement (PWS)	11	2
Home Water Treatment Units	143	20
Infrastructure/Cap. Development	4	0
Local DW Quality	218	19
Tap Water Testing	307	15
Treatment/BATs (DW)	27	5
<b>Drinking Water Source Protection</b>		
Ground Water Rule	6	3
Sole Source Aquifer	2	0
Source Water/Wellhead Protect.	0	7
UIC Program	10	1
Out of Purview		
Household Wells	180	19
Non-Environmental	57	30
Non-EPA Environmental	64	34
Other EPA (Programs)	111	21
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,705</b>	<b>342</b>

# SAFE DRINKING WATER HOTLINE MONTHLY REPORT

May 2002

## APPENDIX A: FEDERAL REGISTER SUMMARIES

### PROPOSED RULES

#### **“Spring 2002 Regulatory Agenda”**

**May 13, 2002 (67 FR 33724)**

EPA published the “Semiannual Regulatory Agenda” to update the public about: (1) regulations and major policies currently under development; (2) reviews of existing regulations and major policies; and (3) regulations and major policies completed or canceled since the last Agenda.

### NOTICES

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

**May 3, 2002 (67 FR 22353)**

This technical amendment amends the table that lists the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) control numbers issued under the Paperwork Reduction Act for the Public Water System Supervision Program (PWSS) Information Collection Request (ICR), Microbial Rules ICR and Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts, Chemical, and Radionuclides (DBP/Chem/Rads) Rules ICR.

#### **“EPA Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings: Affordability Criterion for Drinking Water Treatment Technologies for Small Systems”**

**May 7, 2002 (67 FR 30681)**

EPA announced a meeting of the Environmental Economics Advisory Committee (EEAC) of the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) to review the Agency's affordability criterion for small systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. The SAB was established to provide independent scientific and technical advice to the EPA Administrator on Agency positions; in this case the methodology for developing and applying the affordability criterion.

#### **“Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Public Water Systems Supervision Program: Public Notification Amendment”**

**May 9, 2002 (67 FR 31301)**

EPA announced that it has forwarded the ICR entitled, “Public Water Systems Supervision (PWSS) Program: Public Notification Amendment,” OMB Control No. 2040-0090, to OMB for review and approval.

#### **“Agency Information Collection Activities: Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Drinking Water Customer Satisfaction Survey”**

**May 9, 2002 (67 FR 31302)**

EPA announced that it has forwarded the ICR entitled, “Drinking Water Customer Satisfaction Survey,” ICR number 2016.01, to OMB for review and approval.

**“Public Water Supply Supervision Program; Program Revision for the State of Oregon”  
May 9, 2002 (67 FR 31304)**

EPA announced that the State of Oregon has revised its approved State PWSS Primacy Program. Oregon has adopted drinking water regulations for disinfectants and disinfection byproducts and has adopted revisions to its surface water treatment regulations and lead and copper regulations. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends on approving these State program revisions.

**“Announcement of a Stakeholder Meeting on the Six-Year Review of Existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, as Required by the Safe Drinking Water Act”  
May 20, 2002 (67 FR 35540)**

EPA announced a public meeting to discuss the results of the Agency's preliminary findings in the review of 69 pre-1997 National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs). The Federal Register notice that announced the preliminary results of the review of NPDWRs (i.e., the Six-Year Review) was published by EPA on April 17, 2002. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information to stakeholders and the public on the Six-Year Review of NPDWRs.

**“Agency Information Collection Activities; OMB Responses”  
May 23, 2002 (67 FR 36171)**

EPA announced the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) responses to Agency clearance requests, in compliance with the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 et. Seq.). The OMB control numbers for EPA's regulations are listed in 40 CFR part 9 and 48 CFR Chapter 15. EPA ICR No. 2067.01, “Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for Analysis of Cryptosporidium Under the Safe Drinking Water Act,” was approved April 11, 2002; OMB No. 2040-0246. The current expiration date for this ICR is July 31, 2002.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for the State of South Carolina”  
May 23, 2002 (67 FR 36184)**

EPA announced that the State of South Carolina is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. South Carolina has adopted drinking water regulations revising the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and Disinfection Byproduct Rule. EPA has determined that these revisions meet all minimum federal requirements, and are no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA has tentatively decided to approve these State program revisions.

**“Public Water Supervision Program Revision for the State of Tennessee”  
May 23, 2002 (67 FR 36185)**

EPA announced that the State of Tennessee is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Tennessee has adopted drinking water regulations which incorporate the requirements of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 1 Disinfection/Disinfectants 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.

**“Public Water Supervision Program Revision for the State of Tennessee”  
May 23, 2002 (67 FR 36185)**

EPA announced that the State of Tennessee is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Tennessee has adopted drinking water regulations, which provide minor revisions to the Lead and Copper 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.

**“EPA Science Advisory Board; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meetings”  
May 24, 2002 (67 FR 36593)**

EPA announced that the Drinking Water Committee of the US EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB), will conduct a public teleconference meeting on June 11, 2002. The primary purpose of this meeting will be for staff from EPA's Office of Water to provide background briefings sufficient for the Committee to develop a systematic plan for responding to the agency request on two topics: (1) Six-Year Review of Existing Regulations Notice of Intent on Review Decisions (6-YR) and (2) Contaminant Candidate List Notice of Intent on Regulatory Determinations (CCL1).

**“Sole Source Aquifer Petition Denial”  
May 31, 2002 (67 FR 38113)**

EPA provided notice that it denied a petition to designate the La Cienega Valley Area Aquifer a Sole Source Aquifer. The aquifer is not eligible for designation because it is not the principal source of drinking water for the area covered by the petition.

**“Public Water System Supervision Program Revision for the State of Mississippi”  
May 31, 2002 (67 FR 38113)**

EPA provided notice that the State of Mississippi is revising its approved Public Water System Supervision Program. Mississippi has adopted drinking water regulations for Lead and Copper Minor Revision. EPA has determined that these revisions are no less stringent than the corresponding Federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends on approving this State program revision.