

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Total Coliform Rule / Distribution System Advisory Committee

December 5-6, 2007

1255 – 23rd Street NW, Suite 275
Washington DC 20037

DRAFT AGENDA

Meeting Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- **Review coverage of TCR objectives in other rules and share perspectives about possible implications for the TCR. Learn more about the different circumstances and purposes for doing sanitary surveys.**
- **Review a synopsis of the incidence of coliform positive samples during outbreaks. Understand the incidence of EC+ given TC+ from the six-year review data. Learn about the incidence of TC and EC positives in repeat samples (those taken in response to an initial sample being TC positive).**
- **Learn about possible sources of error in analytical and sampling methods.**
- **Learn about actions taken in response to total coliform positive samples and how decisions are currently being made about what follow up actions to take.**
- **Explore ideas for possible improvements to the TCR.**
- **Provide additional direction to technical work group on potential information and analyses to support the advisory committee.**

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

8:30-8:45 Arrival

9:00-9:15 Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Objectives and Agenda
Objective: Review desired outcomes, agenda and materials for this meeting.

9:15-9:30 Discussion: Meeting Summaries
Objective: Review and approve summaries for September and October meetings.

9:30-10:30 Presentation: SDWA Framework and TCR Objectives
Objective: Review coverage of TCR objectives in other rules and share perspectives about possible implications for the TCR. Learn more about the different circumstances and purposes for doing sanitary surveys.

Doug Owen, Malcolm Pirnie [20 min]

Discussion: [40 min]

- What can we say about the extent to which TCR objectives are being accomplished by other rules (and for which system types and sizes)?

- What is TCR accomplishing that was not originally contemplated in the current objectives?
- What are the implications for (or pros and cons of) possible revisions to the current TCR objectives?

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-11:30 Presentation: Analysis of Incidence of TCR Indicators

Objective: Review a synopsis of the incidence of coliform positive samples during outbreaks. Understand the incidence of EC+ given TC+ from the six-year review data. Learn about the incidence of TC and EC positives in repeat samples (those taken in response to an initial sample being TC positive).

Vanessa Speight, Malcolm Pirnie [20 min]

Discussion: [25 min]

- Clarification questions [discussion of implications to follow after lunch]

11:30-1:00 Lunch (on your own, time for caucuses)

1:00-2:45 Initial Options Discussion I: Regulatory Construct and Indicators

Objective: Begin to explore ideas for modifications to the TCR, focusing on indicators and related rule elements. [See Part I of “Initial Ideas” matrix.]

Discussion:

- What themes emerge from the ideas shared so far? What are we trying to accomplish?
- What are the pros and cons of MCL versus Treatment Technique constructs?
- What are the pros and cons of TC as an MCL versus an action level or trigger for follow up action?
- What are the pros and cons of other indicators as an MCL?
- What are the implications for how public notification would be handled under MCL versus treatment technique requirements?

2:45-3:00 Break

3:00-3:30 Presentation: Analytical and Sampling Methods

Objective: Learn about possible sources of error in analytical and sampling methods.

Vanessa Speight, Malcolm Pirnie [20 min]

Discussion: [10 min]

- Clarification questions [discussion of implications to follow]

3:30-4:00 Presentation: Monitoring and Reporting Violations
Objective: Learn about the numbers and/or percentages of systems by size and type whose monitoring records are not in compliance (weren't entered on time, may not have been done).

Doug Owen, Malcolm Pirnie [20 min]

Discussion: [10 min]

- Clarification questions [discussion of implications to follow]

4:00-5:30 Initial Options Discussion II: Possible Revisions to TCR Monitoring Requirements
Objective: Begin to explore ideas for modifications to the TCR for the design of the monitoring requirements. [See Part II of "Initial Ideas" matrix.]

Discussion:

- What themes emerge from the ideas shared so far? What are we trying to accomplish?
- Which present monitoring strategies are effective?
- How can repeat sampling best be structured? What changes can be made to target locations for repeat sampling that may be more protective of public health?
- How can sample siting plans be effectively designed to meet TCR objectives?
- Are there ways to improve the compliance with the monitoring and reporting provisions? Are there incentives that can be included to improve compliance? What different consequences resulting from failure to monitor and/or report might improve compliance?

5:30-6:00 Public Comment

Thursday, December 6, 2007

8:30-9:00 Arrival

9:00-9:15 Review Today's Agenda
Objective: Recap view desired outcomes, agenda and materials for this meeting.

9:15-10:30 Presentation: Implementation Actions Being Taken in Response to a TC+
Objective: Review the range of actions currently being taken by states and utilities in response to a TC positive and/or MCL violations and draw on case studies for what also can be learned about tools or approaches for assessing a situation and determining appropriate follow up action.

Vanessa Speight, Malcolm Pirnie [30 min]

Discussion: [45 min]

- Clarification questions

- How do these actions assist systems in assessing the underlying causes of a TC+?

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45-12:00 Initial Options Discussion III: Potential Follow up Actions

Objective: Begin to explore ideas for modifications to the TCR that might be associated with TC becoming an action level rather than an MCL. [See Part III of “Initial Ideas” matrix.]

Discussion:

- What themes emerge from the ideas shared so far? What are we trying to accomplish?
- What options might be effective to encourage systems to implement actions that effectively address underlying causes of potential risk?

12:00-1:15 Lunch (on your own)

1:15-2:15 Initial Options Discussion IV: Other Rule Elements

Objective: Begin to explore ideas for modifications to the TCR that have been suggested on other rule elements, with the focus to be decided at the meeting depending on the discussions to this point, e.g. addition aspects of public notification, record keeping, enforcement, variances and exceptions, analytical methods, etc. [See Parts IV and V of “Initial Ideas” matrix.]

2:15-2:45 Recap, General Discussion and Approach to Continued Options Discussion

Objective: Share views on what was learned throughout this meeting, reflect on linkages between specific ideas for changes to the TCR, and discuss next steps in developing and evaluating options.

Discussion:

- What next steps will FAC members take to develop rule options further? (e.g. form small groups to elaborate specific ideas? Develop option packages?)
- What specific information would be helpful to get from TWG to assess the pros and cons of different options?

2:45-3:00 Wrap Up and Review Next Steps

3:00 Adjourn

NOTE: This draft agenda was prepared by the facilitators for review by the Total Coliform Rule Distribution System Advisory Committee. The Total Coliform Rule Distribution System Advisory Committee is a federal advisory committee chartered by Congress, operating under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA; 5 U.S.C., App.2). The committee provides advice to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on revisions to the Total Coliform Rule (TCR), and on what information about distribution systems is needed to better understand the public health impact from the degradation of drinking water quality in distribution systems. The findings and recommendations of the Committee do not represent the views of the Agency, and this document does not represent information approved or disseminated by EPA.