Water Contaminant Information Tool: Newest Database Additions

U.S. EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW) has recently added one new full (comprehensive) WCIT profile for the potent synthetic opioid fentanyl. With the opioid crisis in the U.S., fentanyl is increasingly prominent as a water contaminant of concern. This chemical is persistent on surfaces and in water under normal environmental conditions and is lethal at small doses. In addition, EPA will add another new full (comprehensive) WCIT profile for the pathogenic bacterium *Leptospira* by September 2021. This bacterium can cause the waterborne disease leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is transmitted by contaminated drinking water, recreational water, and animal vectors, and it is of particular concern after floods and hurricanes.

The addition of these two profiles will bring the total number of full (comprehensive) WCIT profiles to 113. These profiles include medical information, early warning indicators, drinking water treatment, and more. As EPA makes plans to develop additional full (comprehensive) WCIT profiles, we would like to know what contaminants are of greatest interest to you — see "Nominate a Contaminant" on the last page.

Inside the Database

Feedback for WCIT

Do you have questions or suggestions for the WCIT team? Is there information you would like to see added to the database? We want to hear from you! Email is always a good way to reach us (WCIT@epa.gov), but you may also submit comments using the **WCIT feedback form** embedded in the tool.

EPA relies on input from users like you to ensure that the application continues to be useful and up-to-date! While browsing the database, please consider using the feedback form to relay issues you have encountered, or to suggest new content to add.

The feedback form is just one of the features WCIT offers beyond the contaminant profiles themselves. We encourage you to take the time to explore WCIT's additional resources and capabilities.

WCIT gaining traction as a tool for Arkansas Department of Health

**Susan Corder
ADH, QA Manager**

In the State of Arkansas, it is a joint responsibility of the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and public water systems to monitor water quality. Susan Corder oversees coordination of compliance sampling and analysis at the ADH for approximately 1,036 community, transient non-community, and non-transient non-community water systems. The ADH is responsible for testing a broad range of possible contaminants and is known for a strong record of compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Ms. Corder has been a Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) user for about six years and utilizes the tool in many ways. She was introduced to WCIT after attending an online training and has since taken advantage of additional webinars to further understand advanced features of the tool. In general, she and her team use WCIT about 5-6 times per quarter.

Ms. Corder uses WCIT as a research tool when a contaminant is detected in a sample. Particularly useful, she reports, is that "WCIT provides the chemical makeup of contaminants and possible health effects." It provides her with baseline understanding and information to decide how to move forward with the situation. In addition to using WCIT as a resource during routine monitoring, Ms. Corder has also taken advantage of it during contamination incidents. During the 2013 Mayflower oil spill in Arkansas, Ms. Corder used the database to conduct initial research about possible contaminants to prepare her response in case the spill affected drinking water. "If we receive information of a chemical spill, agriculture spray, or customer complaint, WCIT provides chemical components and possible health effects. It is extremely useful determining what type of chemical testing is required to protect the drinking water in the State of Arkansas." She says the tool is an "excellent resource for water utilities" and will continue to use it frequently, for routine monitoring and to prepare during possible contamination incidents.

WCIT Online Training

Whether you are new to WCIT, in need of a refresher, or an experienced user who wants to learn how to get more out of the resource, EPA has a training for you!

EPA offers two live webinar-based trainings every quarter, each one hour long. "WCIT: Learning the Basics" is an introductory training. Each session of "WCIT: Becoming an Advanced User" goes into some depth on one or two features of the application, to help users develop their capabilities in a hands-on way.

A recording of "WCIT: Learning the Basics" is also available on EPA's website as an on-demand training.

To learn more, sign up for live trainings, or access recordings, visit the WLA Learning Center website.
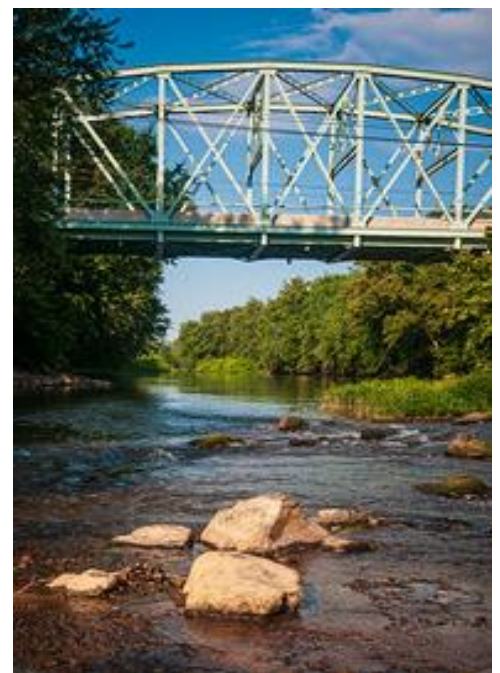
WCIT Challenge

Read the scenario below and use WCIT to answer the questions. Send your answers to WCIT@epa.gov.

A tanker truck capsizes near the lake that supplies your drinking water system. You learn that it was transporting No. 2 fuel oil. Using WCIT, create a briefing for system managers that summarizes:

- Risks posed to the water treatment plant and to customers.

- Options for monitoring and treating the contamination.

- Options for decontamination.

To take the challenge, log into WCIT at https://cdx.epa.gov/. Enjoy!

Nominate a Contaminant

The WCIT team wants to hear from you! What contaminants *that do not currently have a full WCIT profile* do you consider a high priority for drinking water emergency response? EPA will consider user nominations when setting priorities for WCIT profile development in the year ahead. To make your voice heard, please email your contaminant suggestion(s) with a rationale to WCIT@epa.gov by December 31, 2021, with "nominate a contaminant" in the subject line.

Of course, you are also welcomed to email WCIT@epa.gov at any time to offer suggestions or ask questions. Thank you for being a part of the WCIT community!