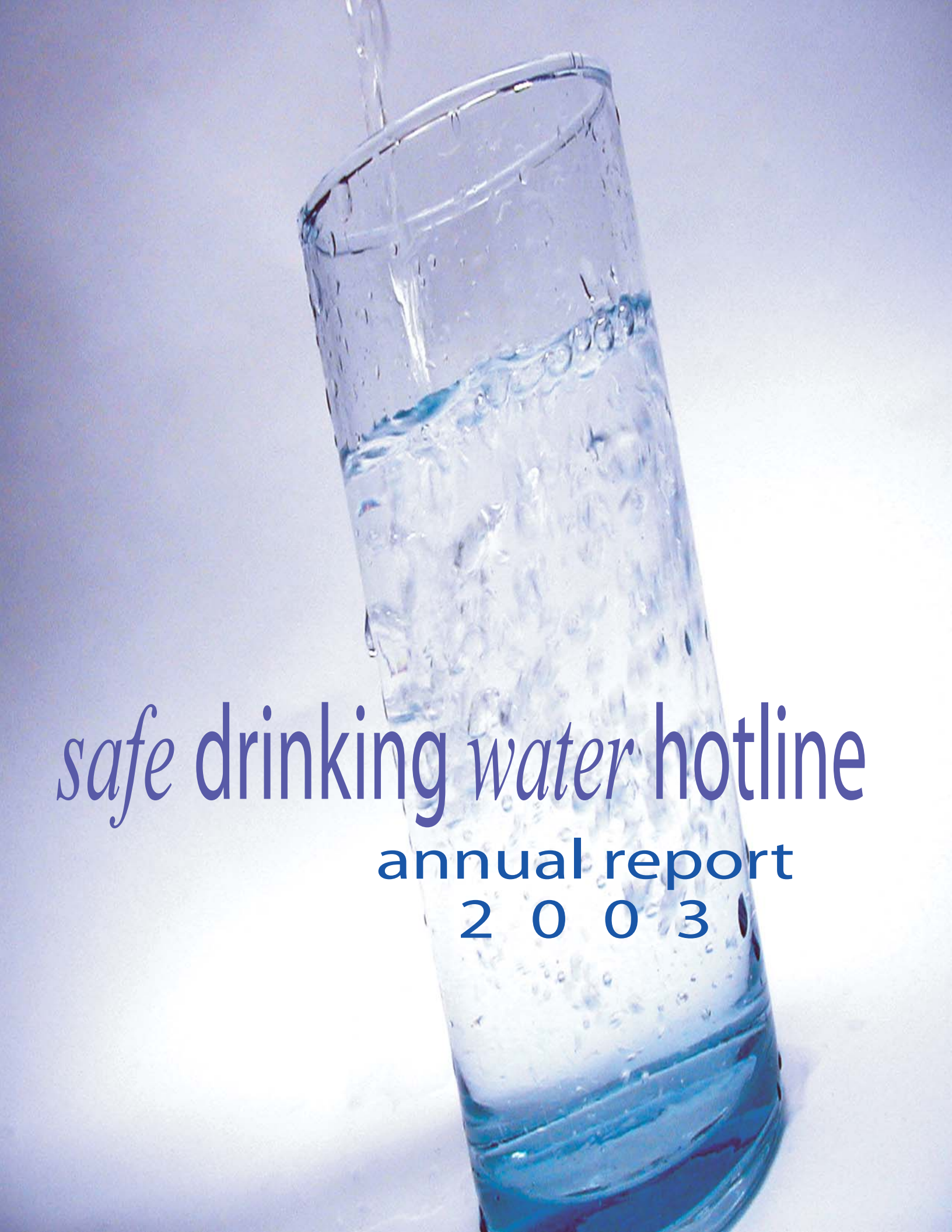

safe drinking *water* hotline

annual report 2003

Fiscal Year 2003
Annual Report

October 2002 – September 2003

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

See past monthly reports at
http://www.epa.gov/safewater/hotline/reports.html

For More Information Contact:
Harriet Hubbard, EPA Project Officer
(202) 564-4621 Operated by Booz Allen Hamilton
Under Contract #GS-10F-0090J

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Also, an answer provided in this report may not apply to a particular situation based upon the circumstances. Any decisions regarding a particular case will be made based on the applicable statutes and regulations. Therefore, interested parties are free to raise questions and objections about the appropriateness of the application of an answer in this report to a particular situation, and EPA will consider whether or not the recommendations or interpretations in the answer are accurate and appropriate in that situation. The information in this report is not intended, nor can it be relied upon, to create any rights enforceable by any party in litigation with the United States.

Introduction

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) is the national law that ensures the quality of America's drinking water and furthers EPA's mission to protect human health and safeguard the environment. The Act, as amended in 1996, requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide a toll-free hotline that consumers can call to obtain accurate and real-time information about annual water quality reports and drinking water contaminants (42 U.S.C. 300g-3, Section (4)(A) and (4)(B)). The Safe Drinking Water (SDW) Hotline, operated by Booz Allen Hamilton, provides this essential public outreach service for EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW), the office that is responsible for implementing the SDWA. The Hotline also answers questions about federal drinking water regulations and standards, source water protection, and the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. **In fiscal year 2003 (FY 2003), the Hotline responded to 21,602 phone calls and 3,304 e-mail inquiries resulting in more than 31,351 questions.** These inquiries came from a diverse audience including public water systems (PWSs), federal, state and local governments, businesses, and citizens. These inquiries reflected several "hot topics" and initiatives, including the following:

- *Vulnerability Assessments and Emergency Response Plans* – As a result of the passage of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002, community water systems (CWSs) serving a population of 3,300 or more are required to submit certification of completion of their vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans to EPA. The Hotline received questions primarily about proper submission procedures and submission deadlines.
- *Household Water Emergencies* – In contrast to the drought of 2002, there was an increase in calls to the SDW Hotline concerning contaminated water due to floods, hurricanes, and blackouts. Hotline staff coordinated with OGWDW personnel to provide appropriate referrals and current information for home water disinfection and storage.
- *Consumer Confidence Reports* – The Hotline experienced its annual increase in the volume of calls and e-mails related to the nationwide distribution of the consumer confidence reports (CCRs). The increase in inquiries was primarily during the months of May through July.
- *Public Notification for Total Organic Carbons (TOCs)* – Many consumers across the country received public notices that their water systems had failed to achieve the TOC percent removal levels required by the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule. To efficiently assist callers with their questions and concerns the SDW Hotline staff developed a series of questions and answers about TOC and associated public notices.

The SDW Hotline's staff of safe drinking water regulatory experts responded to an average of 125 questions each operating day of FY 2003, providing real-time assistance to Hotline user's questions ranging from regulatory and policy clarifications, to document requests and Internet availability of information, to EPA training registration assistance, to referrals for additional sources of information from other federal agencies, organizations, states, and local public water systems. Additionally, Spanish-speaking staff responded to over 60 requests for drinking water information. This number includes Spanish e-mails and Spanish-speaking callers who choose to utilize the option of leaving a message in a voice mailbox as directed by the Hotline phone system greeting. Information Specialists recommended thousands of documents, many of which were processed for hard copies, provided over 18,000 referrals to relevant agencies and organizations when inquiries required information beyond the purview of the Hotline, and drafted 92 formal Questions and Answers and 41 Federal Register summaries.

The Hotline's mission of providing quality technical assistance continues to be enhanced through technological advances and operational improvements. The SDW Hotline phone tree now offers callers several new self-serve options intended to provide useful information and reduce the hold time required to reach an Information Specialist. During this fiscal year, over 11,000 callers opted to hear the recorded message about local drinking water quality. In addition, callers seeking information about private household wells now have the option of a direct transfer to the Water System Council's Wellcare Hotline.

In order to provide real-time outreach service to water professionals, regulators, and the general public the Hotline must maintain the most current information and consistently strive to understand each caller's needs and interests. The SDW Hotline monthly report, *Water Lines*, is published in response to those needs. *Water Lines* contains typical questions answered by Hotline staff, abstracts of pertinent Federal Register entries, call and e-mail statistics, caller profiles, and water facts. The FY 2003 Safe Drinking Water Hotline Annual Report is a review of the cumulative statistics, trend analyses, Questions and Answers, and Federal Register summaries gathered from the *Water Lines* reports.

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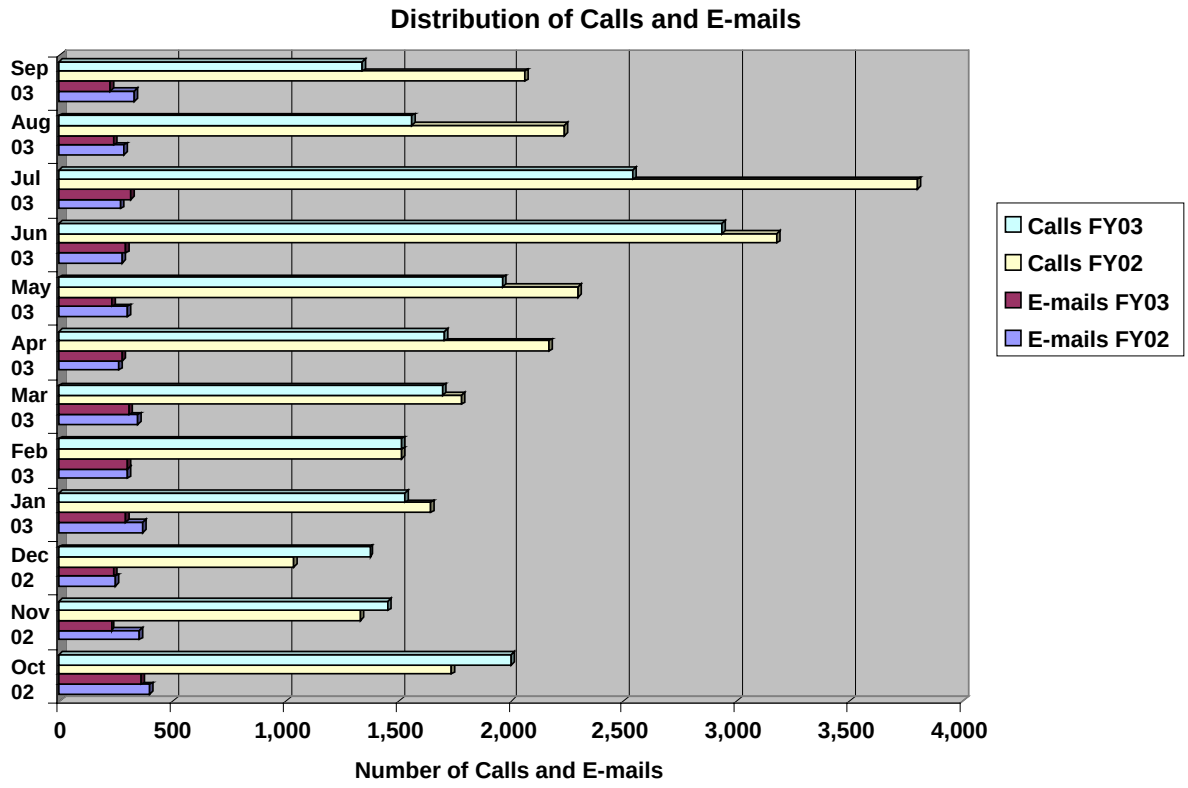
The Safe Drinking Water (SDW) Hotline answers questions, via telephone and e-mail, related to the Safe Drinking Water Act and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. Hotline Information Specialists also assist customers in accessing relevant regulations, Federal Register notices, and EPA guidance documents, via Internet and in hard copy, and provide helpful referrals for questions beyond the Hotline's purview. Additionally, the Hotline offers its services in both English and Spanish. **During FY 2003, the Hotline responded to 21,602 telephone calls and 3,304 e-mails.** A single call or e-mail often generated multiple questions, and **a total of 31,351 questions were answered by the Hotline in FY 2003.** Detailed statistics of the breakdown in the types callers and the topics of questions they asked are included in the Appendix of this report.

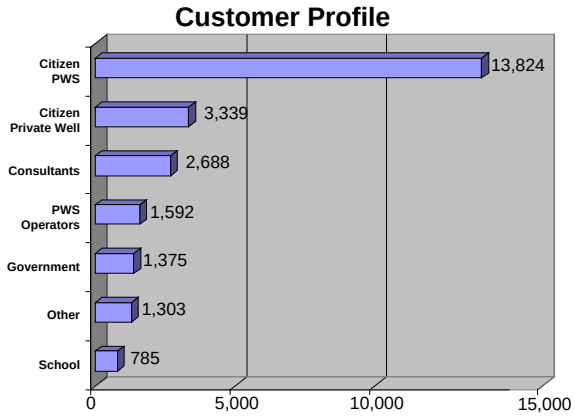
Calls and E-mails Comparison: The inquiry volume for FY 2003 is lower than the total inquiry volume received during FY 2002. This is possibly attributed to an increase in Internet use to obtain documents and general information and a decrease in significant regulatory development over the past year.

Inquiry Mode	FY 2003	FY 2002
Calls	21,602	25,311
Emails	3,304	3,738
Total	**24,906**	**29,049**

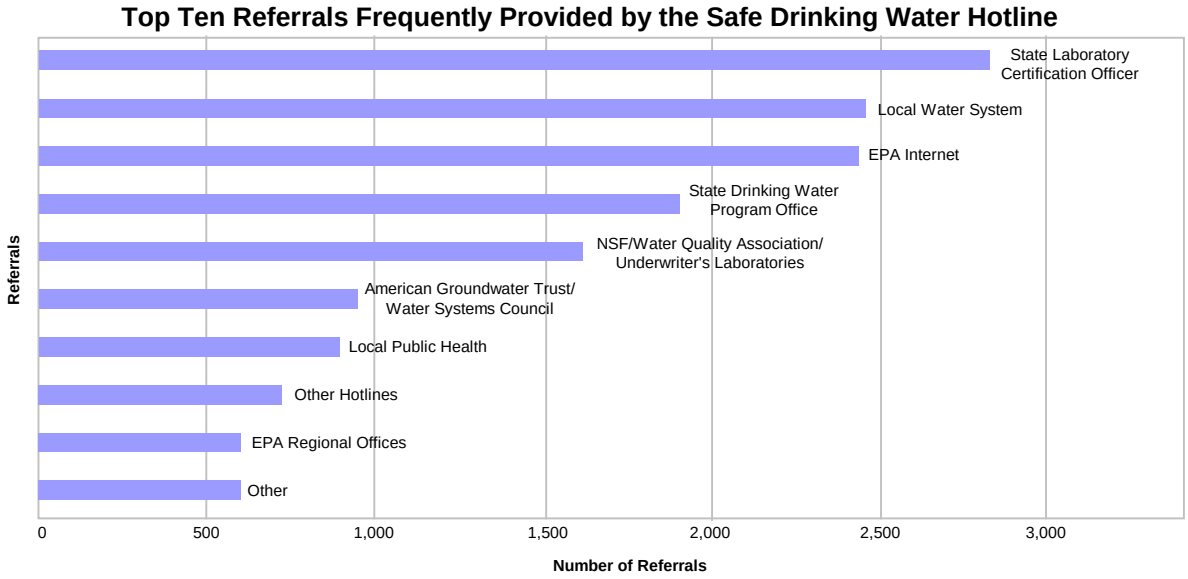
The following chart illustrates the distribution of calls and e-mails in FY 2003, compared to FY 2002. While the number of e-mails received each month remained fairly steady, the total number of calls peaked in June and July due to the annual distribution of consumer confidence reports (CCRs).



Customer Profiles: As illustrated by the chart below, the Hotline serves a diverse group of customers. Of the 24,906 calls and e-mails received during the FY 2003, **the largest category of Hotline customers, by far, are citizens who obtain their drinking water from public water systems and citizens who have private household wells**. Citizens are followed by consultants, PWS operators, government officials, others, and academic institutions. The "other" category in the chart below includes analytical laboratories, people who accessed the Hotline from other countries, environmental groups, individuals who communicated with Hotline staff in Spanish, medical professionals, and news media representatives.



Top Ten Referrals: Referrals are often provided when questions require input from state and local water programs, not-for-profit organizations, or other federal agencies. In FY 2003, the Hotline provided over 18,000 referrals including, EPA's Web site for frequently requested documents, state laboratory certification offices for questions regarding tap water testing, and local water systems for water system specific information. The top ten referrals are displayed below.



Top Ten Topics: Year after year, certain issues, such as local drinking water quality and tap water testing, consistently top the list of the most frequently discussed topics at the Safe Drinking Water Hotline. The table below lists the ten topics that were most frequently discussed with Hotline callers and via e-mail during FY 2003.

Topic	Questions (phone & e-mail)	Percent of Total Questions
Tap Water Testing	3,193*	10
Local Drinking Water Quality	2,979	10
CCR	2,606	8
Wells	1,701	5
Home Water Treatment Units	1,448	5
Lead	1,437	5
Issues requiring referrals to other EPA offices or Hotlines	1,247	4
Issues requiring referrals to Non-EPA governmental offices	1,118	4
SDWA Background Information	1,099	4
Coliforms	899	3

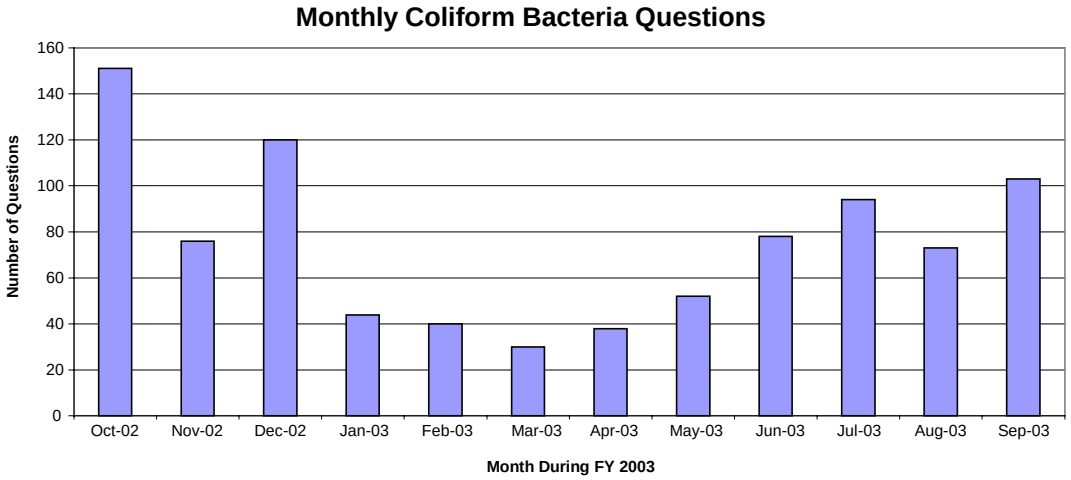
* Citizens who obtain their drinking water from private household wells asked 30 percent of the tap water testing questions.

Annual Trends

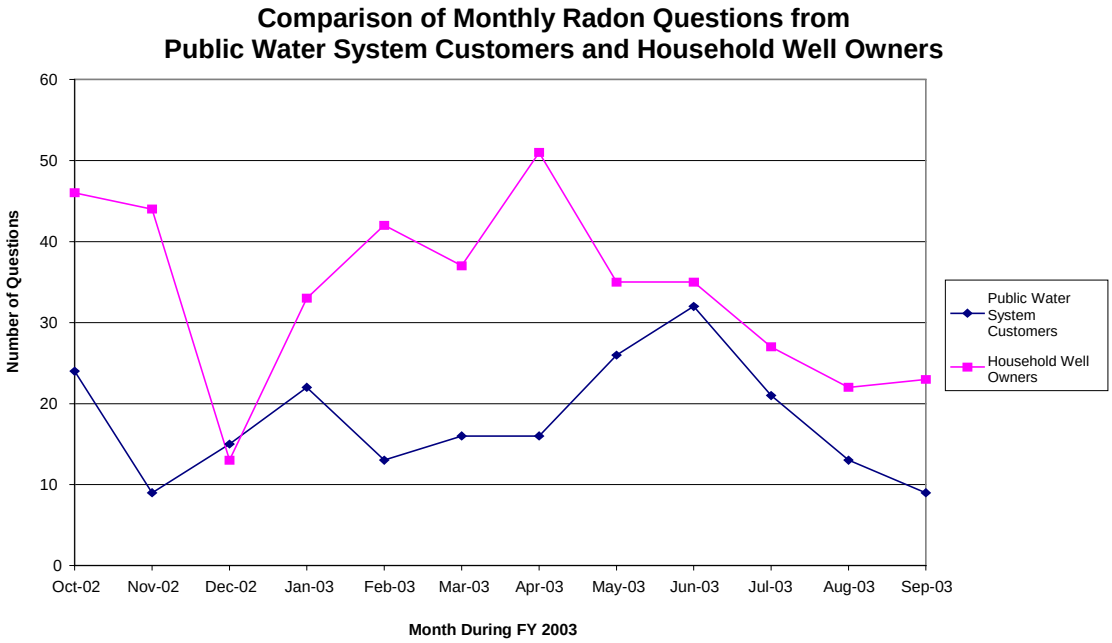
The Hotline staff gathers general statistical data on the calls and e-mails to which it responds. These data, combined with the staff members' insight and observations, provide a unique opportunity to identify and analyze trends in the number and types of Hotline inquiries. Some examples of these trends are illustrated below.

Lead Questions: Questions about lead in drinking water are consistently among the most frequently asked questions to the Hotline. The particularly high volume of lead questions received in June and July 2003 coincided with the nationwide distribution of CCRs, each of which include specific language about lead as a contaminant of concern.

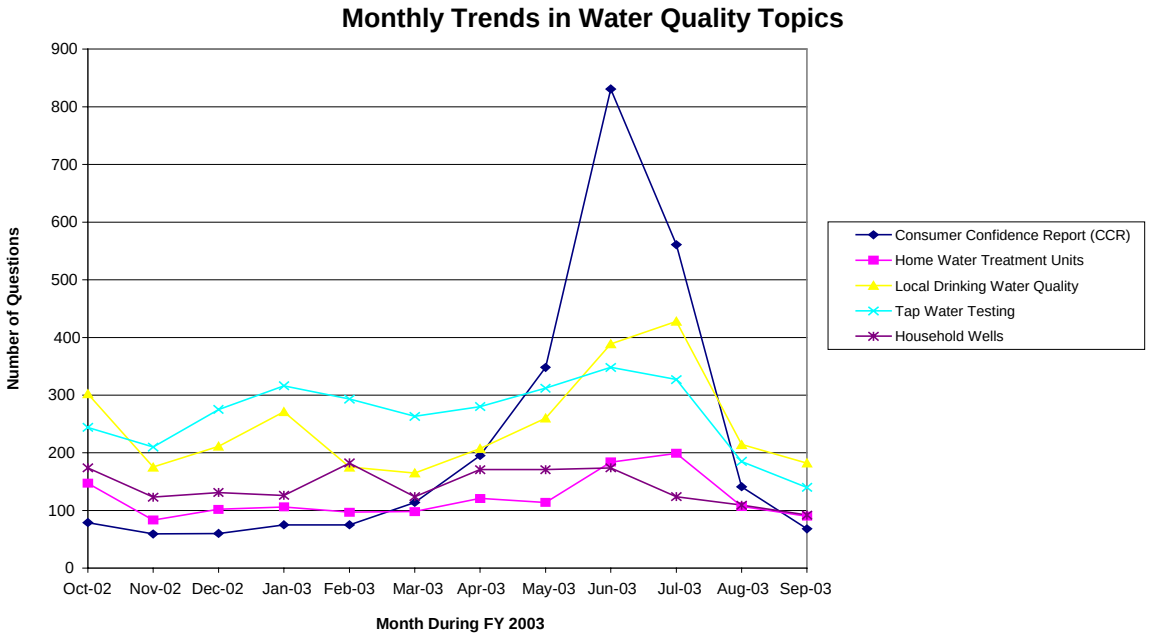
Coliform Bacteria Questions: The Hotline receives numerous questions about Coliform bacteria in association with public notifications of Total Coliform Rule violations. The peak number of questions received in October 2002 and December 2002 were associated with questions about boil water notices issued in Tampa, FL and Boca Raton, FL, respectively. Historically, the highest volume of questions about Coliform bacteria occurs in months during and following the summer season. Warm summer temperatures are more conducive to bacterial growth. To better address common questions about Coliform bacteria and associated public notices, the Hotline staff developed a set of Questions and Answers to inform the public about potential health risks associated with the presence of Coliform bacteria in drinking water and to provide an explanation of public notification requirements.



Radon Questions by Water Supply Source: The Hotline continues to get questions on radon from both household well owners and PWS customers. The following chart shows that, during most of FY 2003, citizens asked the most questions about radon.



Monthly Trends: The top five commonly asked questions concern tap water testing, local drinking water quality, consumer confidence reports (CCRs), household wells, and home water treatment units. The following chart illustrates the distribution of those questions throughout FY 2003. The dramatic increase in CCR questions in June and July coincided with the nationwide distribution of the reports.



Citizens' Questions

Safe, clean drinking water is an issue of importance and concern to citizens across the United States. This is evidenced by the fact that nearly 70 percent of Safe Drinking Water Hotline customers are private citizens (as opposed to utility operators, government officials, consultants, etc.). Consequently, many of the Questions and Answers that the Hotline features in its Monthly Reports are presented from the citizen's perspective. During FY 2003, such questions included the following:

I just received my water quality report. Is my water safe to drink? (page 9)

I am concerned about the quality of my drinking water, but I am afraid to ask the water company for information. How can I find out if my water system is in compliance and providing safe drinking water? (page 10)

Are the current drinking water standards protective of my children's health? Is there a list of drinking water contaminants that may be particularly harmful to children? (page 11)

I read that the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations apply to public water systems in all states. Does this include the District of Columbia? (page 11)

I am concerned that the salt used for highway deicing is contaminating my well water supply. Can these chemicals affect the quality of my drinking water? (page 11)

My consumer confidence report says that the water met or exceeded all national primary drinking water standards in 2002. Who performs the water analysis? (page 11)

My consumer confidence report shows that my state has given my water system a monitoring waiver. How is this possible? (page 12)

My water system provided me with a public notification about a health-based violation of a drinking water regulation? Will drinking my tap water make me sick? (page 13)

My state has a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.0005 mg/L for chlordane in drinking water, but the federal standard is 0.002 mg/L. Why does the state have a different standard? (page 13)

My neighbors and I are experiencing a type of oily residue in our water. We have notified our water department, but nothing has been resolved. Who should I notify regarding this problem? (page 13)

Are drinking water additives such as chemicals used for fluoridation and coagulation, regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act? (page 13)

Our water quality has been terrible for days, but the water company says that there is no problem and will not provide any information more current than the 2002 annual water quality report. With whom can I speak about this situation? (page 14)

What can I do to prepare for Hurricane Isabel or other drinking water emergencies? (page 14)

The drinking water I receive from a public water system has an unfamiliar odor and a slight discoloration. I am concerned that this is an indication of lead in my drinking water. What can I do to determine if lead is in my drinking water? (page 14)

Does the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) require schools to test drinking water for lead? (page 15)

Is there a guidance document that outlines sampling techniques for testing lead in drinking water? (page 15)

Where can I obtain a list of water coolers that are not lead-free? (page 15)

What is hardness in water? How does it affect my drinking water? (page 15)

I received a public notification for a radionuclide maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation. The notice states that the health effect is an increased risk of cancer. Is the risk of getting cancer the same for both short-term and long-term radionuclide exposure through drinking water? (page 18)

Are storm water wells covered under the Underground Injection Control Program? (page 20)

Do UIC Class V well requirements apply to a household septic system? (page 20)

Questions and Answers

The following questions and answers, organized by subject, represent the range of questions addressed by the Hotline on a variety of topics. These questions were included in FY 2003 Monthly Hotline Reports.

Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)

Q: *A community water system (CWS) is required to complete an annual consumer confidence report (CCR). Is it necessary to include contaminants detected while monitoring for compliance with the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)?*

A: Yes. The CCR table must contain detected unregulated contaminants for which a CWS is required to monitor, including the average and range at which the contaminant is detected. The report may include a brief explanation of why the CWS is monitoring for unregulated contaminants (40 CFR 141.153(d)(7)).

Q: *A community water system (CWS) has performed voluntary monitoring that indicates the presence of non-regulated contaminants. Is this monitoring information included in the annual consumer confidence report (CCR)? If so, how is this information presented?*

A: EPA strongly encourages CWSs to report any monitoring results that may indicate a health concern, such as detection of a contaminant above a proposed MCL or health advisory level. EPA recommends that the CCR include the results of the monitoring and an explanation of the significance of the results, noting the existence of a health advisory or a proposed regulation. If additional information for non-regulated contaminants is included, it must be displayed outside of the detected contaminants table(s) (*Revised State Implementation Guidance for the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule*, EPA816-R-01-002, January 2001).

Q: *Public water systems (PWSs) are required to report the highest contaminant level used to determine compliance with a National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) and also the range of the detected levels in their annual consumer confidence report (CCR) (141.153(d)(4)(iv)). How does a PWS report the sampling data on a CCR for a contaminant when compliance for that contaminant is determined on a running annual average basis?*

A: When the PWS determines compliance with the NPDWR by calculating a running annual average of all samples taken at a sampling point, the PWS must include the highest average of the sampling point (as reported to the state for compliance purposes) and the range of levels detected. If compliance is determined by a running annual average of all samples at all sampling points, the PWS must include the highest average of the contaminant levels detected and the range of detected levels (40 CFR 141.153(d)(4)(iv)(B) and (C)).

Q: *Community water systems are required to mail or directly deliver one copy of the annual consumer confidence report (CCR) to each customer. Can community water systems obtain a waiver from this requirement?*

A: The governor of a state, his designee, or a tribal leader where the tribe has met the eligibility requirements in Section 142.72, can waive the CCR distribution requirements for community water systems serving fewer than 10,000 persons. A system that obtains a waiver must inform its customers that the report will not be mailed, publish the CCR in one or more newspapers serving the local area, and make the report available to the public upon request (40 CFR 141.155(g)).

Q: *If a state has completed a source water assessment, must community water systems (CWSs) in the state include this information in their consumer confidence reports (CCRs)?*

A: Yes. If a source water assessment has been completed, the CCRs must contain information about the availability of the assessment and the means to obtain it. CWSs that have received their source water assessments must provide brief summaries of their source water's susceptibility to contamination. If source water assessment information is not available, CWSs are encouraged to include any other information about potential sources of contamination (40 CFR 141.153(b)(2)).

Q: *Community water systems (CWSs) must submit to their primacy agencies copies of their consumer confidence reports (CCRs), as well as certifications stating that the reports have been distributed to customers and that the information is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the primacy agencies (40 CFR 141.155(c)). How long must a primacy agency retain the CCRs and the certifications?*

A: Each primacy agency must maintain copies of the CCRs for all water systems in the state for a period of one year. The agency must also keep the corresponding certifications for a period of five years (40 CFR 142.16(f)(3))

Q: *Community water systems (CWSs) must mail certifications to the primacy agencies stating that the consumer confidence reports have been distributed to customers, and that the information is correct and consistent with the compliance monitoring data previously submitted to the primacy agencies (40 CFR 141.155(c)). Has EPA provided guidance on acceptable certification formats?*

A: Example certification formats can be found in Appendix C of the *Revised State Implementation Guidance for the Consumer Confidence Repor*t *(CCR) Rule* (EPA816-R-01-002, January 2001) and in Appendix D of *Preparing Your Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Repor*t (EPA816-R-01-003, January 2001).

Q: *I just received my water quality report. Is my water safe to drink?*

A: Drinking water meeting national primary drinking water standards is safe to drink, although people with severely compromised immune systems and children may have special needs. Public water systems (PWSs) obtain their water from a variety of sources and treat the water using a variety of available treatment technologies. Because of the different sources of water and the different ways in which water is treated, the quality of drinking water varies from place to place. Over 90 percent of water systems meet EPA's health-based standards for tap water quality. Community water systems are required to send their customers annual consumer confidence reports. These reports tell consumers what contaminants have been detected in their drinking water and how these detection levels compare to drinking water standards. The reports must clearly identify any data indicating violations of health-based standards. The indication of a violation must include language

about the potential health effects from consuming water with contaminants at levels above the national standards (OGWDW Frequently Asked Questions Web site, www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/faq.html).

Q: *Our utility is in the process of developing the consumer confidence report (CCR). We would like to use the CCR Writer v2.0 software, but we are having difficulty downloading it from EPA's Web site. Is the software available on CD-ROM?*

A: EPA is able to provide the CCRWriter v2.0 CD-ROM on a limited basis. New requirements (such as the new Arsenic language) for the 2003 reports are not included in the old CD-ROM software. EPA recently released a Web based version of the software, CCRiWriter, which is the most up to date software possible and includes all new requirements. The CCRiWriter is more user-friendly than the CD-ROM. It takes users through all the sections of a CCR, converts lab results into "CCR units," and allows users to insert and edit EPA's recommended text. Users access the secure Web site with a user id and password and can download the finished report in pdf or Word. A link to the CCRiWriter application and additional information about the application is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr/ccrwriter.html.

Q: *Community water systems (CWSs) must send copies of their consumer confidence reports (CCRs) to their primacy agencies by July 1st of each year (40 CFR 141.155(c)). Can CWSs e-mail their CCRs to the primacy agency*?

A: CWSs can send their CCRs to the primacy agencies in an electronic or hard copy format (*Revised State Implementation Guidance for the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule,* EPA816-R-01-002, January 2001).

Q: *I am concerned about the quality of my drinking water, but I am afraid to ask the water company for information. How can I find out if my water system is in compliance and providing safe drinking water?*

A: Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, most water suppliers are required to provide their customers with annual drinking water quality reports, or consumer confidence reports (CCRs). These reports tell consumers, among other things, what contaminants have been detected in their drinking water and how these detection levels compare to national drinking water standards. The reports must be provided annually before July 1, and, in most instances, are mailed directly to customers' homes. Your water system's CCR may be posted on-line at: www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo.htm. Alternately, to obtain a copy of your water system's most recent CCR or additional information about the system, contact your local water supplier directly. If you have reason to believe that your water supplier is not complying with federal drinking water regulations, you may contact your state drinking water program office.

Q: *Must a community water system distribute consumer confidence reports (CCRs) to consumers who are served by the system but are not bill-paying customers (e.g., renters or workers)?*

A: According to 40 CFR 141.155(b), a system must make a good faith effort to distribute its CCR to consumers who do not receive water bills, using means recommended by the primacy agency. A good faith effort to reach consumers would include a mix of methods appropriate to the particular system, such as posting the reports on the Internet, mailing to postal patrons in metropolitan areas, advertising the availability of the report in the news media, publication in a local newspaper, posting in public places such as cafeterias or lunch rooms of public buildings, delivery of multiple copies for distribution by single-biller customers such as apartment buildings or large private employers, and delivery to community organizations.

General Regulatory

Q: *A public water system (PWS) supplied by a surface water source or a ground water source under the direct influence of surface water must monitor the residual disinfectant level in the distribution system (40 CFR 141.74). At what points in the distribution system must these samples be taken? How often must a PWS take samples?*

A: The residual disinfectant concentration must be measured at least at the same points in the distribution system and at the same time as total coliforms are sampled, as specified in 40 CFR 141.21 (141.74(b)(6)(i), 141.74(c)(3)(i)). Monitoring frequency is based on the population served by the water system. Samples must be collected at regular time intervals throughout the month (141.21). A state may specify alternate sampling points if it determines that those points are more representative of treated (i.e., disinfected) water quality in the distribution system (141.74(b)(6)(i), 141.74(c)(3)(i)).

Q: *When a public water system samples the water to test for metal contaminants, are the samples taken before or after the water has been treated?*

A: Systems that use ground water must take a minimum of one sample at every entry point to the distribution system that is representative of each well after treatment. Systems that use surface water or a combination of surface water and ground water must take a minimum of one sample at every entry point to the distribution system after treatment or in the distribution system at a point that is representative of each source a*fter treatment (40 CFR 141.23(a)(1) and (2)).*

Q: *Are the current drinking water standards protective of my children's health? Is there a list of drinking water contaminants that may be particularly harmful to children?*

A: The National Primary Drinking Water Standards are designed to protect children and adults. The standards take into account the potential health effects contaminants can have on populations that are most at risk. Before developing a standard, EPA conducts a risk assessment in which scientists evaluate whether fetuses, infants, children, or other groups are more vulnerable to a contaminant than the general population. The standards are set to protect the most vulnerable group. Additionally, EPA continues to conduct research to determine if revisions to existing standards are necessary. Further information about drinking water standards for children and a list of drinking water contaminants that may be particularly harmful to children is available in EPA's *Children and Drinking Water Standards* (EPA815-K-9-001, December 1999) on the Internet at www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/child.pdf.

Q: *I read that the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations apply to public water systems in all states. Does this include the District of Columbia?*

A: Yes. The National Primary Drinking Water Regulations apply to public water systems in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Northern Marianna Islands, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (SDWA 1401(13)(A), 1411).

Q: *I am concerned that the salt used for highway deicing is contaminating my well water supply. Can these chemicals affect the quality of my drinking water?*

A: Sodium chloride is the most commonly used deicer that can affect drinking water quality. Sodium can lead to cardiovascular, kidney, and liver diseases, and has a direct link to high blood pressure. Although, there is no maximum contaminant level (MCL) or health advisory level for sodium, there is a Drinking Water Equivalent Level (DWEL) of 20 mg/L. This value was developed for those individuals restricted to a total sodium intake of 500 mg/day and are not to be extrapolated to the entire population. Chloride, for which EPA has established a national secondary drinking water standard of 250 mg/L, adds a salty taste to water and corrodes pipes. Secondary standards are established only as guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations such as taste, color, and odor (*Source Water Protection Practices Bulletin: Managing Highway Deicing to Prevent Contamination of Drinking Water*, EPA816-F-02-019, August 2002).

Q: *My consumer confidence report says that the water met or exceeded all national primary drinking water standards in 2002. Who performs the water analysis?*

A: For determining compliance, a sample will only be considered if it has been analyzed by a state certified laboratory. However, any person considered acceptable to the state can take measurements for alkalinity, calcium, conductivity, disinfectant residual, orthophosphate, pH, silica, temperature, and turbidity (40 CFR 141.28(a)).

Q: *In 1995, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D. C. Circuit granted a voluntary motion to remand the maximum contaminant level (MCL) and the maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for nickel. On what date were the standards no longer in effect?*

A: The MCL and MCLG for nickel were no longer in effect as of February 23, 1995. This date corresponds with the court's original remand order. The June 29, 1995 Federal Register notice removed the MCL and MCLG from the Code of Federal Regulations (60 FR 33926; 33929).

Q: *The 2001 edition of the CFR states that groundwater systems must monitor quarterly for nitrate if they get a result of < 50 percent of the MCL (40 CFR 141.23(d)(2)). Is this a typographical error or has the regulation changed?*

A: According to Jeanne Campbell of EPA's OGWDW, this is a typographical error. The correct requirement is for groundwater systems to monitor quarterly for one year following any one sample in which the nitrate concentration is "greater than or equal to" 50 percent of the MCL.

Q: *What are the definitions of reference dose (Rfd) and drinking water equivalent level (DWEL)? How does EPA use these values to develop maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) for non-carcinogenic drinking water contaminants?*

A: The reference dose (Rfd) is an estimate (with uncertainty spanning perhaps an order of magnitude) of a daily oral exposure to the human population (including sensitive subgroups) that is likely to be without an appreciable risk of deleterious effects during a lifetime. The DWEL is a lifetime exposure concentration protective of adverse, non-cancer health effects that assumes all of the exposure to a contaminant is from drinking water. The Rfd is used to determine the DWEL and the MCLG for non-carcinogenic contaminants, not including microbial contaminants. The DWEL is calculated by multiplying the Rfd by typical adult body weight (70 kg) then dividing that value by estimated daily water consumption (2 liters). Finally, the DWEL is multiplied by a percentage of the total daily exposure contributed by drinking water (often 20 percent) to determine the MCLG. Further information on setting standards for drinking water is available at the following Web site: www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/setting.html.

Q: *My consumer confidence report shows that my state has given my water system a monitoring waiver. How is this possible?*

A: A state with primary enforcement responsibility and an approved source water assessment program may adopt alternative monitoring requirements (as an alternative to chemical monitoring requirements set forth in the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations) for public water systems. A state program must be adequate to assure compliance with applicable national primary drinking water regulations (SDWA 1418(b)(1)).

Q: *What is the difference between the Central Data Exchange (CDX), the Safe Drinking Water Accession and Review System (SDWARS) and the National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD)?*

A: CDX is an electronic data receiving system for most environmental compliance reporting, including UCMR. UCMR data entered into CDX is stored in SDWARS, which is the information system that supports the collection of data for the UCMR. Data in SDWARS is made publicly available through the NCOD. NCOD contains occurrence data about regulated and unregulated contaminants. (*Implementation Guidelines for SDWARS/UCMR Volume I: Introduction to CDX and UCMR Submissions,* EPA816-R-01-022A, December 2001).

Q: *The maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total coliform is based on its presence or absence in a water sample (40 CFR 141.63(a)). Why is the total coliform MCL based on presence or absence rather than an estimation of coliform density?*

A: The total coliform presence-absence based MCL is used because there is no relationship between coliform densities and either pathogen density or the potential for a waterborne disease outbreak (52 FR 42224, 42227; November 3, 1987). Additionally, coliform presence or absence determination is easier to make then to determine coliform density, is less influenced by sample transit time than a density determination, and is not subject to the calculation difficulties implicit in the statistical methodology of coliform density calculations (54 FR 27544, 27548; June 29, 1989).

Q: *Can point-of-entry (POE) devices be used to comply with the maximum contaminant levels established under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations?*

A: A public water system (PWS) may use POE devices, provided the system achieves certain requirements. Every building connected to the PWS must have a POE device installed, maintained, and adequately monitored. It is the responsibility of the PWS to operate and maintain the POE devices. The effective technology must be properly applied under a plan approved by the state. The POE devices must provide health protection equivalent to central water treatment and the microbiological safety of the water may not be compromised. The state must require adequate certification of all POE devices and, if not included in the certification process, a

rigorous engineering design review of the POE devices (40 CFR 141.100).

Q: *My water system provided me with a public notification about a health-based violation of a drinking water regulation? Will drinking my tap water make me sick?*

A: A public water system's violation of a health-based standard does not mean that the people who consume the system's water will become sick. A health-based violation means that either a system has exposed its users to what EPA has judged as an unreasonable risk of illness, or a system has failed to treat the water to the extent EPA has judged necessary to protect users from an unreasonable risk of illness in the event that the regulated contaminant is present in source water (*Providing Safe Drinking Water In America: 2000 National Public Water Systems Compliance Repor*t, EPA305-R-02-001, July 2002).

Q: *Where can I find a list of approved analytical methods for drinking water compliance monitoring?*

A: A list of the analytical methods approved for compliance monitoring under the Safe Drinking Water Act is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/methods/methods.html.

Q: *My state has a maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 0.0005 mg/L for chlordane in drinking water, but the federal standard is 0.002 mg/L. Why does the state have a different standard?*

A: States that are authorized to implement their own water program may use the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations or their own regulations, provided that they are no less stringent than federal standards (SDWA 1413(a)(1)).

Q: *My neighbors and I are experiencing a type of oily residue in our water. We have notified our water department, but nothing has been resolved. Whom do I notify regarding this problem?*

A: The state drinking water program office handles all complaints and enforcement situations against public water systems. This is the regulatory authority for all public water systems in the state and can help you with this problem. State drinking water program office contact information is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo.htm.

Q: *Where can I get a list of addresses for public water systems?*

A: An EPA MS Excel PivotTable with SDWIS/FED data containing public water system addresses can be downloaded at the following URL: www.epa.gov/safewater/data/zips.

Q: *Are drinking water additives such as chemicals used for fluoridation and coagulation, regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act?*

A: The Safe Drinking Water Act does not require EPA to regulate the use of additives in drinking water. Originally, EPA assisted states and public water systems with the use of water additives; however, in 1988 EPA established a cooperative agreement with NSF International to develop voluntary consensus safety standards for drinking water additives (53 FR 25586, 25586; July 7, 1988).

Q: *EPA has set standards (maximum contaminant levels and treatment techniques) for approximately 90 contaminants. What guidelines does EPA follow to determine if a particular contaminant will be regulated?*

A: The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to consider three evaluation criteria when determining whether or not to regulate a substance: potential adverse health affects from the contaminant, occurrence of the contaminant in public water systems including the frequency it is present at levels of public health concern, and whether regulation of the contaminant would present a meaningful opportunity for health risk reduction for persons served by public water systems (SDWA 1412(b)(1)(A)).

Q: *The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to review and revise the national primary drinking water regulations at least every six years (SDWA 1412(b)(9)). Can EPA establish a less stringent standard for an existing national primary drinking water regulation?*

A: Yes. If new peer-reviewed scientific health effects research indicates that a regulation could be raised while maintaining public health protection, then such a change is permitted. The statute precludes EPA from using economic impacts as the sole basis for a revision that would provide less health protection than the current standard (*EPA Protocol for the Review of Existing National Primary Drinking Water Regulations*, EPA815-R-03-002, June 2003).

Q: *"Community water system" means a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-around residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents (40 CFR 141.2). How does EPA define year-round resident?*

A: A year-round resident is an individual whose primary residence is served by the water system. The individual need not live at the residence for 365 days a year for it to be considered his/her year-round residence (*Public Water System Supervision Program Water Supply Guidance Manual, #66a*, January 2000).

Q: *For the purpose of determining compliance with the maximum contaminant level (MCL) for total coliforms, does a public water system (PWS) have to count total coliform monitoring repeat samples in their calculations?*

A: Yes. A PWS must include the results of repeat samples in their calculations to determine compliance with the total coliform MCL (40 CFR 141.21(a)(6)).

Q: *Our water quality has been terrible for days, but the water company says that there is no problem and will not provide any information more current than the 2002 annual water quality report. With whom can I speak about this situation?*

A: Public water systems oversee the drinking water delivered to your home. First, contact your drinking water provider. If you do not obtain a satisfactory explanation, contact your state drinking water program office, which has the regulatory enforcement authority to ensure water systems in the state are meeting all drinking water standards. [State drinking water program offices can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo.htm.] Finally, the Environmental Protection Agency may be able to help. Please contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline if you need assistance in obtaining any telephone numbers.

Q: *How can one obtain a list of public or community water systems that serve a certain population size?*

A: These data are generally available from the SDWIS database, publicly accessible at www.epa.gov/enviro/html/sdwis. Alternately, a person may submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to obtain a list of systems serving a particular population range.

Q: *What can I do to prepare for Hurricane Isabel or other drinking water emergencies?*

A: EPA recommends that you have at least a three-gallon supply of water per person. Typically, this would be enough water for three days. Store water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers. Soft drink bottles, for instance, work very well. The containers should be tightly sealed, labeled and stored in a cool, dark place. Under these conditions, water can be stored for six months.

If you do not have stored water and there is an emergency, you can use the water in your hot-water tank, pipes, and ice cubes. The water in the reservoir tank of your toilet (not the bowl) can also be used as a last resort. The following Web sites provide additional information, including where to find water outside your home, ways to purify water and other steps you can take to prepare for natural disasters.

Federal Emergency Management Agency -- www.fema.gov
American Red Cross -- www.redcross.org/home
Department of Homeland Security -- www.ready.gov

Lead and Copper

Q: *The drinking water I receive from a public water system has an unfamiliar odor and a slight discoloration. I am concerned that this is an indication of lead in my drinking water. What can I do to determine if lead is in my drinking water?*

A: To determine if lead is in your drinking water, contact a state certified laboratory to have your drinking water tested for excessive lead concentrations. Testing drinking water is essential in determining whether lead is present because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water (40 CFR 141.85(a)(1)(iv)(A)). Contact your state certification officer to get a list of certified laboratories in your state. To find state certification officer contact information, call or e-mail the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or visit the OGWDW Web site at www.epa.gov/safewater/faq/sco.html.

Q: *A community water system that exceeds the lead action level on the basis of tap water samples must deliver pamphlets and/or brochures that contain public education material to facilities and organizations (40 CFR 141.85(c)(2)(iii)). What type of organizations and facilities will satisfy this requirement?*

A: Facilities and organizations include Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and /or Head Start programs (if available); public and private hospitals or clinics; family planning clinics; and local welfare agencies (*Lead in Drinking Water Regulation: Public Education Guidance*, EPA816-R-02-010, June 2002).

Q: *As a community water system, how do we inform our customers of an exceedance of the lead action level if our billing cycle falls outside the 60-day requirement?*

A: A community water system having a billing cycle that does not include a billing within 60 days of exceeding the action level, or that cannot insert information in the water utility bill without making major changes to its billing system, may use a separate mailing to deliver the information as long as the information is delivered to each customer within 60 days of exceeding the action level (40 CFR 141.85(c)(2)(i)).

Q: *Does the Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) require schools to test drinking water for lead?*

A: No. The LCCA directed EPA to publish guidance to assist schools, local education agencies and day care centers in discovering the levels of lead contamination in drinking-water coolers and taking actions to reduce contamination. The LCCA requires the identification of water coolers that are not lead-free, the repair or removal of water coolers with lead-lined tanks, a ban on the manufacture and sale of water coolers that are not lead free, the identification and resolution of lead problems in schools' drinking water, and the authorization of additional funds for lead screening programs for children.

Q: *When a public water system (PWS) asks its customers to collect first-draw samples for lead testing compliance, how long can the PWS wait before performing acidification on the samples? After acidification, must the first-draw samples stand for a certain period of time?*

A: A PWS has up to 14 days after the first-draw samples are collected to perform the acidification. After acidification, the samples must stand in the original containers for the time specified in the approved EPA method before the samples can be analyzed (40 CFR 141.86(b)(2)).

Q: *Is there a guidance document that outlines sampling techniques for testing lead in drinking water?*

A: Sampling techniques for testing lead in drinking water are outlined in EPA's approved methods for compliance monitoring of lead in drinking water. In addition, a document entitled *Lead and Copper Monitoring and Reporting Guidance for Public Water Systems* (EPA816-R-02-009) provides guidance on lead and copper monitoring for public water systems. This guidance document is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrmr/finalmonitoringguidance.pdf.

Q: *Where can I obtain a list of water coolers that are not lead-free?*

A: A list of water coolers that are known to have lead components can be found in the document titled *Lead in School Drinking Water Coolers Fact Sheet*, EPA810-F-90-021. This list was published in the Federal Register on January 18, 1990 (55 FR 1772) and includes the companies that manufacture the water coolers and the model numbers.

Q: *EPA recommends that schools and day care facilities test their drinking water for lead because it is a significant health concern, especially for young children and infants. Is there guidance available for schools and day care facilities that would like to test for lead in their drinking water?*

A: EPA has produced several guidance documents that would assist schools and day care facilities with testing for lead in drinking water. In 1994, EPA published a guidance document entitled Lead in Drinking Water in School and Nonresidential Buildings, EPA812-B-94-002, which provides an overall framework for conducting a lead sampling program. EPA also published a companion document entitled *Sampling for Lead in Drinking Water in Nursery Schools and Day Care Facilities*, EPA812-B-94-003. Both of these documents are available on the Internet at www.epa.gov/safewater/lead/testing.htm.

Q: *What is hardness in water? How does it affect my drinking water*?

A: Hardness is a measure of the amount of calcium and magnesium in the water. It is usually measured with combined calcium and magnesium levels and reported as Calcium Carbonate (CaCO3). The calcium and magnesium compounds can interfere with

corrosion control because they are less soluble at high pH levels than at low pH levels. When corrosion control techniques are selected and implemented, hardness must be taken into consideration because it can cause unintended side effects such as increased scaling, both within the pump station and treatment plant or out in the service area (*Revised Guidance Manual for Selecting Lead and Copper Control Strategies*, EPA816-R-03-001, March 2003).

Microbials and Disinfection Byproducts (MDBP)

Q: *What must a public water system using chlorine or chloramines measure to determine compliance with the maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL)?*

A: For compliance with the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, community water systems (CWSs) and non-transient non-community water systems (NTNCWSs) using chlorine to maintain a residual disinfectant must measure either free chlorine or total chlorine to determine compliance with the MRDL. CWSs and NTNCWs using chloramines to maintain a residual disinfect must measure either total chlorine or combined chlorine (63 FR 69390, 69425; December 16, 1998).

Q: *The Surface Water Treatment Rule requires the residual disinfectant concentration in water entering the distribution system to be no less than 0.2 mg/L for more than four consecutive hours (40 CFR 141.72(a)(3) and (b)(2)). How did EPA arrive at the four-hour time interval?*

A: EPA believes that some time allowance is allotted for systems to restore the disinfectant residual rather than categorically defining this absence as a treatment technique violation. Once systems are aware that the disinfectant concentration level is low or absent, four hours is a reasonable amount of time for operators to adjust and/or repair the disinfection or monitoring equipment or to bring backup disinfection or monitoring units on-line (54 FR 27486, 27494; June 29, 1989).

Q: What has EPA established as the Best Available Technology (BAT) available for compliance with the maximum residual disinfectant levels (MRDLs) for chlorine, chloramines, and chlorine dioxide?

A: EPA has identified the following as the BAT to achieve compliance with the MRDLs for chlorine, chloramines, and chlorine dioxide: (1) control of treatment processes to reduce the disinfectant demand, and (2) control of disinfection treatment processes to reduce disinfectant levels (40 CFR 141.65(c)).

Q: *A community water system (CWS), using chlorine dioxide as a disinfectant, draws routine daily monitoring samples for chlorite at the entrance to the distribution system. If a CWS exceeds the MCL for chlorite, what additional monitoring must the system conduct?*

A: On each day following a routine sample monitoring result that exceeds the chlorite MCL at the entrance to the distribution system, the system is required to take three chlorite distribution system samples at the following locations: as close to the first customer as possible, in a location representative of average residence time, and as close to the end of the distribution system as possible. This follow-up monitoring is in addition to the daily sample required at the entrance to the distribution system (40 CFR 141.132(b)(2)).

Q: *We are going to be changing our water system's disinfection practice. Is there a public notification requirement when a system switches from chlorine to chloramines?*

A: According to Tom Grubbs of EPA's OGWDW, there is no formal notification requirement when a system changes its disinfection practice, but there are important reasons to do so when changing to chloramines. The system must notify the State because lead and copper issues. Since kidney dialysis patients will be affected, dialysis centers, hospitals, and other health care providers must be notified. Chloramines must be removed from water used for dialysis, and is more difficult than chlorine removal. In addition, because chloramines are toxic to fish, notify pet stores and aquariums so that they can remove any residual chloramines.

Q: *Our water system is subject to the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts (DBP) Rule. What requirements must we meet to qualify for reduced monitoring for disinfectant byproduct precursors (DBPP)?*

A: Subpart H systems with an average treated water total organic carbon (TOC) of less than 2.0 mg/L for two consecutive years, or less than 1.0 mg/L for one year, may reduce monitoring for both TOC and alkalinity to one paired sample and one source water alkalinity sample per plant per quarter (40 CFR 141.132(d)(2)). The system must revert to routine monitoring in the month

following the quarter when the annual average treated water TOC is greater than or equal to 2.0 mg/L.

Q: *When a public water system (PWS) monitors for chlorine in the distribution system, is the residual disinfectant measured as free chlorine or total chlorine?*

A: A PWS must measure residual disinfectant concentrations with one of the analytical methods approved by EPA for this purpose (40 CFR 141.74(a)(2)). The table in 40 CFR 141.74(a)(2) includes EPA approved analytical methods for residual disinfectant based on both free chlorine and total chlorine.

Q: *Is there a list of approved laboratories for analyzing Cryptosporidium under the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR)?*

A: A List of laboratories that have passed the Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program for Analysis of Cryptosporidium under the Safe Drinking Water Act is posted on EPA's Web site the following URL: www.epa.gov/safewater/lt2/aprvlabs.html. These laboratories have been granted "Approval Pending" status. "Approval" status is dependent on promulgation of the LT2ESWTR.

Q: *What are the five constituents of the haloacetic acids (HAA5) group and what is the maximum contaminant level (MCL) and maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for this group of constituents?*

A: The five haloacetic acid constituents are monochloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, and dibromoacetic acid. The MCL for HAA5 is 0.060 mg/L (40 CFR 141.64). This MCL is based on the sum of the concentrations of the five constituents (63 FR 69390, 69396; December 16, 1998). There is no MCLG for HAA5 as a group; however, two of the five constituents, dichloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid, have individual MCLGs of zero and 0.3 mg/L, respectively (40 CFR 141.53).

Q: *What are the constituents of the total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) group and what is the maximum contaminant level (MCL) and maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) for this contaminant group?*

A: The four constituents of the TTHM group are chloroform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform. TTHMs are regulated as a group with one MCL of 0.080 mg/L (40 CFR 141.64). Although there is no collective MCLG for this contaminant group, three of the four constituents, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, and bromoform, have individual MCLGs of zero, 0.06 mg/L, and zero, respectively (40 CFR 141.53).

Q: *The Long Term 1 Enhance Surface Water Treatment Rule requires Subpart H community and non-transient non-community water systems serving less than 10,000 persons to complete a disinfection profile. What is a disinfection profil*e?

A: A disinfection profile is a graphical representation of a system's level of giardia or virus inactivation during the course of a year. The disinfection profile shows the log inactivation of giardia and other viruses graphed as a function of time. It is used in the decision making process for a system's disinfection practices (e.g., a change in the point of disinfection, a change in the disinfectants used in treatment, a change in the disinfection process, or any other modification identified by the state) (*LT1ESWTR Disinfection Profiling and Benchmarking Technical Guidance Manual*, EPA816-R-03-004, May 2003).

Q: *EPA developed a Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program to identify laboratories that can reliably measure the occurrence of Cryptosporidium in surface water using EPA Methods 1622 and 1623. How can a laboratory obtain approval from EPA to use these methods to monitor for Cryptosporidium?*

A: The Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program is a voluntary program. Any laboratory may participate, provided it meets the personnel and laboratory criteria as outlined in the March 4, 2002 Federal Register Notice (67 FR 9731). Interested laboratories can submit completed application packages and supporting documentation to EPA's Laboratory Quality Assurance Coordinator. Laboratories are expected to analyze initial performance testing (IPT) samples. Upon successful completion of the IPT samples, EPA will conduct on-site evaluations and data audits. Laboratories that successfully complete the Laboratory Quality Assurance Evaluation Program will be granted "Approval Pending" status. Approval is dependant on the promulgation of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. Application packages and further information on the Quality Assurance Evaluation Program are

available at the following EPA Web site: www.epa.gov/safewater/lt2/cla_final.html.

Public Notification

Q: *A PWS has exceeded the MCL of 80 ppb for total trihalomethanes (TTHMs) for calendar year 2002. What is the public notification requirement?*

A: Exceeding the MCL for TTHMs is a Tier 2 violation. Public notification for a Tier 2 violation must be issued as soon as practical but within 30 days after a violation is discovered. For any unresolved Tier 2 violation, a PWS must repeat the notice every three months or until the violation is resolved, unless the primacy agency makes a determination that circumstances warrant a different repeat frequency. This may never be less frequent than once per year (40 CFR 141.203(b)). Additional guidance, including public notice templates, is available in *The Public Notification Handbook* (EPA816-R-00-010, June 2000) available at www.epa.gov/safewater/pn.html.

Q: *The Consumer Confidence Report Rule requires annual water quality reports to contain additional health information addressing special populations who may be immuno-compromised. Must this additional information also be included in public notifications required for maximum contaminant level, maximum residual disinfectant level, and treatment technique violations?*

A: The additional health information addressing immuno-compromised persons required in consumer confidence reports is not required in any public notifications. However, the Public Notification Rule requires the inclusion of health effect language referring to the special health risk for infants, young children, some elderly, and people with severely compromised immune systems when fecal coliform or E.coli is present. This health effect language is not required for any other violation (65 FR 25982, 26043; May 4, 2000).

Radionuclides

Q: *I have read that it is possible to treat drinking water with uranium contamination to levels at or below 20 µg/L. I have also read that EPA proposed an MCL of 20 µg/L in 1991. Why is uranium regulated at 30 µg/L and not 20 µg/L?*

A*:* EPA invoked discretionary authority under section 1412(b)(6) of the Safe Drinking Water Act to set an MCL for uranium at a level higher than the feasible level. Based on the relatively modest annual cancer risk reductions between 30 µg/L and 20 µg/L, the expected modest kidney toxicity risk reductions between 30 µg/L and 20 µg/L, and the high annual compliance costs for an MCL of 20 µg/L, EPA determined that the benefits did not justify the costs at the feasible level. EPA determined that an MCL of 30 µg/L maximizes the health risk reduction benefits at a cost justified by the benefits (65 FR 76708, 76715; December 7, 2000).

Q: *The "sum-of-the-fractions" method used to determine MCL compliance for beta particle and photon radioactivity expresses results in millirem/yr; however, results of beta particle analysis are given in pCi/L. How do you convert pCi/L to mrem/yr for the purpose of compliance with the beta particles and photon emitters standard?*

A: To determine compliance, each beta and photon emitter must be converted from pCi/L to millirem/yr using the conversion tables listed in *Maximum Permissible Body Burdens and Maximum Permissible Concentrations of Radionuclides in Air or Water for Occupational Exposure [National Bureau of Standards (NBS) Handbook 69* as amended August 1963, U.S. Department of Commerce] (40 CFR 141.66(d)(2)). Consult section II-B.2 of the *Final Implementation Guidance for Radionuclides*, EPA816-F-00-002, for a sample calculation of "sum-of-the-fractions" and Appendix I for the table of derived concentrations.

Q: *Can gross alpha particle activity analytical results be substituted for radium levels when determining compliance with the radium-226/228 standard?*

A: Gross alpha particle activity results may be substituted for the required radium-226 levels when determining compliance, provided that the measured gross alpha particle activity does not exceed 5 pCi/L. If the gross alpha particle activity result is less than the detection limit, then one-half the detection limit (i.e., 1.5 pCi/L) is used for radium-226 and is added to the radium-228 activity. The combined radium-226/228 value must be used to determine compliance. If the gross alpha particle activity result is above the detection limit, compliance is determined using the whole gross alpha result (40 CFR 141.26(a)(5)).

Q: *I received a public notification for a radionuclide maximum contaminant level (MCL) violation. The notice states that the health effect is an increased risk of cancer. Is the risk of getting cancer the*

same for both short-term and long-term radionuclide exposure through drinking water?

A: The likelihood of developing cancer or genetic mutations from short-term exposure to the concentrations of radionuclides found in drinking water supplies is negligible. However, long-term exposures may result in increased risks of genetic disorders and other ailments such as cancer, pre-cancerous lesions, benign tumors, and congenital defects. For example, an individual that is exposed to relatively high levels of radium-228 (e.g., 20 pCi/L) in drinking water over the course of a lifetime is projected to have a significantly increased chance of developing fatal cancer (roughly a one in one thousand increased risk if exposed to radium-228 at 20 pCi/L over a lifetime of 70 years) (65 FR 76708; December 10, 2000). For more information about the cancer causing effects of radiation see EPA's fact sheets on ionizing radiation and associated health effects at www.epa.gov/radiation/docs/ionize/ionize.htm.

Source Water Assessment

Q: *Is funding available to finance assessment and protection activities conducted under EPA's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program?*

A: Funds are available through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) to finance a variety of assessment and protection activities under the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. Up to 10 percent of a state's annual DWSRF allotment may be used for state program management of the source water protection program (SDWA 1452(g)(2)). Additionally, 15 percent of the DWSRF may be used for local assistance and other state programs (SDWA 1452(k)). Further information on using the DWSRF for source water protection activities is available in the *Fact Sheet: Using DWSRF Set-Aside Funds for Source Water Protection* (EPA816-F-00-013) available at the following Web site: www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/source.pdf. Additional funding through the CWSRF is authorized by the Clean Water Act to provide assistance to communities, water systems, and other organizations (including land conservation associations), for projects that protect source water and enhance water quality. Further information on using the CWSRF for source water protection activities is available in *Protecting Drinking Water with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund* (EPA832-F-00-001) available at the following Web site: www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/cwswp.html.

Q: *States are required to make the results of source water assessments available to the public (SDWA 1453(a)(7)). How does EPA define "public?" Does EPA provide guidance on recommended methods states may use to make these assessments available to the public?*

A: Public is defined as all consumers in a source water protection area as well as all other members of the public, including federal, state, and local government agencies. Public water systems must include information on the availability of completed source water assessments in their annual consumer confidence reports (40 CFR 141.153(b)(2)). Additional methods for making assessment results available to the public can be found in the *State Source Water Assessment and Protection Programs Final Guidan*ce (EPA816-R-97-009, August 1997) available at www.epa.gov/safewater/swp/swappg.html.

Q: Our state transportation department has plans to move a natural spring that serves as a partial source of drinking water for our community's well. To whom can we address our concerns about this proposed project?

A: If you have concerns about the potential impact of an activity on your community's source water, you may contact your state's Source Water Assessment and Protection Program office. The source water program offices for every state can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/dwinfo.htm.

Underground Injection Control (UIC)

Q: *Is it possible to find out the number of Class II oil and gas underground injection control (UIC) wells in a particular state?*

A: The approximate number of Class II oil and gas UIC wells in each state is provided at www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/classii.html. More specific information, including the exact number of Class II UIC wells in a state may be available from the state's Underground Injection Control Program contact. A list of these contacts is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/states.html.

Q: *Are storm water wells covered under the Underground Injection Control Program?*

A: Drainage wells used to drain surface fluids, primarily storm runoff, into a subsurface formation are considered Class V underground injection wells and subject to the Underground Injection Control Program (40 CFR 144.81(4)).

Q: *What is the difference between aquifer recharge wells and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells?*

A: Aquifer recharge wells are used only to replenish water in aquifers, while ASR wells are used to store water and then recover that water for a beneficial use (e.g., drinking water). Both types of wells, however, may have secondary objectives, such as subsidence control and prevention of salt-water intrusion into fresh water aquifers (*The Class V Underground Injection Control Study, Volume 21: Aquifer Recharge and Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells,* EPA816-R-99-014u, September 1999).

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Q: *I plan to construct a new Class V underground injection control (UIC) well that will be associated with the recovery of geothermal energy for the production of electric power. Do I need to provide notification to anyone? If so, to whom do I need to send it and what information do I need to include in the notification?*

A: You must provide basic inventory information about your well to your state, tribal, or EPA UIC Director, if you have not already done so pursuant to 40 CFR 144.26. If you are in a state that has UIC Program primacy (i.e., the state runs the UIC Class V Program), then you must contact your state UIC Director to determine exactly what information you must submit and by what date. If you are in a state that does not have primacy for its Class V UIC Program or in Indian Country, then EPA implements the Class V Program (i.e., Direct Implementation or DI Programs) and you must submit the inventory information described in 40 CFR 144.83(a)(2) prior to construction of your well. The basic UIC inventory information required by both primacy states and DI states or tribes includes the facility name and location, the name and address of a legal contact, the ownership of the facility, the nature and type of well(s), and the operating status of the injection well(s) (40 CFR 144.83).

Q: *Aquifer recharge wells and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells are employed for many purposes, including ground water resource management, water storage and recovery, prevention of salt water intrusion into fresh water aquifers, and subsidence control. Must the water injected into these wells meet all national primary and secondary drinking water standards?*

A: Injectate in aquifer recharge and ASR wells is required by most regulatory agencies to meet primary and secondary drinking water standards in order to prevent degradation of ambient ground water quality. However, aquifer recharge and ASR wells are not specifically defined by federal regulations and are not subject to any specific regulations tailored just for them, but are subject to the UIC regulations that exist for all Class V wells (*The Class V Underground Injection Control Study, Volume 21: Aquifer Recharge and Aquifer Storage and Recovery Wells*, EPA816-R-99-014u, September 1999).

Q: *The Underground Injection Control Director may authorize the conversion of a Class V motor vehicle waste disposal well to another type of Class V well if, among other things, all motor vehicle fluids are segregated by physical barriers and are not allowed to enter the well (40 CFR 141.89(b)). What kind of physical barrier would meet this requirement?*

A: Owners and operators must use physical barriers such as curbs, berms, and/or other containment structures to prevent motor vehicle fluids from entering the converted well. These structures should isolate the well being converted from motor vehicle waste fluids generated or stored in other areas of the facility (*Conversion of a Motor Vehicle Waste Disposal Well,* EPA816-R-00-017, November 2000).

Q: *Do UIC Class V well requirements apply to a household septic system?*

A: The UIC requirements do not apply to “single family residential septic wells, nor 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.” Septic system wells that are used to inject the waste or effluent from a multiple dwelling, a business establishment, or a community or regional business establishment into a septic tank are subject to the regulations governing class V wells (40 CFR 144.81(a)(9)).

Unregulated Conaminant Monitoring

Q: *Large water systems required to monitor for Aeromonas must arrange for testing using the approved method listed in 40 CFR 141.40 Table 1, List 2. Testing must be completed by a laboratory that is certified under 141.28 compliance analysis for coliform indicator bacteria using an EPA approved membrane filtration procedure and that also has been granted approval for UCMR monitoring of Aeromonas by successfully passing the Aeromonas Performance Testing (PT) Program administered by EPA (40 CFR 141.40(a)(5)(ii)(G)(3)). How can a PWS determine if a laboratory has passed EPA's performance testing program?*

A: Laboratories approved for Aeromonas analysis will receive approval documentation from EPA and will be listed on EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Web site. EPA will provide each successful laboratory with an approval letter identifying the laboratory by name and the approval date. This letter, and a copy of the laboratory's certification under 141.28 for compliance analysis of coliform indicator bacteria using an EPA approved membrane filtration procedure, may then be presented to any PWS as evidence of a laboratory approval for Aeromonas analysis supporting the UCMR. EPA will also post a list of the laboratories that have successfully completed the PT study at www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/ucmr/aprvlabs.html.

Q: *Is a public water system (PWS) that serves 10,000 or more persons and purchases its entire water supply from another system required to monitor for the contaminants under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation?*

A: PWSs (other than transient water systems) serving 10,000 persons or more that purchase their entire water supplies from other wholesale or retail public water systems must monitor for the unregulated contaminants on the UCMR List 1 that have a sampling location indicated as "distribution system" and, if notified by the State or EPA, must monitor for the contaminants on List 2 and/or List 3 that have a sampling location indicated as "distribution system" (40 CFR 141.40(a)(iii)).

Q: *We are preparing to do our Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule List 1 sampling. Is there a time frame specified for samples to be shipped to the laboratory for analysis?*

A: Unless otherwise informed by the state or EPA of other sampling arrangements, public water systems monitoring for List 1 contaminants must collect samples in a manner that allows adequate time for the samples to be sent via overnight delivery to the laboratory (40 CFR 141.40 (a)(5)(i)(A)). This is because some samples must be processed within 30 hours of collection.

Q: *Under the UCMR, EPA will arrange all testing and reporting of results for all systems serving a population of 10,000 or less (40 CFR 141.35(a)(2)). How can a small system obtain the UCMR data results for review?*

A: A hard copy of the UCMR data generated from samples taken at PWSs serving a population of 10,000 or less will be sent to the PWS.

Q: *If a PWS is forced to re-sample for a UCMR contaminant outside the pre-determined sampling quarter, is the entire sampling schedule altered?*

A: According to the *Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation Reporting Guidance*, EPA815-R-01-029, November 2001, the only case where monitoring schedules may change is if all the samples for the first sampling period are lost or damaged. In this case, the system may monitor in another month, and reschedule sampling based on that starting month.

Vulnerability Assessments

Q: *The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act requires community water systems to complete a vulnerability assessment (VA). What are the deadlines for submitting a vulnerability assessment to EPA?*

A: Community water systems serving a population of 100,000 or more must submit VAs to EPA by March 31, 2003. Community water systems serving a population of 50,000 or more but less than 100,000 must submit VAs to EPA by December 31, 2003. Community water systems serving a population greater than 3,300 but less than 50,000 must submit VAs to EPA by June 30, 2004.

Q: *The Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act requires community water systems to submit a completed vulnerability assessment (VA) to EPA. Is EPA currently accepting vulnerability assessments?*

A: According the EPA's Water Protection Task Force, EPA is not currently accepting vulnerability assessments. Community water systems will be notified when and how to submit a completed assessment. [Editors Note: As of January 2003, EPA is accepting VAs. Guidance on the certification and submission of vulnerability assessments is available at www.epa.gov/safewater/security/community.html.]

Q: *Under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 ("the Bioterrorism Act"), all community water systems serving populations greater than 3,300 persons must conduct vulnerability assessments. With respect to the Bioterrorism Act, what determines the population served?*

A: According to EPA's Water Protection Task Force, this determination will be consistent with the data reported to SDWIS. EPA will rely on the data submitted through the state for the July 1, 2002, SDWIS run. Although there are some basic guidelines specific to SDWIS reporting, individual states may vary in precisely how they determine the population served.

Q: *Community water systems (CWSs) must submit signed certifications to EPA confirming that vulnerability assessments have been conducted and completed. Who is required to sign the certification forms?*

A: Owners, managers, certified operators, or other authorized representatives of the water utilities must sign the certification forms. Persons signing the forms must have responsibility over the management and daily operations of the CWSs (*Instructions to Assist Community Water Systems in Complying with the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002*, EPA810-B-02-001, January 2003).

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FINAL RULES

"Guidelines Establishing Test Procedures for the Analysis of Pollutants Under the Clean Water Act; National Primary Drinking Water Regulations; and National Secondary Drinking Water Regulations; Methods Update"
October 23, 2002 (67 FR 65219)

This final rule revised wastewater and drinking water regulations to include updated versions of test procedures (i.e., analytical methods) for the determination of chemical, radiological, and microbiological pollutants and contaminants in wastewater and drinking water. Previously approved versions of the methods remain approved. The effective date of this rule is November 22, 2002.

"Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation: Approval of Analytical Method for Aeromonas; National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Approval of Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants"
October 29, 2002 (67 FR 65888)

EPA approved the analytical method and an associated Minimum Reporting Level to support the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation's List 2 Aeromonas monitoring. This rule also approved EPA Method 515.4 to support previously required National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) compliance monitoring for 2,4-D (as acid, salts and esters), 2,4,5-TP (Silvex), dinoseb, pentachlorophenol, picloram and dalapon. In addition, EPA Method 531.2 was approved to support previously required NPDWR monitoring for carbofuran and oxamyl. EPA also approved seven of the eight additional industry-developed analytical methods that were proposed to support previously required NPDWR compliance monitoring. Finally, EPA updated the information concerning the inspection of materials in the Water Docket to reflect its new address.

"National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Minor Revisions to Public Notification Rule, Consumer Confidence Report Rule and Primacy Rule"
November 27, 2002 (67 FR 70850)

EPA finalized changes to the health effects language for di(2-ethylhexyl) adipate and di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate in the Public Notification Rule and the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule. EPA also made corrections to Appendix A of the CCR Rule. In addition, the Agency is revising the Primacy Rule to remove regulations pertaining to the Administrator's authority to waive national primary drinking water regulations for federally-owned or operated public water systems. Congress removed this authority in the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The effective date of this rule is December 27, 2002.

"Minor Clarification of National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Arsenic"
March 25, 2003 (68 FR 14501)

EPA announced that it is revising the rule text in the January 2001 final rule that established the 10 parts per billion arsenic drinking water standard to express the standard as 0.010 mg/L, in order to clarify the implementation of the original rule. This regulation is effective April 24, 2003.

PROPOSED RULES

"Semiannual Regulatory Agenda"
December 9, 2002 (67 FR 75168)

EPA published the "Semiannual Regulatory Agenda" to update the public about regulations and major policies currently under development, reviews of existing regulations and major policies, and regulations and major policies completed or canceled since the last Agenda.

"Minor Clarification of National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Arsenic"
December 23, 2002 (67 FR 78203)

EPA proposed to revise the rule text that established the 10 parts per billion (ppb) arsenic drinking water standard to express the standard as 0.010 mg/L instead, in order to clarify the implementation of the original rule.

"Spring 2003 Regulatory Agenda"
May 27, 2003 (68 FR 30942)

EPA published the Semiannual Regulatory Agenda to update the public about regulations and major policies currently under development, reviews of existing regulations and major policies, and regulations and major policies completed or canceled since the last agenda.

"National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule"
August 11, 2003 (68 FR 47640)

In this document, EPA proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulations that require the use of treatment techniques, along with monitoring, reporting, and public notification requirements, for all public water systems (PWSs) that use surface water sources. The purpose of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) is to improve control of microbial pathogens, including specifically the protozoan Cryptosporidium, in drinking water and to address risk trade-offs with the control of disinfection byproducts. The LT2ESWTR will build upon the treatment technique requirements of the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule.

"National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule; National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Approval of Analytical Methods for Chemical Contaminants"
August 18, 2003 (68 FR 49548)

In this document, EPA proposed maximum contaminant level goals for chloroform, monochloroacetic acid and trichloroacetic acid; national primary drinking water regulations (NPDWRs) that consist of maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and monitoring, reporting, and public notification requirements for total trihalomethanes and haloacetic acids; and revisions to the reduced monitoring requirements for bromate. This document also specifies the best available technologies for the proposed MCLs. EPA also proposed additional analytical methods for the determination of disinfectants and disinfection byproducts (DBP) in drinking water and proposed to extend approval of DBP methods for the determination of additional chemical contaminants. This set of regulations proposed today is known as the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule.

NOTICES

"Meeting of the Small Systems Affordability Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council"
October 8, 2002 (67 FR 62718)

EPA announced a meeting of the Small Systems Affordability Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. S300f et seq.).

"Investigator Initiated Grants: Requests for Applications"
October 10, 2002 (67 FR 63084)

EPA provided information on the availability of a fiscal year 2003 program announcement in which areas of research interest, eligibility and submission requirements, evaluation criteria, and implementation schedules are set forth. EPA requested research applications on "Treatment Technologies for Arsenic Removal for Small Drinking Water Systems."

"Announcement of a Public Stakeholder Meeting on Drinking Water Distribution System Impacts on Water Quality"
October 21, 2002 (67 FR 64639)

EPA scheduled a public meeting for November 14, 2002, to discuss the finished water quality in distribution systems. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information to stakeholders and the public.

"Meetings of the Small Systems Affordability Working Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council"
October 23, 2002 (67 FR 65114)

EPA announced a meeting for November 7 - 8, 2002, of the Small Systems Affordability Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.).

"Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council Notice of Public Meeting"
October 29, 2002 (67 FR 65980)

EPA announced a meeting for November 20-21, 2002, of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 3300f et seq.). Topics include, but are not limited to: updates on the Ground Water and Radon rules; status reports from the NDWAC's working groups on Affordability and the Contaminant Candidate List; source water protection initiatives; and progress in implementing the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness Response Act of 2002.

"Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation; Approval of Analytical Method for Aeromonas; National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Approval of Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants"
November 13, 2002 (67 FR 68911)

EPA announced minor corrections to the rulemaking issued on Tuesday, November 29, 2001 (67 FR 65888).

"Meeting of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Classification Process Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council"
November 26, 2002 (67 FR 70729)

EPA announced a meeting of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) Classification Process Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), established under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The next two meetings of the NDWAC CCL Work Group will be held on the following dates: December 16-17, 2002 and February 5-6, 2003.

"Notice of Data Availability; National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Approval of Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants; Additional Information on the Colitag Method"
December 2, 2002 (67 FR 71520)

On March 7, 2002, EPA published "Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation: Approval of Analytical Method for Aeromonas; National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Approval of Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants; Proposed Rule." After the close of the public comment period on the March 7 proposed rule, EPA received additional information from CPI International, developers of ColitagTM, relevant to the performance of the method. With this notice, EPA is inviting comments on this additional information and must receive such comments, in writing, by January 2, 2003.

"Announcement of a Meeting of the Microbial and Disinfections Byproducts Advisory Committee"
December 2, 2002 (67 FR 71548)

EPA announced a meeting of the Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts Advisory Committee established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.). The purpose of this meeting is to provide an update to the Committee on the status of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule. The meeting will be held on December 13, 2002.

"Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council"
December 2, 2002 (67 FR 71549)

EPA announced a conference call meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.). The Council will discuss underground injection control with respect to the practice of hydraulic fracturing for coal-bed methane production. The meeting will be held on December 12, 2002.

"National Primary Drinking Water Regulations: Minor Revisions to Public Notification Rule, Consumer Confidence Report Rule and Primacy Rule"
December 9, 2002 (67 FR 73011)

EPA announced minor corrections to the rulemaking issued on Wednesday, November 27, 2002 (67 FR 70850). The corrections occur in document 02-30117, beginning on page 70850.

"Notice of Intent To Grant an Exemption for the Injection of Certain Hazardous Wastes to Environmental Disposal Systems, Inc. for Two Injection Wells Located at 28470 Citrin Drive, Romulus, MI"
December 20, 2002 (67 FR 77981)

EPA proposed to grant an exemption from the ban on disposal of hazardous wastes through injection wells to Environmental Disposal Systems Inc. (EDS) of Birmingham, Michigan. If the exemption is granted, EDS may inject all Resource Conservation and Recovery Act regulated hazardous wastes through waste disposal wells 1-12 and 2-12. EPA requests public comments on this proposed decision. Comments will be accepted until January 22, 2003.

"EPA Science Advisory Board Executive Committee; Notification of Public Advisory Committee Meeting"
December 26, 2002 (67 FR 78801)

EPA announced that the Executive Committee of the U.S. EPA Science Advisory Board will meet on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 and Wednesday, January 15, 2003. One purpose of the meeting includes taking action on the Drinking Water Committee report titled, "Long Term Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule Proposal and Stage II Disinfection/Disinfectant By-Product (DBP) Rule Proposal: An SAB Report."

"Extension of Comment Period for 'Notice of Data Availability; National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Approval of Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants; Additional Information on the Colitag Method'"
December 31, 2002 (67 FR 79898)

EPA announced that it extended the public comment period for the December 2, 2002 Notice of Data Availability concerning approval of the Colitag Method (67 FR 71520). EPA now must receive public comment, in writing, by January 17, 2003.

"EPA Public Meeting--Closing the Gap: Innovative Responses for Sustainable Water Infrastructure; Notice of Public Meeting"
January 9, 2003 (68 FR 1182)

EPA announced a meeting to discuss water and wastewater infrastructure in the United States. The purpose of the meeting is to bring together stakeholders, including those from business, government, and academia, to exchange information and views on management and sustainable financing of the nation's water and wastewater infrastructure. The meeting will be on January 31, 2003.

"Meetings of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List Classification Process Work Group of The National Drinking Water Advisory Council"
March 12, 2003 (68 FR 11836)

EPA announced the forthcoming meetings of the Drinking Water Contaminant Candidate List (CCL) Classification Process Work Group of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC). The dates for the NDWAC CCL Work Group meetings for the remaining year of 2003 will be as follows: March 27-28, 2003; May 12-13, 2003; July 16-17, 2003; September 17-18, 2003; and November 13-14, 2003.

"Announcement of a Public Stakeholder Meeting on Drinking Water Distribution Systems"
April 8, 2003 (68 FR 17041)

EPA announced a public meeting to discuss the finished water quality in distribution systems. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information to stakeholders and the public. The stakeholder meeting will be held on May 16, 2003.

"Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Notice of Public Meeting"
April 9, 2003 (68 FR 17365)

EPA announced a meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended. The Council will hear presentations and have discussions on topics important to EPA's national drinking water program, including, but not limited to: status reports from the NDWAC's work groups on Affordability and the Contaminant Candidate List, and updates on regulatory activity, source water protection initiatives, and the development of EPA's new strategic plan. The meeting will be held on May 14, 2003.

"Arsenic Treatment Demonstrations"
April 18, 2003 (68 FR 19208)

EPA announced that it plans to conduct the second phase of a demonstration program on the treatment of arsenic in drinking water. EPA intends to identify and evaluate the ability of commercially available technologies and engineering or other approaches to cost effectively meet the new standard in small water systems. Through this notice, EPA is inviting the public at large, governmental and regulatory agencies, public health agencies, and drinking water utilities to identify small water utilities that may be interested in hosting a demonstration at their facility. Such utilities should be those that will require treatment to comply with the new arsenic standard. Requested information must be submitted by July 15, 2003.

"Underground Injection Control Program-- Revision of Underground Injection Control Requirements for Class I Municipal Wells in Florida; Notice of Data Availability"
May 5, 2003 (68 FR 23666)

On July 7, 2000, EPA proposed revisions to the Underground Injection Control (UIC) regulations that would allow for continued wastewater injection by existing Class I municipal wells that have caused or may cause the movement of fluid into or between underground sources of drinking water in specific areas of South Florida. Also in 2000, in a separate but related initiative, Congress directed EPA to conduct a relative risk assessment of four management options for treated municipal wastewater in South Florida: deep well injection (Class I municipal), ocean disposal, surface discharge, and aquifer recharge. A separate document in today's Federal Register announced the availability and summarizes the findings of this relative risk assessment required by Congress. In this notice of data availability, EPA solicited public comment on how information on Class I municipal well injection in the relative risk assessment should inform the Agency's action on the July 7, 2000, proposed rule.

"Underground Injection Control Program-- Relative Risk Assessment of Management Options for Treated Wastewater in South Florida; Notice of Availability"
May 5, 2003 (68 FR 23673)

This notice announced the availability of the relative risk assessment report regarding management options for treated wastewaters in South Florida, required by Congress. EPA will consider the information collected on Class I municipal well injection contained in this relative risk assessment in making a final determination on the July 7, 2000, proposed rule.

"Microbial and Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Advisory Committee; Notice of Charter Renewal"
May 5, 2003 (68 FR 23715)

This notice announced that the Charter for EPA's Microbial and Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Advisory Committee (MDBPAC) was renewed on March 7, 2003, for an additional two-year period, in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App. 2, Section 9(c). EPA has determined that continuation of the MDBPAC is necessary and that it is in the public interest to enable the Agency to perform its duties under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

"Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC)"
June 5, 2003 (68 FR 33691)

EPA announced a conference call meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.). The Council will discuss follow-up actions relating to a report presented at the May 2003 meeting by NDWAC's Work Group on Affordability. The Council meeting will be held on June 20, 2003.

**"Underground Injection Control Program--
Revision of Underground Injection Control
Requirements for Class I Municipal Wells in
Florida; Notice of Meeting"
June 6, 2003 (68 FR 33902)**

On May 5, 2003, the Environmental Protection Agency published two notices in the Federal Register. The first announced the Notice of Availability of EPA's "Relative Risk Assessment of Management Options for Treated Wastewater in South Florida" (68 FR 23673). The second notice announced the Notice of Data Availability (NODA) (68 FR 23666) which summarizes information from the relative risk assessment and solicits public comment on how the deep well injection findings should inform the final determination on the July 7, 2000 proposed rule, Revision to the Federal Underground injection Control (UIC) requirements for Class I Municipal Wells in Florida (65 FR 42234). This notice announced two public meetings about the NODA. The meeting dates are June 24, 2003 and June 25, 2003.

**"Meeting of the National Drinking Water
Advisory Council (NDWAC)"
July 1, 2003 (68 FR 39086)**

EPA announced the forthcoming conference call meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (Council), established under the Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 300f et seq.). The Council will discuss follow-up actions relating to a report presented at the May 2003 meeting by NDWAC's Work Group on Affordability. This is a follow-up conference call to the conference call held on June 20, 2003. The Council meeting will be held on July 10, 2003.

**"Announcement of Regulatory Determinations
for Priority Contaminants on the Drinking Water
Contaminant Candidate List"
July 18, 2003 (68 FR 42898)**

EPA announced that no regulatory action is appropriate, at this time, for the nine contaminant candidate list (CCL) contaminants published in the June 2002 preliminary regulatory determination notice (67 FR 38222). The announcement describes the statutory requirements for the CCL, the analysis EPA used to make the regulatory determinations, a summary of relevant public comments with the Agency's responses, a summary of the nine CCL contaminants, and the Agency's findings for each contaminant.

**"National Primary Drinking Water Regulations;
Announcement of Completion of EPA's Review
of Existing Drinking Water Standards"
July 18, 2003 (68 FR 42908)**

EPA announced that it has completed its review of 69 National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) that were established prior to 1997, including 68 chemical NPDWRs and the Total Coliform Rule (TCR). Based on the Agency's preliminary review, as well as the public comments received and other new information, EPA believes that it is appropriate to revise the TCR. The Agency also believes that it is not appropriate to revise the 68 chemical NPDWRs at this time.

**"National Drinking Water Advisory Council;
Request for Nominations"
July 25, 2003 (68 FR 44078)**

EPA invited all interested persons to nominate qualified individuals to serve a three-year term as members of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (Council). This Council was established by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) to provide practical and independent advice, consultation, and recommendations to the Agency on the activities, functions, and policies related to the implementation of the SDWA. On December 15th of each year, five members complete their appointment. This notice solicits names to fill the five vacancies, with appointed terms ending on December 15, 2006. All nominations must be received by October 15, 2003.

**"Applicability of the Safe Drinking Water Act to
Submetered Properties"
August 28, 2003 (68 FR 51777)**

EPA published a draft revised policy regarding regulatory requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) of submetered properties. Under SDWA Section 1411, the NPDWRs apply to PWSs that have their own water source, treat, or "sell" water. As a way to promote full cost and conservation pricing to achieve water conservation, the EPA now proposes to change its interpretation of Section 1411 as it applies to a limited aspect of submetering and direct billing of residential tenants. Comments must be submitted on or before October 27, 2003.

**"Stakeholder Meeting Concerning Development
of 'Revisions to the Unregulated Contaminant
Monitoring Regulation for Public Water
Systems'; Notice of Public Meeting"
September 11, 2003 (68 FR 53607)**

EPA announced a public stakeholder meeting to present information to stakeholders concerning the

status of the Agency's efforts in the areas of analyte selection, analytical methods, sampling design, determination of minimum reporting levels, and other possible revisions to the current unregulated contaminant monitoring regulation. The meeting will be held on October 29, 2003 in Arlington, VA.

"Stakeholder Meetings Concerning the Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule Proposals; Notice of Public Meetings"
September 22, 2003 (68 FR 55023)

EPA announced two public stakeholder meetings on the following proposed drinking water regulations: The Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (68 FR 47639; August 11, 2003) and the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (68 FR 49547; August 18, 2003). The purpose of these meetings is to provide information that will assist stakeholders in evaluating the proposals, which are currently open for public comment. The first meeting will be held on October 9, 2003. The second meeting will be held on October 16, 2003.

"Meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council; Notice of Public Meeting"
September 30, 2003 (68 FR 56292)

EPA announced a meeting of the National Drinking Water Advisory Council (NDWAC), established under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The Council will hear presentations and have discussions on topics important to EPA's national drinking water program, including, but not limited to: an overview of EPA research activities; status reports from NDWAC's work groups on Affordability and the Contaminant Candidate List; an update on security, regulatory, and implementation activities; and an update on drinking water data quality. The Council meeting will be held on November 19 and 20, 2003.

Hotline Statistics

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Annual Summary of Hotline Service

Total number of calls answered	21,602
Total number of emails received	3,304
Average wait time (in seconds)	31
Percent of calls satisfied immediately	99.9%
Percent of all calls answered in < 1 min	84.6%
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	11,122
Number of times callers listened to recorded message about arsenic rule	403

Comparison to Previous Year

	Calls	Emails
FY03	21,602	3,304
FY02	25,311	3,738

Top Ten Referrals

Inquiry Referred to:	Number of Referrals	Percent of Total* Referrals
1. State Lab Certification	2,838	16
2. Local Water System	2,470	14
3. EPA Internet	2,448	14
4. State PWSS	1,914	11
5. NSF/WQA/UL	1,623	9
6. AGWT/WSC	951	5
7. Local Public Health	899	5
8. Other Hotlines	732	4
9. EPA Regions	610	3
10. Other	609	3

**18,121 total referrals to other resources, agencies, and organizations were provided by the Hotline in FY 2003.*

Customer Profiles

Customer	Calls	Emails
Analytical Laboratories	225	42
Citizen - Private Well	2,907	432
Citizen - PWS	12,610	1,214
Consultants/Industry/Trade (DW)	1,056	203
Consultants/Industry/Trade (Other)	1,122	307
Environmental Groups	32	21
EPA	257	20
Other Federal Agency	99	69
Government, Local	164	77
Government, State	546	123
Government, Tribal	13	7
Spanish Speaking	56	5
International	55	236
Media	70	4
Medical Professional	70	16
Public Water System	1,431	161
Schools/University	422	363
Other	467	4
TOTALS	21,602	3,304

Monthly Call Data

	Total Calls Answered	Average Wait Time mm:sec
October 2002	2,000	00:18
November 2002	1,455	00:31
December 2002	1,374	00:23
January 2003	1,531	00:22
February 2003	1,516	00:31
March 2003	1,695	00:37
April 2003	1,705	00:33
May 2003	1,962	00:28
June 2003	2,930	00:37
July 2003	2,539	00:36
August 2003	1,558	00:36
September 2003	1,337	00:43
Total	21,602	00:31

Hotline Statistics

Topic Categories

Category	Calls	Emails
Microbials/Disinfection Byproducts		
Chlorine	200	43
Coliforms	836	63
Cryptosporidium	746	16
Disinfection/Disinfection Byproducts (Other)	303	41
Disinfection – Home Water	219	24
Other Microbials	205	19
Storage – Home Water	86	10
Surface Water Treatment (SWTR, ESWTR, LT1FBR)	702	108
Trihalomethane (THM)	198	35
Inorganic Chemicals (IOC)/Synthetic Organic Chemicals (SOC)		
Arsenic	359	63
Fluoride	173	44
Methyl-*tertiary*-butyl-ether (MTBE)	89	13
Perchlorate	77	39
Phase I, II & V	413	57
Sodium Monitoring	47	11
Sulfate	22	2
Lead and Copper		
Copper	166	18
Lead	1,369	68
Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA)/Lead Ban	72	8
Radionuclides		
Radionuclides (Other)	321	60
Radionuclides (Radon)	634	41
Secondary DW Regulations		
Secondary DW Regulations	416	79
SDWA Background/Overview		
Definitions & Applicability	207	62
MCL List	620	88
Other Background	750	349
SDWA	238	20
Water on Tap	106	31
Other DW Regulations		
Analytical Methods (DW)	232	129
Contaminant Candidate List/ Drinking Water Priority List	36	8
Consumer Confidence Report (DW)	2,497	109
DW Primacy (PWS)	8	2
Operator (PWS) Certification	35	14
Other Drinking Water Security	293	104
Public Notification (PWS)	823	37
Security Planning Grants	108	44
State Revolving Fund (DW)	39	32
Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR)	569	22
Other Drinking Water		
Additives Program	53	34
Bottled Water	593	76
Complaints about PWS	657	119
Compliance & Enforcement (PWS)	229	47
Home Water Treatment Units	1,300	148
Infrastructure/Cap. Development	68	43
Local DW Quality	2,659	320
Tap Water Testing	2,994	199
Treatment/BATs (DW)	159	103
Drinking Water Source Protection		
Ground Water Rule	49	9
Sole Source Aquifer	8	5
Source Water/Wellhead Protect.	308	123
UIC Program	127	30
Out of Purview		
Household Wells	1,429	272
Non-Environmental	585	113
Non-EPA Environmental	786	332
Other EPA (Programs)	954	293
TOTALS	27,172	4,179