

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division**

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Agency of Natural Resources

***** 2016 MONITORING SCHEDULE *****

Dear Public Water Systems (Community and Non-Transient Non-Community):

Enclosed is your system's new monitoring schedule for 2016. The schedule reflects current monitoring requirements which take into account any waivers that have been granted/denied/revoked and any reduced or increased monitoring requirements. You are **required** to monitor for each of the chemical groups/contaminants listed on the 2016 schedule.

After January 1, 2016, current year monitoring schedules (2016) can also be found on the Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division's website at <https://anrweb.vt.gov/DEC/dwgwp/>. These schedules are up-to-date as of the date of the report, reflecting any changes in your schedule and sampling points during the year. **NOTE THAT THE "FOLLOWING YEAR SCHEDULE" (2017) IS NOT INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING NOW THAT UP-TO-DATE SCHEDULES FOR THE FUTURE YEAR ARE AVAILABLE ON THIS WEBSITE.**

All water quality analyses must be conducted by a Laboratory certified by the Vermont Department of Health for drinking water. You may access the certified lab list at the Division's website. ***Please remember, regardless of whether a lab submits test results to the Division, it is the responsibility of the water system to report sampling results to this Division.***

Important! If any monitoring is not completed by the end of each designated monitoring period on your schedule (month, quarter, or six month period) the Division must issue a Notice of Alleged Violation (NOAV) requiring the water system to issue Public Notice for failure to monitor. We highly recommend that you sample early in the monitoring period so that you have sufficient time to resample if, for example, bottles are lost in transit or a sample is invalidated by the lab. Clearly indicate sample location, Facility ID, Sample Point ID and WSID number with your samples on your lab's chain of custody forms.

Monitoring schedule sampling information details for the different types of contaminants:

Distribution System Monitoring (Total Coliform, Lead & Copper, Disinfection By-Products)

Total Coliform: REMINDER! The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) goes into effect on April 1, 2016. The RTCR seeks to protect public health through the reduction of pathways by which fecal contamination and other waterborne pathogens can enter drinking water distribution systems. The RTCR makes several changes to the requirements related to bacteriological monitoring that will affect the operations of public drinking water systems throughout Vermont. The Division strongly recommends that all water system operators register for a classroom training through the Vermont Rural Water Association (<http://vtruralwater.org/training/schedule.php>) and review the informational materials on the Division's website (<http://drinkingwater.vt.gov/>) to learn more about the requirements of the RTCR, including submission of a RTCR Sampling Plan which is due no later than March 31, 2016, and conducting assessments in response to the presence of bacteria in your distribution system.

Total Coliform samples must be taken in the distribution system at locations in your approved Bacteriological Sampling Plan. Record the category for each total coliform sample on the lab forms that are submitted to the lab along with each sample: Routine (RT) - Routine distribution sample(s) required by monitoring schedule and any required distribution samples the following month after a TC+ Routine sample. Repeat (RP) - distribution samples required immediately after TC+ Routine Sample. Triggered Source (TG) - groundwater source sample(s) required immediately after TC+ routine sample. Note that samples coded as Special (SP) do not count for compliance purposes.

When using a chemical disinfectant, systems must also measure and record free chlorine residual (or total residual if free chlorine residual is not detectable) at the same time and locations as Total Coliform samples. These results must be reported on the lab forms that are submitted to the lab along with the sample(s) to be analyzed and also on your monthly operations report.

Lead & Copper samples must be taken in the distribution system at locations previously approved in your Lead and Copper Sampling Plan. These locations are identified by the system as being most at risk for elevated levels of Lead and Copper. All distribution system Lead and Copper samples are taken as first-draw tap samples (with faucet strainers left in place) after the water has stood motionless in the plumbing system for at least 6 hours.

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Water systems are required to provide a copy of the lead and copper test results to all consumers whose homes/businesses were sampled (whether or not there was an exceedance) and comply with public education requirements when exceeding the lead action level (**at the 90th percentile**). All Public Community Water Systems must also include lead risk reduction language in their annual CCR. For more specific guidance documents, certification forms, and helpful templates please visit the Division's Website (www.drinkingwater.vt.gov) and/or contact the Lead & Copper Rule Coordinator.

Disinfection By-Products (DBP) Monitoring Policy: Public Community and Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems which regularly, routinely, contain or apply a chemical disinfectant (i.e., chlorine, chloramine, etc.) are required to conduct DBP monitoring for total trihalomethanes and the five regulated haloacetic acids at the time when the water contains the chemical disinfectant. This includes Systems that use a chemical disinfectant annually for a short period during the year (example – summer months). This monitoring requirement does not apply when a system (that does not routinely disinfect) introduces a disinfectant under a defined emergency condition for a short duration of time. Please contact the DBP Rule Coordinator to prepare a monitoring plan and set up a DBP monitoring schedule if this system fits these categories and DBP monitoring is missing from the 2016 schedule.

Stage 2 DBP Compliance Monitoring: Systems officially began Stage 2 DBP Compliance Monitoring on October 1, 2013 for the five regulated Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) and Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM). Some systems will conduct dual sampling (for both HAA5 and TTHM) at a single site, while others will sample for HAA5 at one site and TTHM at a different site. Check the schedule for any changes in DBP monitoring frequency since some systems have qualified for reduced monitoring.

Use DBP sampling locations specified in your approved Stage 2 DBP Compliance Monitoring Plan and reprinted on your monitoring schedule. Record the Sample Point ID (Such as TH001, HA001, etc.), the Facility ID (DS001, DS002, etc.), and the Sample Location (using a 911 address, residence or building name, etc.) on the form sent to the lab with the samples. This is CRITICAL for compliance which is calculated as a Locational Running Annual Average for each sampling location. Monitoring & Reporting Violations will be issued for the use of unapproved sampling locations and for samples taken outside the specified monitoring period.

Finished Water Monitoring (Chemical and Radionuclide)

Chemical and Radionuclide samples must be taken at the entry point to the distribution system. This sample point is located after any treatment and storage and prior to the distribution system. Some systems without a sampling tap prior to distribution resort to taking entry point samples at the first tap. Please see your schedule for the sample point location specifics for your system.

NOTE: Testing for asbestos, cyanide and radium are not performed by the Vermont Department of Health Lab.

Raw Water Monitoring (Groundwater Rule & LT2)

Groundwater Rule: The Groundwater Rule requires groundwater systems to have a source sample tap installed before water treatment. Source water monitoring is required if total coliform is present in the distribution system (otherwise known as “triggered source monitoring” - TG). If not already done, please ensure that a raw water sampling tap for each source is installed at your system and is identified on a Revised Total Coliform Rule sampling plan submitted no later than March 31, 2016.

Long Term 2 (LT2) ESWTR: The monitoring schedules for “Schedule 3” Surface water or GWUDISW (Subpart H) systems serving from 10,000 to 49,999 people reflect requirements for Cryptosporidium monitoring that will commence no later than October 2016. The Division is currently working with each of these systems to prepare a monitoring plan and finalize a schedule.

“Schedule 4” Systems: For surface water or GWUDISW (Subpart H) systems serving fewer than 10,000 people, monitoring for E. Coli as a surrogate for Cryptosporidium will be required to commence no later than October 2017. These systems will be notified by the Division with instructions for how to prepare and submit a monitoring plan and schedule. The 2017 monitoring schedules will detail LT2 monitoring requirements for these systems once a monitoring schedule is set up in the Division database.

The following Division contacts can answer questions regarding specific rule monitoring:

Total Coliform & Groundwater Rule

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Lead and Copper, Stage 2 DBPs, LT2

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Chemicals, Radionuclides, DBPs & Waivers

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Surface Water Treatment Rule

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Sincerely,



Billy Kahn, Environmental Analyst

Enc: 2016 monitoring schedules
C: Water System Designated Operator