Requirements for Small Systems on Quarterly Monitoring

WHO DOES THIS FACTSHEET APPLY TO?
GROUND WATER PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS (PWSs) THAT SERVE 1,000 OR FEWER PEOPLE and collect at least one routine total coliform (TC) SAMPLE QUARTERLY.

ATTENTION!
All PWSs must comply with the RTCR requirements starting April 1, 2016.

RTCR
What to Do?

Step 1
Develop/update your sample siting plan.

Step 2
Collect your drinking water samples.

Step 3
Conduct required actions.

FOR ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE PROPER ALASKA DRINKING WATER OFFICE:

ANCHORAGE
PHONE: (907) 269-7623 OR (866) 956-7656 TOLL-FREE OUTSIDE OF ANCHORAGE

FAIRBANKS
PHONE: (907) 451-2108 OR (800) 770-2137 TOLL-FREE OUTSIDE OF FAIRBANKS

SOLDOTNA
PHONE: (907) 262-5210

WASILLA
PHONE: (907) 376-1850

STEP 1: DEVELOP/UPDATE YOUR SAMPLE SITING PLAN*
Contact the Drinking Water Program for assistance. The RTCR Sample Siting Plan Template can be found under Forms at:

http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/RTCR.htm

• Develop a sample siting plan and have it ready for use by April 1, 2016. If you already have a sample siting plan in use for the Total Coliform Rule (TCR), update this plan to meet the requirements of the RTCR.

  ➢ List the locations where you will take your samples (routine and repeat): Any repeat sampling location that is also used for GWR triggered source water monitoring must be included.

  ➢ Include your routine collection schedule: For example, systems that operate year-round will sample the first Monday of every calendar quarter between Jan. 1 – March 31, April 1 – June 30, July 1 – Sept. 30, and Oct. 1 – Dec. 31. Seasonal systems must sample in the month(s) of highest demand.

  ➢ Update to reflect changes at your PWS: The sample siting plan is a living document and should be updated to reflect changes at your PWS such as: major changes in population; a new or additional water source; infrastructure changes, such as a change in the distribution system (i.e. extended/abandoned lines) or pressure zones; or changes in disinfection or other treatment.

STEP 2: COLLECT YOUR DRINKING WATER SAMPLES
Know your RTCR routine sampling requirements.

• Collect at least one 100 ml routine drinking water sample every quarter starting April 1, 2016.

• Immediately send your sample to a state-certified lab that performs total coliform drinking water analysis.

  ➢ Remember the lab must begin analyzing the drinking water sample no later than the 30th hour from the collection time.

  ➢ If necessary, ship the sample overnight and refrigerate or ice the sample using “blue” ice (cooled to about 4° to 10° C).

NOTE: *The sample siting plan is subject to review and revisions by the Drinking Water Program.
STEP 3: CONDUCT ACTIONS REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF YOUR SAMPLING

Was your routine sample total coliform-positive (TC+)? **

YES

For each TC+ routine sample, do the following ACTIONS:

1. Make sure the lab tests each TC+ sample for E. coli; AND
2. Collect 3 repeat samples for each TC+ routine sample.*
   See RTCR Factsheet: Repeat Monitoring Requirements for Small Systems; AND
3. Systems using a Groundwater Source must also collect a triggered Source Water Sample for each source in use at time of TC+.
4. Take 3 additional routine samples the following month at your routine sample location(s). Collect at regular time intervals throughout the month or on a single day if taken from different sites. *

NO

Continue with routine monitoring schedule, according to your sample siting plan.

Were any of the samples E. coli-positive (EC+)?

YES**

If any repeat sample is TC+ (or present for TC), call the Drinking Water Program immediately and tell them you triggered an assessment. The Program will help you identify which type of assessment is required.

See the RTCR Factsheet: Level 1 & 2 Assessments and Corrective Actions.

NOTE: You may have to comply with other requirements triggered by a TC+ sample (e.g., public Notification, Record Keeping).

NO

Call your Environmental Program Specialist! You must have a Level 2 Assessment performed if the PWS has any of the following occurrences:
- TC+ Routine and EC+ Repeat sample;
- EC+ Routine and TC+ Repeat sample;
- The PWS fails to take all 3 required repeat samples following an EC+ routine sample; or,
- The PWS fails to test for E. coli when any repeat sample is TC+.

Within 30 days after you learned your PWS has triggered an assessment, a completed assessment form must be submitted to the Drinking Water Program. The assessment must be completed by an individual approved by the Drinking Water Program. Contact your Environmental Program Specialist for a list of approved inspectors.

NOTES
*If you miss any routine, repeat, or additional routine samples, contact the Drinking Water Program.
**Call the Drinking Water Program on the same day you learn of the EC+ result, or by the end of the next business day, and tell them you received an EC+ result.

For more information, visit our website at: http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/RTCR.htm

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