

It is a new year, and it's time to start thinking about your 2002 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). Be proactive and start getting your data together and looking at your available resources.

The EPA had authority over the CCRs in '98 and '99. ADEC took over the authority in 2000 and in the last year initiated a review process for those reports that were turned in to ADEC for the 2001 CCR requirement. From that review, we created the following Q&A list.

Why do I have to write the CCR?

The CCR is your way to tell your customers what it is you do. It also lets you tell them why drinking water is expensive. If you have detected contaminants, it lets you tell your customers what you are doing to correct the situation. It is both educational and public health protection.

When is my CCR due?

You need to have your 2002 CCR published to your customers before July 1, 2003. A copy of your report and the certification must also be in to ADEC by July 1, 2003. Remember to date your CCR Certification with the date you published the CCR, not the date you mailed the certification to ADEC.

How do I publish my CCR?

According to the CCR Rule, you

must make all reasonable efforts to get your CCR to all of your customers. The mail is your first source of publishing. Each billing address gets a copy of the CCR, but there are other options to consider. You can publish the CCR in locally distributed newspapers. You can post the CCR in highly visible places where your customers are likely to be. Don't forget the internet. If your water system has a website, put your CCR there, too. Do you have apartments or duplexes where the landlord pays the water bill? The customers living in those units should receive the CCR even though you probably don't have their addresses.

What do I have to put in my CCR?

There are several components to a CCR, this includes: information about the system and its source, required written information from the CCR Rule, a table of contaminants, and a section addressing violations.

What do I need to say about my system?

You need to include information on your water source: type, common names, how your customers can get a copy of your Source Water Assessment (SWA) if completed, and a summary of your source's susceptibility to contaminants (from the SWA). You also need to include a name and phone number of a person to contact at the utility.

What written information is required?

There are two required paragraphs concerning contaminants in the drinking water and the vulnerability of immuno-compromised populations. Information on these requirements can be found in the Resources section at the end of this article. You need to include definitions for Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), Non Detect (ND), Parts Per Million (ppm), and Parts Per Billion (ppb). Also, if you list a violation for an Action Level (AL) or Treatment Technique (TT), they must be defined as well. Finally, for those of you with large non-English speaking populations, you need to include the statement concerning the need to get the CCR translated. This statement is provided by the EPA, and is available from their website. ADEC is trying to assemble a list of statement translations for you to use that will include many of the Alaska Native languages. The list will be available via the ADEC website by April 2003. Thank you to Bill Stokes of ADEC and Mary O'Connor of ANTHC for collecting these translations for us.

What goes in the contaminants table?

The table lists all contaminants that were detected during the 2002 calendar year, whether or not they exceeded the MCL or the AL. It also

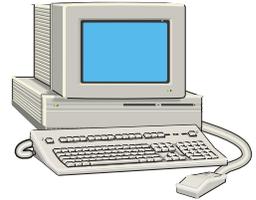
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Contaminant (units)	MCL	MCLG	Level Found	Range	Sample Date	Violation	Typical Source of Contaminant
BARIUM (ppm)	2	2	2.5	2.5	6/18/02	Yes	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
COPPER (ppm)	AL=1.3	1.3	.0400	.0400	3/1/02	NO	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
FLUORIDE (ppm)	4	4	.9 (average)	.3- 1.3	11/28/02	NO	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

lists contaminants detected prior to 2002 if the monitoring period for them is longer than a year. For each contaminant, you must include the Contaminant and its MCL units, the MCL, the MCLG, the level found, the range, the sample date, if it's a violation, and the typical source of the contaminant. Remember: The MCL must be listed as a number greater than one. So, here's an example. The MCL for Mercury is 0.002 ppm or mg/L. For the CCR, this must be converted to 2 ppb or ug/L. If your sample came back at 0.001 ppm, then the conversion for the CCR would be 1 ppb. Also, if you listed a contaminant in your 2001 CCR as detected, and it was not detected in 2002, include that contaminant in your table as an ND.

What do I do if there is a violation in the table?

You have to include the mandatory Health Effects language written in Appendix A to the CCR Rule. This is available on the websites listed below under Resources.



Example: Barium

Some people who drink water containing barium in excess of the MCL over many years could experience an increase in their blood pressure.

This statement can go under the contaminants chart or in your Violations section. (See the next question)

What do I do if I have monitoring violations?

The CCR has to contain a section on violations. It is here that you would list out your monitoring violations, when they occurred, and what you are doing to prevent these violations in the future.

What about voluntary EPA studies and unregulated contaminants?

If you have data from an EPA project, such as the Radon project or Radionuclides project, or you are testing for unregulated contaminants, then this data must be included in a separate table in your CCR. You should also include a statement explaining why they are unregulated and what the EPA will do with the data.

Do I have to include state violations?

No. The CCR is a federal document, so state violations do not have to be included.

What do I do if I don't have a computer?

Contact Brad Ault with the Alaska Rural Water Association (contact information is below). He can provide you with a "write-in template" to use for your CCR, or you can contact Sonja Benson at Northern Testing Laboratories. For a fee, she can write your CCR for you. Then, you will need to copy, publish and certify it. If you need additional resources or help, contact Sherri Trask or James Elam at ADEC.

Resources:

There are several different resources for you to access.

For technical assistance on the Internet:

The ADEC DW/WW Program has a section on the CCR at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/deh/water/ccr.htm>

On EPA's website, they have a CCR information page at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html>

The Alaska Rural Water Association has a CCR Template at: <http://www.alaskaruralwater.org>

For technical assistance over the phone:

Contact Brad Ault of the Alaska Rural Water Association at: 11723 Old Glen Hwy., Ste. 203A, Eagle River, AK 99577, phone (907) 694-6792, fax (907) 694-6793.

Contact your local ADEC office, DW/WW Program Environmental Specialist.

Contact Sherri Trask (907) 269-3075 or James Elam (907) 269-2007, in the ADEC Anchorage office.

For a CCR writer:

Contact Sonja Benson of Northern Testing Laboratories at: 3330 Industrial Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99701, phone (907) 456-3116, fax (907) 456-3125, toll free 800-478-8838 (in state). ~