

Welcome to your 2021 Monitoring Summary

Enclosed is your 2021 monitoring summary, which outlines your water system's monitoring requirements. Please use this as a planning tool to help your public water system (PWS) remain in compliance with the State of Alaska Drinking Water Regulations, 18 AAC 80. Monitoring your drinking water for contaminants is very important so that your customers do not become sick. Please take a few minutes to review the enclosed monitoring summary.



Have questions about your monitoring summary or sampling requirements?

Contact your local Environmental Program Specialist (EPS), their contact information is located at the bottom of the monitoring summary.

2021 MONITORING SUMMARY PWS Operating Seasonally

Key to Planning and Compliance

Reminders for 2021

Re-opening in 2021

The global pandemic has impacted everything in 2020 and water system operations were no exception. If your system or portions of your system was shut down in 2020 and you're planning to resume normal operations in 2021 we encourage you to review the EPA website on how to safely restore water to buildings with low or no use (Link: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/information-maintaining-or-restoring-water-quality-buildings-low-or-no-use>) or contact the DW Program if assistance is needed.

Seasonal Start-Up Procedures

Seasonal systems that do not maintain pressure year-round are required to complete the **Start-Up Procedures form prior to serving water to the public**. The form must be submitted or postmarked to the Drinking Water Program within 10 days of opening to the public. Seasonal systems are *encouraged* to take a Total Coliform sample *prior to start-up* particularly if your system experienced a longer shut down. Be sure to review the compliance schedule section of the monitoring summary to see when your start-up procedure is due. The **RTCR Information** webpage on the Drinking Water Program website contains additional information and forms at this link: <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/rtcr/>.

Sanitary Surveys

An important part of staying in compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act is having a Sanitary Survey completed on time and fully correcting all noted deficiencies, which includes sending your EPS documentation of how and when the deficiency was addressed. Be sure to review the monitoring summary to confirm when the next survey is due and what deficiencies remain unaddressed. Deficiencies that remain open according to the Drinking Water Program's records are listed under the Compliance Schedules section.

PWS owners/operators are encouraged to request a question set from the Drinking Water Program prior to a sanitary survey inspection. This provides an opportunity to review the system and fix any potential deficiencies *before* the inspection takes place.

Reporting Requirement on Lab Chain of Custody Forms

To ensure accurate reporting, in addition to listing the sample location, water systems are required to record the **Facility ID** and **Sample Point ID** on the lab paperwork submitted with water samples (i.e., chain of custody). This information is available on your monitoring summary (refer to the **Where to take my sample** section on the next page).

Sample Temperature Arrival at Laboratory

Nitrate and other samples, except for Total Coliform, must be between 0.0°C and 6.0°C when they arrive at the laboratory or samples will not be accepted and the system must resample. Ensure samples are sent/brought to the laboratory in a cooler with ice, so the samples are cool but not frozen.

You can check the *Drinking Water Watch* on our website to view your system's data at any time at this link: <http://dec.alaska.gov/DWW>

Please let your EPS know if any of the information is incorrect.



State of Alaska

Department of Environmental Conservation
Environmental Health Division
Drinking Water Program
<http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/index.htm>

Where to take my sample?

The monitoring summary displays the water system facility (or sample location) where each sample is required to be collected. For example, samples listed under the Facility ID *DS* (distribution) must be collected in the distribution system while samples listed under the Facility ID *TP* (treatment plant) need to be collected at the entry point to the distribution. The Sample Point ID associates a specific sampling point with the sample location.

The Facility ID and Sample Point ID are required information for submitting laboratory sample results to the State.

(This information is displayed on your monitoring summary as shown in the example below.)

Monitoring Summary Example

Requirement	Sample Point ID	Required Sampling Frequency
Sanitary Survey		Every 3 years
DS OF EXAMPLE SYSTEM (Facility ID: DS001)		
	SPDS001TCR	1 sample(s) monthly
	SPDS001PC	5 sample(s) every 6 months
TREATMENT PLANT (Facility ID: TP001)		
SOC	SPTP001	1 sample(s) quarterly

The table below highlights the types of **water system facilities** and their two-letter identification code (such as TP or DS) listed on the monitoring summary.

Entry Point to the Distribution System	
Facility	CH – Combined Header
Facility	TP – Treatment Plant
Facility	WL – Well*
Distribution System	
Facility	DS – Distribution System
Raw Water Sample	
Facility	IN – Intake
Facility	IG – Infiltration Gallery
Facility	WL – Well*

* Samples collected at a well could be for source/raw water sampling or represent the entry point to the distribution system. If you are unsure about the samples for your system, consult your EPS.

Compliance Schedules

Compliance Schedules are used to track other (non-sampling) requirements such as Seasonal Start Up Procedures or follow-up activities for Sanitary Survey deficiencies. The information will include the schedule name, a description of what is required, and the due date. The table below is an example of the compliance schedules section in your monitoring summary.

Compliance Schedules			
	Due	Comments	
Seasonal Start Up			
1	2	3	4
RTCR-SEASONAL START UP FORM	06/01/2021	Complete start up procedures BEFORE serving water to the public & submit the form to DEC. Electronic form is located on DEC website: http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/rtrcr/	

- 1. Compliance Schedule Type:** This section identifies what requirement the compliance schedule is addressing. This example is a *Seasonal Start Up* schedule.
- 2. Activity Type:** This section lists what specific actions need to be completed.
- 3. Due:** This section lists when activity needs to be completed.
- 4. Comments:** The comments are written by your EPS to provide additional detail to the schedule requirements. (Note: Not all schedules will have comments.)

For more detailed information on *How to Read the Monitoring Summary*, please visit the Monitoring Summary Information website at: <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/dw/monitoring-summary/>

General Compliance Reminders

Violations are issued if a PWS fails to collect required samples, submit required reports, or resolve sanitary survey deficiencies within the appropriate timeframe. When violations are not addressed in a timely manner, this can lead to increased enforcement actions and your system may be listed on the EPA's national Enforcement Targeting Tool (ETT).

Below are some tips for staying in compliance with the regulations and avoiding violations:

- Submit the required samples according to the enclosed monitoring summary. Please use the monitoring summary as a planning tool for the year. Samples can be costly, however if you spread them out over the year, these costs can be more manageable.
- Take samples at the beginning of the monitoring period (i.e., submit nitrate samples early in the season). This helps ensure samples are not forgotten and allows time to resample if necessary.
- Seasonal systems on quarterly TCR monitoring, who fail to submit samples in a timely manner and according to the approved RTRC Sample Siting Plan, could be placed on a *monthly* monitoring schedule.
- Collect your Total Coliform bacteria samples in the appropriate month(s) or quarter(s) as described in your approved RTRC Sample Siting Plan.
- If you are required to conduct daily operator testing, please use and submit the proper Monthly Operator Report form for your system. Your operator report must be filled out, signed, and sent to the Drinking Water Program before the 10th of the following month. (For example, the January operator report should be sent to the Drinking Water Program by the 10th of February.)