

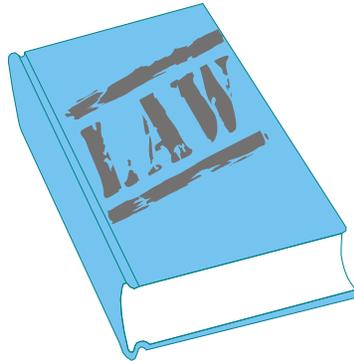
Regulations: Three New Rules from the EPA by Karen Leis

By the end of summer the EPA promises to give us three new final rules--the Ground Water Rule, the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule, and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule. One of the biggest challenges public water systems will have is to balance the risks of the disinfections byproducts (DBPs) while providing protection from microbial pathogens.

First, in late summer the Ground Water Rule (GWR) will be published in its final form in the Federal Register. The GWR will specify the appropriate use of disinfection for PWS using a ground water source as well as other facets of public health protection. The GWR applies to all PWS using a ground water source, and to any system that mixes surface water and ground water and if the ground water is added directly to the distribution system and provided to

consumers without treatment.

The final Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR) and the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment (LT2 ESWTR) Rule



should both be published in the Federal Register in August 2005. The Stage 2 DBPR limits the consumer's exposure to the chemicals that can form in the water when disinfectants are used to control microbial pathogens, and applies to all community water systems and nontransient noncommunity water systems that

add a primary or residual disinfectant other than ultraviolet light (UV) or deliver water that has been disinfected by a primary or residual disinfectant other than UV. The LT2 ESWTR will target *Cryptosporidium* treatment requirements, will mitigate risks from uncovered finished water storage facilities, and will require systems to maintain microbial protection while they take steps to reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts. The LT2 ESWTR will apply to all systems that use surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water. Both the Stage 2 DBPR and the LT2 ESWTR are being developed simultaneously to make sure the treatment of water stays in balance for public health protection.

We will let you know when these final rules are released and when the EPA may provide training webcasts for public water system owners, operators, and utility managers. ~

Emergency Response Planning Workshops!

There will be 10 workshops scheduled throughout the state of Alaska from now until June 30, 2005. These one day workshops will be sponsored by DEC and will be conducted by NANA Training Systems. To register call (907) 565-3303 or see NANA Training's website at www.nana-nts.com/watersecurity.php

LOCATIONS AND DATES INCLUDE:

Anchorage

February 14 **and** May 16
341 West Tudor Road #202
NANA Training Systems

Soldotna

February 28
Aspen Hotel
326 Brinkley Circle

Bethel

April 5
Kuskokwim Campus
201 Aniak Street

Juneau

April 28
DEC Conference Room
410 Willoughbhy

Fairbanks

April 7 **and** May 19
DEC Conference Room
610 University Avenue

Nome

April 1
Old St. Joe's Comm.
407 Bering Street

Kodiak

April 19
Best Western Hotel
236 Rezanof Drive

Wasilla

May 9
Wasilla Sport Complex
1001 South Mack

The ADEC Drinking Water Program is sponsoring 10 workshops between mid February and May of 2005. Each workshop will provide an overview of vulnerability assessments (VA) and security audits for PWS but will focus mainly on Emergency Response Planning. The training is free of charge. We encourage water operators and owners to come to the workshop. Although most of you know that EPA only required systems serving over 3,300 persons to complete and submit a VA and emergency response plans (ERP), the national trend is for all federally regulated systems to review their system, assess their vulnerabilities, and develop or update their ERPs. ADEC, Drinking Water Program will be modifying our regulations soon to reflect this trend, systems will be required to have a written ERP on site that is checked during the sanitary survey, and that addresses the alternate water supply issue. The new enhanced sanitary survey forms being field tested this spring will have a whole new section of questions dealing with security and ERPs for water systems. The ERP should be developed for the specific needs, resources and abilities of the PWS, and should reflect the size and complexity of the system. There are, however some common elements in all ERPs no matter what size of system. All ERPs should include:

System Specific Information

Basic information that needs to be available to responders such as process flow diagrams, distribution system maps, operating procedures, and as-builts.

● **Roles and Responsibility** You should have an Emergency Response Lead who will be the main point of contact and decision-maker during a major event. A clear chain of command, or command structure,

should also be established so that your staff knows their individual roles and responsibilities.

● **Communications Procedures** As part of your ERP, you should maintain internal and external notification lists that include names, titles, mailing addresses, e-mail addresses, land line, cellular, and pager numbers.

● **Personnel Safety** Your ERP should provide direction on how to safely implement a variety of response actions.

● **Alternate Water Source** You should consider the amount of water needed to address short-term (hours to days) and long-term (weeks to months) outages.

● **Replacement of Chemical and Equipment** You should have a list of vendors available as a ready reference.

● **Property Protection** Your ERP should identify measures and procedures that are aimed at securing and protecting your PWS following a major event.

● **Water Sampling and Monitoring** You should have sample bottles in stock and an ERP sampling plan for use in during an emergency.

Some of the things you need to think about when completing your ERP are: how will you respond to different events, and how will you decide if there is a “real” manmade intentional event? At the workshop you will go over issues like “threat evaluation” and “site characterization”.

REMEMBER, in the case of a possible contamination event, site characterization and sampling should be done as soon as possible. Under these conditions, the risk to personnel can be minimized through the use of good safety practices, including:



- **Do not** eat, drink, or smoke at the site.
- **Do not** taste or smell the water samples.
- **Do use** general personal protective equipment (PPE) such as splash-proof goggles, disposable gloves, proper footwear (i.e., no open toe or open heel shoes), disposable shoe covers, a chemical resistant, disposable lab coat, and long pants.
- **Avoid** all skin contact with the water, and if incidental contact does occur, immediately flush the affected area with clean water brought to the site for that purpose.
- **Fill** sampling containers **slowly** to avoid volatilization or dispersal of contaminants.
- **Minimize** the time that personnel are on the site and collecting samples.

If obvious signs of hazard are observed at the time the threat is discovered, or during the approach to the site, only personnel with proper equipment and training for response to hazardous situations should enter the site and perform sampling activities. ~

An inexpensive security tech tip: If you have a door that is hinged to open outward, the hinge pins can be removed to remove the door no matter how secure the lock is. You can braze a bead (weld) on the bottom of the hinge to prevent the pin from being removed.