

EPA FACT SHEET

CHEMICAL MONITORING REFORM

&

PERMANENT MONITORING RELIEF

EPA is providing advance notice of proposed rulemaking that would revise the monitoring requirements for sixty-four chemicals in drinking water, and is seeking comment on draft permanent monitoring relief guidelines and several suggestions for reducing regulatory burden. These changes would affect chemicals for which EPA has established national safety standards in drinking water, which may occur in the source water of public water systems, and which are regulated on the basis of chronic health effects over a 70 year period.

Chemical Monitoring Reform would affect community water systems (CWSs) and non-transient, non-community water systems (NTNCWSs).

- CWSs are those systems which deliver water to at least 15 service connections used by year round residents, or regularly serve at least 25 year round residents *e.g.*, cities and townships.
- NTNCWSs are those systems which are not community water systems and which serve at least 25 of the same people over six months of the year *e.g.*, schools, factories or other facilities with their own water supplies.

Chemical Monitoring Reform would reduce the chance of drinking water contamination going undetected and, at the same time, reduce unnecessary monitoring and reporting. It would require:

- Systems that States determine may be at risk of contamination to sample at higher frequencies, based on each system's vulnerability to contamination; and
- Systems with little or no risk of contamination to sample once every five years.

These changes would: provide more cost effective health protection by focusing public resources on water systems at risk of contamination and the chemicals posing that risk; and further increase the chance of detecting contamination by requiring States to schedule all sampling during the periods of greatest vulnerability, based on local circumstances.

Permanent Monitoring Relief would provide States with an option to grant additional monitoring flexibility, if the State has an approved Source Water Assessment Program, and has completed source water assessments for its systems. The additional flexibility that the State could offer includes:

- (1) Allowing sampling waivers to further reduce sampling frequency, if a State determines that a system is unlikely to become contaminated, or that the contamination will remain reliably and consistently below the MCL during the period of the waiver;
- (2) Under certain conditions, allowing systems with multiple wells or withdrawal points that draw from the same source water to designate the most vulnerable point to sample instead of sampling at all points;
- (3) Under certain conditions, allowing multiple systems that use the same source water to designate one or more sampling points that could be used as surrogate sampling point(s) to satisfy the monitoring requirements for all of the systems; and
- (4) Allowing reduced monitoring for nitrate when historical records of sampling show that the system has very little or no contamination.