



EPA EFFORTS TO CONTROL MICROBIAL AND BYPRODUCT RISK

Three new rules [Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D/DBPR) and Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (ESWTR) - proposal 6/94 and promulgation 12/96; Information Collection Rule (ICR) - proposed 2/94 (59 FR 6332) and promulgation 10/94; dates are tentative] have been developed in a regulatory negotiation, with participation from State and local health and regulatory agencies and elected officials, consumer groups, environmental groups, and the drinking water industry. The tentative implementation schedule is as follows:

EFFECTIVE DATES FOR ICR, D/DBPR, AND ESWTR						
SYSTEM TYPE	POPULATION SERVED	ICR ¹			D/DBPR Stage 1	Interim ESWTR
		micro	DBP	duration		
Surface water systems ²	≥ 100,000	1/95	1/95	18 mos.	6/98	6/98
	10,000-99,999	1/95	NA	12 mos.	6/98	6/98
	< 10,000	NA	NA	NA	6/00	NA
Ground water systems ²	≥ 10,000	NA	1/95	18 mos. ³	6/00	NA
	< 10,000	NA	NA	NA	1/02	NA

(1) - ICR monitoring, divided into microbiological occurrence and DBP occurrence, may begin when noted and must be completed by 3/97. Also, some systems will be required to conduct studies (see below for details).

(2) - Surface water systems include those which use ground water under the direct influence of surface water. Ground water systems are those which use only ground water not under the direct influence of surface water.

(3) - Limited requirements that will only apply to systems serving ≥ 50,000 people.

Under these rules, the following contaminants and disinfectants will be regulated for the first time: (ESWTR) - *Cryptosporidium*; (D/DBPR) - chloroform, bromoform, bromodichloromethane, dibromochloromethane, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, bromate, chlorite, chloral hydrate, chlorine, chloramines, and chlorine dioxide. The rules will apply to community water systems and nontransient noncommunity water systems. The ESWTR will also apply to transient noncommunity water systems.

Information Collection Rule

The proposed ICR would require collection of occurrence and treatment data and characterization for disinfectants, disinfection byproducts, and microorganisms (including *Giardia*, *Cryptosporidium*, and viruses). Also, some surface water systems serving ≥ 100,000 and ground water systems serving ≥ 50,000 must complete bench- or pilot-scale studies of disinfection byproduct precursor removal by activated carbon or membranes by 9/97. These data, in addition to concurrent health effects and technology research, will be used to develop the ESWTR and Stage 2 of the D/DBPR.

Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule

The proposed interim ESWTR will include options to be refined based on ICR microbiological data. Generally, these include 1) requirements that surface water systems with poorer quality source waters remove microbiological contaminants above levels currently required by the SWTR of 99.9% for *Giardia* and 99.99% for viruses; and 2) making no changes if the current SWTR is determined adequate. In addition, systems will be subject to sanitary surveys and may be required to treat for *Cryptosporidium*. A long-term ESWTR will be developed for systems serving <10,000 and may include revisions to the interim ESWTR for systems ≥10,000 (proposal 6/97, promulgation 12/98).



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