



Aeromonas hydrophilia.
Professor John Hayes
Oregon State University.
[http://www.hmsc.orst.edu/
classes/MB492/hydrophilahayes/](http://www.hmsc.orst.edu/classes/MB492/hydrophilahayes/)

UCMR Update

Issue 4

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The “Everything you ever wanted to know about Aeromonas...but were afraid to ask” Issue.

UMCR Update Issue Number 4- This information sheet, **The UCMR Update**, is the fourth to be issued by the Technical Support Center (TSC) of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW). Future issues will be distributed as needed to maintain information flow related to the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR for those of you who may have forgotten).

Editor’s Note: As summer turns to fall, the Earth enters a time of renewal. It is marked by the passing of the old in the fall with the hope of the new, come springtime. **The Update** staff is also entering a renewal period as the former editor, Rayshawn Askew, has left to pursue a career in the National Football League. You may remember that Jim Walasek, the editor prior to Rayshawn, entered the greener pastures of retirement a year ago. This revolving door of editors at **The Update** has inspired the phrase “Another issue, another editor” among the staff.

The task of editing **The Update** has now passed to me, Cory Wagner. I am an Oak Ridge Intern Fellow with TSC and the newest member of the UCMR Implementation Team. I hope to provide the same level of journalistic integrity while simultaneously delivering some plain-English insight into key aspects of the regulation, thus simplifying the UCMR. Expect the same high quality, highly technical information that you have come to rely on as well as the biting wit that you have come to love. This issue features information on the following:

- *Aeromonas*: the proposed rule, lab approval program, sampling, and the reporting of data
- Large systems: assessment monitoring letters and List 2 phone calls
- Laboratory testing involving perchlorate, nitrobenzene, and the reporting of analyzed samples
- The first posting of UCMR data

Aeromonas, Aeromonas

First of all, this section does not apply to everyone receiving this newsletter. There are 120 large systems and 180 small systems that are required to sample for the microbial agent, *Aeromonas*. Required public water systems (PWS's) should have received notification from either EPA or their state/tribe/or territory primacy agency. If you are not one of those 300 selected systems, you may want to skip down to the section marked "Large Systems." That is unless you're really crazy about *Aeromonas*, in which case, I encourage you to read on. For those of you who are unsure about whether you are required to sample for *Aeromonas*, the following URL has a list of both large and small systems that have been selected to participate:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/ucmr/systems.html>

As a side note, it may be interesting to some of you to know exactly what it is that you are sampling for. For those of you who may not know, *Aeromonas* spp. are a group of bacteria that are found in fresh and brackish water environments. There are many species in the group and some are known to cause illness in fish and amphibians. In humans, *Aeromonas* has been implicated as a possible cause of some types of diarrhea and gastroenteritis. For more information, see the following URL:

<http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/~mow/chap17.html>

The Proposed *Aeromonas* Method Rule

On March 7, 2002, EPA published a proposed rule to approve EPA Method 1605 for the monitoring of the List 2 microbial contaminant, *Aeromonas*. This proposed rule, entitled *Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation: Approval of Analytical Method for Aeromonas; National Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Regulations: Approval of Analytical Methods for Chemical and Microbiological Contaminants* (Try saying that three times fast!), was open for comment until May 6, 2002. The portion of the proposed rule that pertains to UCMR essentially defines the analytical method (EPA Method 1605: *Aeromonas* in Finished Water by Membrane Filtration using Ampicillin-Dextrin Agar with Vancomycin (ADA-V) (EPA-821-R-01-034, October 2001)) for the detection of *Aeromonas* and sets a minimum reporting level (MRL) for the PWSs that will be testing for the bacteria in 2003. While it does not apply to the UCMR, the proposed rule also establishes several new analytical methods to support National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) compliance monitoring. The "***Aeromonas* Rule**" is expected to be promulgated in the fall of 2002. The text of the proposed rule can be found at the following URL (although we strongly suggest that you don't operate heavy machinery while reading it):

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/ucmr/aeromonas.htm>

But wait.....there's more

The *Aeromonas* PT Program

In addition to the above, the preamble to the proposed ***Aeromonas* Rule** also described the *Aeromonas* Performance Testing (PT) program for laboratory approval. A laboratory must have advance EPA approval to support *Aeromonas* monitoring. Interested laboratories may participate in this voluntary PT program before the final rule is promulgated. A laboratory must:

1. Submit a letter of request to participate,
2. Submit its Initial Demonstration of Capability (IDC) data,

3. Provide proof of certification for a membrane filtration method, and
4. Successfully pass the Performance Test.

Once this is done, a laboratory will receive a letter indicating that its approval to perform *Aeromonas* analyses for the UCMR is pending. Final laboratory approval letters will be issued after the final rule is promulgated. Laboratory approval will be limited and specific to the duration of *Aeromonas* monitoring under the current UCMR cycle. This monitoring is scheduled to begin in January 2003. At the time of this publication, one PT study has already been concluded and a second is underway. So far, four laboratories have passed. As more labs pass the PT studies, they will be added to the Web site, which can be found at the following URL:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/ucmr/aprvlabs.html>

In addition, one more PT study is planned for later this year. Interested laboratories can see the application procedure at the following URL:

http://www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/ucmr/aeromonas_pt.htm

***Aeromonas* Sampling and the MRS**

Aeromonas monitoring review sheets (MRS) were designed to solicit information regarding sample point location, sample point I.D. and sampling time for *Aeromonas* from each selected PWS. They are also used to provide contact information for the PWS to EPA. In some cases, these forms have already been completed by state/territory/tribal primacy agents for the PWS. These PWSs will receive a completed form for review and the primacy agent will be conducting the *Aeromonas* sampling for the PWS.

For those of you whose state/territory/tribe did not complete the form, we'll be counting on you to do so. Selected systems should have already received a form to be completed. These forms were mailed, along with "notification" letters, on July 24. Please review your form and return completed forms, as applicable, to TSC by the deadline of September 1, 2002.

If you are on the list of affected systems (see above) and have not received either a notification letter and MRS, or, alternatively, notification from your state/territory/tribal agency that they will be sampling for you, please contact the UCMR Coordinator at the TSC (address listed near end of **The Update**).



LARGE Systems News

If you are a public water system (PWS) and serve over 10,000 people, then this section is for you:



Assessment Monitoring Reminder Letters

TSC will be sending out reminder letters to all large PWSs that have not posted any assessment monitoring (List 1) data to the Web-based reporting system, the Safe Drinking Water Accession and Review System (SDWARS/UCMR), as of August 2002. As you know, next year marks the final year in this UCMR monitoring period and all sampling must be done by the end of 2003. The letters are expected to be mailed in September 2002.



Screening Survey Reminder Calls

The Great Lakes Environmental Center, affectionately known as GLEC, is a contractor supporting data follow up for EPA. They will be calling any large PWS that is required to sample for List 2 items (and you should know who you are). Those sampling for List 2 chemicals will receive a call from GLEC if you have yet to post any data to SDWARS/UCMR. This monitoring was to have occurred in 2002. For those sampling for List 2 *Aeromonas*, GLEC will call you if you have not returned the MRS by the September 1 deadline.

Random Musings

The following topics are applicable to all **UCMR Update** readers.

Some Percolating Thoughts About Perchlorate

Please note that the list of approved laboratories that may analyze UCMR samples for perchlorate has been posted on the EPA Web site. The URL is:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/ucmr/aprvlabs.html>

For all you large PWSs out there, make sure that you are using an approved lab for the perchlorate analysis. The laboratory **MUST** be approved and use EPA Method 314.0. This is extremely important, as the data can not be used if generated by a lab that is not approved. This will require you to resample and will cause a delay in the progress that you have achieved thus far.

Laboratories Reporting Data:

EPA would like to clarify that the laboratory that actually performs any analysis for UCMR must be the one to post the data to SDWARS/UCMR. If you have any questions regarding this, please contact the UCMR Coordinator (address near the end of **The Update**).

Nitrobenzene and the (mis) use of EPA Method 526

Attention all labs and PWSs: if you are performing assessment monitoring (List 1) for nitrobenzene and using EPA method 526, **PLEASE STOP!!** EPA Method 526 is **ONLY** approved for nitrobenzene as a List 2 contaminant. It cannot be used for assessment monitoring. Large PWSs are responsible for ensuring that their nitrobenzene testing is being performed properly, using any the following methods: EPA 524.2, ASTM D5790, SM 6210D, or SM 6200B.

Extra, Extra! Data Posted on Web!! Read All About It!!

Finally, after much hair-pulling and hard work, *the first batch of approved UCMR data has been posted to the Web!!!* We here at **The Update** are very excited to see the fruition of all the hard work from dedicated individuals within our extended UCMR partnership team, PWSs and supporting analytical laboratories. These combined efforts have enabled us to achieve this important milestone. We hope you share in our excitement. Look for more data to be posted in the future. The link to posted data is: **<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ucmrgetdata.html>**

Important Dates

September 1, 2002:

- Deadline to return *Aeromonas* monitoring review sheets (MRS).

September 30, 2002:

- Reminder letters issued to all large PWSs that have not posted any assessment monitoring data to SDWARS.

October 10, 2002:

- Determination and posting of laboratories approved for *Aeromonas* testing based on the second round of PT testing.

October/November:

- “*Aeromonas* Rule” expected to be promulgated
- Deadline for submitting *Aeromonas* PT letter of request to participate for the third and **final** round of laboratory PT Testing, based on time of publication of the rule.

January 1, 2003:

- Beginning of the final year of assessment monitoring under the current UCMR cycle.
- Beginning of first *Aeromonas* sampling period.

Contact Information:

A general reminder to laboratories and PWSs: when contacting the EPA about UCMR issues, please use your USEPA Lab ID number or PWSID number respectively.

General UCMR questions may be directed to the **Drinking Water Hotline** at:

1-800-426-4791

Questions regarding registration for or use of the SDWARS/UCMR reporting system may be directed to the **SDWARS Help Desk** at:

1-888-890-1995

Correspondence with TSC may be directed to:

UCMR Coordinator

Technical Support Center (MS-140)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
26 W. Martin Luther King Drive
Cincinnati, OH 45268
FAX: 513-569-7191

Future Issues of the UCMR Update

This issue of **The UCMR Update** is sent to you to keep you abreast of the latest information on the UCMR. If you know of someone else not currently on the **Update** mailing list, who would like to receive future issues, please have them fill out the form

below and return it to TSC. You may also e-mail me a short message with your mailing address at **wagner.cory@epa.gov** to be placed on the mailing list. Previous issues may be viewed online at: **<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/standard/ucmr/updateindex.html>**
Thank you.



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Yes, I would like to receive future issues of **The UCMR Update**. My current mailing address is:

Name: _____

PWSID#(or USEPA Lab ID#): _____

PWS (or LAB) Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Would you like to receive **The Update** via Email? _____

Email Address: _____

Mail to Cory Wagner, Technical Support Center (MS-140), U.S. EPA, 26 W. Martin Luther King Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45268



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