

# The UCMR Update

## In Like a Lion and Out Like a Lamb

### Editor's Notes

How would you describe the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR)? When I describe UCMR to my family they get a glazed look in their eyes, and they sort of tilt their heads to the side. I am

not sure if the tilt is due to the fact that they are confused, or if they are trying to listen to the television in the background. I will admit I have the “boring career” compared to my brother and sister. UCMR cannot compete with the army or NASCAR.

Have you ever tried to describe UCMR2 to colleagues, friends or family? Do they get the same glazed look as my family? If so, simply let them know that UCMR1 went out like a lamb, and UCMR2 is starting with the strength of a fierce lion.

Please graze this issue if you would like to learn more. The main goals are to:

- Say “bah”-bye to UCMR1
- Roar hello to UCMR2
- Leap to important UCMR2 implementation activities

Issue 9-EPA 815-N-06-001a  
Brenda Parris, Editor  
O.R.I.S.E. Fellow  
Technical Support Center  
March 2006

### Table of Contents

Editor's Notes.....	1
UCMR1 Leaves Like a Lamb .....	2
UCMR2 Enters Like a Lion .....	2
State Partnership Agreements .....	2
State Monitoring Plans .....	3
Ground Water Representative Monitoring Plans ....	3
Roar Good-Bye to Sponsor Letters .....	3
Join the Laboratory Approval Program Troop .....	4
Public Water Systems Contact Your Laboratory ....	5
Remember These Dates.....	5
Want to Know More?.....	6
Contact Information .....	6
Correct Contact Information .....	6



**UCMR Update Issue Number 9-**  
Issued by the Technical Support Center (TSC) of the Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW). Future *Updates* will be distributed as needed to maintain the flow of Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation (UCMR) information.

## UCMR1 Leaves Like a Lamb

Thanks for making UCMR1 successful! An amazing 99.7% of public water systems (PWSs) required to monitor for UCMR1 reported data. That amazing number can be seen over hills of grassy pastures. The UCMR1 database contains over 30,000 analytical results for each contaminant in List 1 and over 400,000 results total. You can find UCMR1 occurrence data online at

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/ncod/index.html>

**Why is this important?** The UCMR program benefits the environment and public health by providing EPA and other interested parties with scientific data on the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water. The data provides a basis for assessing the population potentially being exposed and the levels of that exposure. This is the primary source of drinking water occurrence and exposure data the Agency uses to determine whether to regulate these contaminants in the interest of protecting public health. I hope you feel proud knowing that you are participating in such an important process.

## UCMR2 Enters Like a Lion

Do not forget about UCMR2! Currently, EPA is reviewing all public comments and expects to publish the final regulation later this year. Thank you for taking the time to provide comments. We appreciate all of your feedback, and hope to make positive changes to the regulation based on those recommendations.

Currently, many pre-implementation activities have leaped into action, and the roar of activity will continue to grow in the coming months. Stay on the lookout for the next *UCMR Update* for details about future activities.

## State Partnership Agreements

EPA **THANKS** all States who are partnering with us to assist with UCMR2 implementation. We appreciate all your time and support, and look forward to working with you in the months and years ahead. States that still want to partner need to call their EPA Regional contact as soon as possible.

# State Monitoring Plans

**Partnering States.** Please remember to review and return your state monitoring plan (SMP) to EPA by April 7, 2006.

**Public Water Systems (PWSs).** Welcome to UCMR2! You are receiving this *Update* because EPA considers you subject to UCMR2 monitoring. We determined your status according to the proposed rule's established applicability date (June 30, 2005) using information in the Federal Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS-FED). Either EPA's implementation support contractor or your state will confirm this information.

1. **PWSs in Non-Partnering States** – EPA's implementation support contractor will call you to verify your applicability status and confirm your contact information.
2. **PWSs in Partnering States** – Your state will verify your applicability status and confirm contact information for you.

## Ground Water Representative Monitoring Plans

EPA recommends that PWSs begin working on their ground water representative monitoring plans (GWRMP) as soon as possible. GWRMPs allow PWSs to monitor at representative entry point(s), rather than monitoring at every entry point to the distribution system (EPTDS).

We encourage PWSs to first review GWRMP criteria in the proposed rule. If you have questions, please write the UCMR Sampling Coordinator.

UCMR Sampling Coordinator  
US EPA, Technical Support Center  
26 West Martin Luther King Drive (MS 140)  
Cincinnati, OH 45268

**Please Keep In Mind.** You must wait until the final rule is published to submit your GWRMP. However, you must submit your plan to EPA within 120 days of the publication of the final rule. Therefore, you only have a 120 day window to submit your plan.

# Roar Good-Bye to Sponsor Letters

**Out** with the sponsor letters and **In** with simplicity! Many of you “roared” last time you filled out a sponsor letter to access SDWARS (the Safe Drinking Water Accession & Reporting System) in CDX (the Central Data Exchange). EPA heard your “roars” and hopes to turn your roar into the gentle “bah” of a sheep. We are making it easier for you to meet your requirements for UCMR2 by banishing the sponsor letter, and introducing a three step registration process.

**Step1:** In March, EPA provided SDWARS1 users an opportunity to maintain their current CDX account name/information by upgrading their account to SDWARS2. On March 16, an e-mail was sent to all active PWS, State and EPA users to invite them to participate in this registration upgrade process.

**Step 2:** In May/June, EPA plans to send all remaining PWS and State users expected to participate in UCMR2 a letter containing a customer retrieval key (CRK). The CRK allows users to quickly and easily register for SDWARS2.

**Step 3:** All users who register using the upgrade process or their CRK can nominate other users within SDWARS2. This nomination process provides users the opportunity to nominate others who will be assisting with UCMR2.

**Laboratories:** EPA plans to use the same steps for laboratory SDWARS2 registration. However, you must complete the laboratory approval program and become approved before you receive access to SDWARS2. Only laboratories that are EPA approved are allowed to analyze samples for UCMR2.

## Join the Laboratory Approval Program Troop

Join the troop of lions in the quest to analyze samples for UCMR2. All laboratories that wish to participate in UCMR2 should start the process now. Once the final rule is published, laboratories only have 90 days to register for lab approval, and only 210 days to submit their applications. This seems like a long time, but do not let it deceive you. A shortened version of the approval program is outlined below to help demystify the process. Please refer to <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/labs.html> for all the details.

**Step 1:** Please send a letter requesting the registration material to the address below, and we will send this package to you.

UCMR2 Laboratory Approval Coordinator  
US EPA, Technical Support Center  
26 West Martin Luther King Drive (MS 140)  
Cincinnati, OH 45268

- Step 2:** Complete and submit your registration sheet to EPA. We will process the information, and our implementation support contractor will send you the requested applications.
- Step 3:** Please complete and submit each method application to our implementation support contractor. They will ask you to provide additional information if your application(s) are deficient. Only labs that submit acceptable application(s) will be invited to participate in the proficiency test (PT).
- Step 4:** There are a limited number of PTs planned. You must pass one of the method specific PTs to participate in UCMR2. The first PT is scheduled to occur in late spring 2006. Thus, if you miss this PT, you have lost one of a limited number of opportunities to participate in UCMR2.

**Keep in Mind.** You have more opportunities to pass the PT if you start the laboratory approval process early. If you fail the PT you are automatically enrolled in the next PT for that method. However, if you wait until the last PT, you will only have one chance to pass.


## Public Water Systems Contact Your Laboratory


Public water systems (PWSs) should contact the laboratories they typically use to make sure they are aware of the UCMR2 laboratory approval program. Only EPA approved laboratories are permitted to analyze samples for UCMR2, and submit data to SDWARS.

## Remember These Dates

August 22, 2005	UCMR 2 proposal published in Federal Register
October 21, 2005	Public comment period ended
Late-2006	Anticipated UCMR 2 final rule published

### Reporting Deadlines Identified in UCMR2 Proposal

 **Early opportunities to participate!**

Within 90 days from final rule publication	Large PWSs (serve > 10,000 people) report contact information to SDWARS2
Within 90 days from final rule publication 	Laboratories submit laboratory approval program registration sheet to EPA
Within 120 days from final rule publication	PWSs must submit Ground Water Representative Monitoring Plans to EPA (Consider working on the plans now)

Within 210 days from final rule publication	Large PWSs must: (1) Review and edit sampling location and inventory information; (2) Review and edit monitoring schedule
Within 210 days from final rule publication ★	Laboratories submit applications to EPA's implementation support contractor
After 210 days from final rule publication	Large PWSs must: (1) Notify EPA of sampling location and inventory changes; (2) Notify EPA if unable to sample according to their established schedule

<b>Reporting Monitoring Results</b>	
Within 120 days from sample collection	EPA approved labs must post monitoring results through CDX to SDWARS2 (EPA's electronic reporting system)
Within 60 days from lab posting data	Large PWSs review and approve lab posted data through CDX using SDWARS2

## Want to Know More?

### **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Regulation 2**

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ucmr/ucmr2/>

## Contacting EPA

**Laboratories and PWSs:** when contacting EPA about UCMR issues, please use your U. S. EPA Lab ID or PWSID, respectively.

**Safe Drinking Water Hotline:** General UCMR questions may be directed to:  
1-800-426-4791

**SDWARS Help Desk:** SDWARS/UCMR registration and reporting system questions may be directed to:

1-888-890-1995

**TSC Correspondence:** May be directed to:

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

[UCMR\\_Sampling\\_Coordinator@epa.gov](mailto:UCMR_Sampling_Coordinator@epa.gov)

## Correcting Your Contact Information

Please contact EPA if you are not the correct person to receive this newsletter or if your address needs to be corrected.