

### What if my system is new and has never sampled for nitrate?

If your system is new and has never sampled for nitrate before, contact your primacy agency. You must conduct initial sampling to determine whether your system is in compliance with the MCL.

## Routine Monitoring: Sampling must be completed at every entry point to the distribution system

**IF**

Sample result at entry point is less than 5 mg/L (as N):

Continue to sample once per year at that entry point.

### Besides sampling, what else are we required to do?

There are also requirements on what you report to the primacy agency every month, and requirements on how and when to notify your customers if you have a violation. Contact your primacy agency to make sure you are providing them with all the information that is required.

### Where can I find more information on Nitrate monitoring?

You can find more information on nitrate monitoring by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 1.800.426.4791 or by contacting your primacy agency.

**IF**

Sample result at entry point is at or above 5 mg/L (as N) but at or below 10 mg/L (as N):

Starting the next quarter, begin quarterly sampling at that entry point.

### How can I go back to sampling once per year?

Surface water systems and systems designated by the primacy agency as being under the direct influence of surface water can return to annual monitoring after 4 consecutive quarters of samples that are less than 5 mg/L (as N). Ground water systems can return to annual monitoring after 4 consecutive quarters of samples that are reliably and consistently below the MCL, as defined by the primacy agency.

Once you return to annual monitoring, take annual samples in the quarter during which you had the highest nitrate result during quarterly monitoring.

**IF**

Sample result at entry point is at or above 10 mg/L (as N):

Take a confirmation sample at that entry point within 24 hours after being told about the sample result or immediately notify your customers.

### How do I know if my system is in violation of the MCL?

- The nitrate MCL is 10 mg/L (as N). To see if you are in violation, you must calculate the mean of the original nitrate sample result and the confirmation sample (add the two together and divide the sum by two).
- If the mean of the original sample result and confirmation sample is above the MCL, your system is in violation of the MCL.
- If the mean of the original sample result and confirmation sample is 10 mg/L (as N) or less; your system is not in violation of the MCL.

Example: The original sample is 11 mg/L and the confirmation sample is 13 mg/L.

$$11 + 13 = 24$$

$$24/2 = 12 \text{ mg/L}$$

This result is above 10 mg/L (the MCL).

This is an MCL violation.