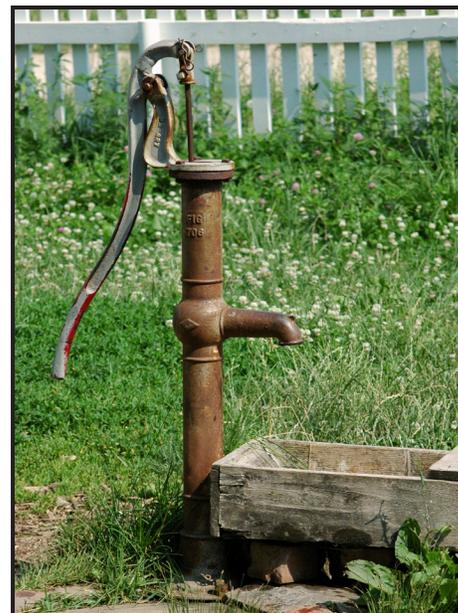


WATER

Ground Water Rule

On Dec 1, 2009, the new **Ground Water Rule (GWR)** for **Public Water Supplies (PWS)** went into effect. This new rule from the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** is aimed at increasing the protection from disease-causing microorganisms for consumers of water from PWSs.

The GWR is designed to work in conjunction with, and in addition to, the **Total Coliform Rule (TCR)**. This means when a sample collected under routine TCR monitoring is TC+, it will require samples to be submitted from the source in addition to the repeat samples in the distribution system.



If a PWS that is subject to the GWR is notified of a Total Coliform Positive (TC+) result collected during the routine TCR monitoring, the PWS should:

1. Collect a sample for E. coli testing by an accredited lab using routine bacteriological sampling protocols from all of the GW sources that have been in use within the last 30 days.
 - a. These samples should be collected by the PWS within 24 hours of notification of a TC+.
 - b. If the PWS is a consecutive system (water is purchased from a wholesale system), then officials from the PWS are responsible for notifying the wholesaler within 24 hours regarding the TC+.
 - c. The wholesaler is then responsible for sampling all of their GW sources within 24 hours of notification, as well as notifying any systems from which they purchase water.
2. Samples taken from the well head(s) prior to treatment must be submitted to the laboratory using a proper Chain of Custody.
 - a. The Chain of Custody must state "Ground Water Sample".
 - b. Each of these samples must have the appropriate PWSID & Sampling Point filled in on the Chain of Custody
3. These "triggered" samples are to be collected at the well in addition to the samples that must be collected in the distribution system for compliance with the TCR.

If you have questions about compliance with the GWR you can:

- Contact the GWR Coordinator for EPA Region 6:
 - Dawn Ison (214) 665-2162

If you have questions about sampling you can contact the SEL at:

- (405) 702-1000 or
- 1-866-412-3057