

Ground Water Rule Sampling

On Dec. 1, 2009, the new Ground Water Rule (GWR) for Public Water Supplies (PWS) went into effect. The GWR is designed to work in conjunction with, and in addition to, the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) to increase the protection from disease-causing microorganisms for PWS customers.

When a sample collected under routine RTCR monitoring is Total Coliform Positive (TC+), a sample must be taken from the groundwater source(s) in addition to the repeat sample collected from the distribution system.

If a PWS that is subject to the GWR is notified of a TC+ result from routine RTCR monitoring, the PWS should:

- 1.** Collect a triggered raw water sample from all of the groundwater sources that were in use on the day the TC+ sample was collected. Resample(s) should be tested for *E. coli* by an accredited laboratory.
 - a.** These samples should be collected by the PWS within 24 hours of notification of a TC+ routine sample.
 - b.** If the PWS is a consecutive system (water is purchased from a wholesale system), then the PWS is responsible for notifying the wholesaler within 24 hours of the TC+ routine sample.
 - c.** The wholesaler is then responsible for sampling all of their groundwater sources within 24 hours of notification, as well as notifying any system where they purchase water.
- 2.** Raw water samples taken from the wellhead(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 Rule” or “GWR” sample.
 - b.** Each of these samples must have the appropriate PWSID and sampling point identified on the chain of custody.
- 3.** These triggered raw water samples are to be collected at the well in addition to the repeat samples that must be collected in the distribution system for compliance with the RTCR.

If you have questions about compliance with the GWR, please contact your PWS District Coordinator at (405) 702-8100.

If you need sample bottles or a chain of custody, please contact the State Environmental Lab at (405) 702-1000 or (866) 412-3057.

