

# NEVADA DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

**Topic:** REPEAT BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

**Section/Program:** BUREAU OF SAFE

**Bulletin Number:** BSDW-93-6

DRINKING WATER

### REQUIREMENTS FOR REPEAT SAMPLES

Under the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) if a Routine\* bacteriological (coliform) sample is Total Coliform "present", the public water system must collect a set of Repeat samples and have them analyzed for Total Coliform bacteria in the following manner:

1. If the system normally collects one (1) Routine sample or fewer per month, then four (4) Repeat samples must be collected.

If the system normally collects two (2) or more Routine samples per month, then three (3) Repeat samples must be collected.

2. Each set of samples must include a sample from each of the following locations:

- One (1) from the same tap as the original "present" sample.
- One (1) from a tap within five (5) service connections upstream from the original "present" sample.
- One (1) from a tap within five (5) service connections downstream from the original "present" sample.
- One (1) from an additional distribution sample tap if the water system normally collects one routine sample or fewer per month. **Note:** If four (4) repeat samples are required, the 4<sup>th</sup> sample may be collected at the groundwater source (see next bullet item) to satisfy the requirements of both the TCR and GWR. However, if that source sample is Total Coliform present, it will result in a Non-Acute MCL violation. You have the option to take the source sample *in addition* to the four repeats. In this case, if the source water sample is Total Coliform present, it will NOT result in a TCR MCL violation.
- One (1) source water sample from **each** groundwater source in use at the time of the original "present" sample for **each** Total Coliform "present" sample. This satisfies the triggered monitoring requirements outlined in the Ground Water Rule (GWR).

3. All repeat samples must be collected on the same day within 24 hours of notification of a Total Coliform "present" sample. Notification is made via a telephone call or letter from the State to the system or receipt of the laboratory results, whichever is sooner.

Any modifications to this repeat sampling schedule must be approved by the State within 24 hours of notification. Contact the State at (775) 687-9521 if sampling cannot be conducted as prescribed above.

**Five (5) samples must be collected in the month following a total coliform "present" sample**, even if the MCL for Total Coliform bacteria has not been violated. *All five (5) samples must be representative of the distribution system.* If a sample collected at the end of a month is Total Coliform "present", Repeat samples collected the following month will apply to the month in which the original "present" sample was collected.

**Example, if a sample collected on March 30 is Total Coliform "present", and Repeat samples are collected on April 2, the Repeat samples will be applied to March for compliance purposes and another five (5) Routine samples must be collected in April.** Systems regularly collecting five (5) or more Routine samples per month should continue their regular sampling schedule (5 additional samples are not required).

\* **Note:** All Routine Total Coliform samples must be collected at sites representative of the distribution system. The water system must prepare and follow a *Total Coliform Rule Sample Siting Plan*.