The federal rule defines a seasonal system as a non-community water system that is not operated as a public water system on a year-round basis and starts up and shuts down at the beginning and end of each operating season. In order not to include temporary shut-downs of short duration, OEHS defines a seasonal system as not being in operation if a system is serving less than 25 persons per day, for at least 30 consecutive days.

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) places additional monitoring and reporting requirements onto seasonal systems. Seasonal systems are required to monitor for total coliform bacteria at least once a month during the period water is served to the public and must complete the OEHS approved start-up procedure, prior to serving water to the public for the season.

Routine bacteriological monitoring will be required if the system is open to the public for one day in a calendar month. For example, if the water system opens to the public on May 31, a bacteriological sample will be required to be collected and analyzed for total coliform for the month of May. Likewise, if a system's last day of serving water to the public is December 1, a bacteriological sample will be expected to be collected on December 1 to represent the month of December. Likewise, a Monthly Operational Report, with all required data, should be submitted for each day that the water system was open to the public in the month the system opens/closes, even if only for one day.

The Start-Up procedure is required to be performed by a certified operator who is familiar with the water system, and a certification submitted to the appropriate District Office at least seven days prior to the planned day of opening. Pre-opening bacteriological sample(s) results should be submitted with the certification. The location(s) where the pre-opening bacteriological sample(s) is collected should be indicated on the sampling site plan. The samples collected prior to opening are to be designated “special purpose” for compliance determination purposes. If the pre-opening certification and bacteriological sample(s) results are not received prior to opening, appropriate enforcement action shall be taken.

The attached Start-up procedure may be modified in discussions between the water system and a designee from the appropriate District Office. The agreed upon procedure should then be approved in writing by the designee’s immediate supervisor. For seasonal systems that do not depressurize and/or continue to serve water during ‘off season’ periods, a special purpose (total coliform absent) pre-opening bacteriological sample(s) is required.

If any pre-opening bacteriological sample is found to be total coliform-positive, the system should disinfect the portion of the water distribution system deemed necessary (if multiple bacteriological samples are required for the first round pre-opening) and retest. If the follow-up sample continues to be total coliform present, the PWS operator should consult with the appropriate District Office staff for advice.
Any violations or Assessment triggers occurring within 30 days of closing for the season, with the exception of any required public notice, must be addressed prior to opening for the following season. Any required public notices must be posted for at least the first seven (7) days of the regular opening season. Any required repeat total coliform sample(s) should be collected and analyzed at least one week after the "special purpose" pre-opening samples have been analyzed and found total coliform absent, but before the system opens for the season. System must be pressurized and the special purpose pre-opening bacteriological sample should be found total coliform absent, prior to performing a Level 1 or 2 Assessment.

References

History

Attachments :  
SEASONAL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM START-UP CHECKLIST/CERTIFICATION FORM (EW-129)  
SEASONAL PWS OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE GUIDE FOR RTCR