

DRINKING WATER SAMPLE COLLECTION

Debra Waller
NJDEP, Office of Quality Assurance (OQA)
dwaller@dep.nj.gov

CHAIN OF CUSTODY (C o C) RECORDS

- THE MOST IMPORTANT DOCUMENT RELATED TO SAMPLE COLLECTION
 - MUST BE COMPLETE AND CONTAIN ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO THE SAMPLING EVENT
 - MUST ACCOMPANY THE SAMPLE TO THE TESTING LABORATORY
 - SAMPLES CAN BE REJECTED BY THE TESTING LAB IF C o C IS NOT AVAILABLE OR IS NOT FILLED OUT CORRECTLY
 - FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLE COLLECTION THE CONCENTRATION OF DISINFECTANT AGENTS MUST BE NOTED ON THE RECORD AT THE TIME THE SAMPLES ARE COLLECTED
- FIELD TESTING RESULTS (IF REPORTED TO THE CLIENT) MUST BE DETAILED AS TO TIME OF SAMPLE COLLECTION, TIME OF ANALYSIS, TECH(S), METHOD USED AND UNITS OF MEASUREMENT.

WHY IS CONSISTENCY NEEDED WHEN COLLECTING SAMPLES?

- PROPER SAMPLE COLLECTION IS CRITICAL, BAD SAMPLE = BAD DATA
- DEMONSTRATION OF ACTUAL WATER QUALITY
- CONSISTENCY AMONG ALL COLLECTORS
- REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE SOURCES
- PREVENT DETERIORATION OF COLLECTED SAMPLES
- PREVENT CONTAMINATION OF COLLECTED SAMPLES
- OBTAIN RELIABLE RESULTS

COLLECTION OF SAMPLES

- WEAR GLOVES TO PREVENT CONTAMINATION FROM THE SAMPLER TECH.
- ALWAYS **CHECK THE METHOD** OF TESTING FOR ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE TYPES OF GLOVES TO USE. FOR EXAMPLE, FOR PFAAS TESTING WITH EPA 537, NITRILE GLOVES ARE REQUIRED TO BE WORN.
- SELECT A COLD WATER FAUCET FOR SAMPLING WHICH IS FREE OF CONTAMINATING DEVICES SUCH AS SCREENS, AERATION DEVICES, HOSES, PURIFICATION DEVICES OR SWIVELED FAUCETS.
- ***UNLESS PROHIBITED, I.E. IF SAMPLING FOR LEAD AND COPPER, DO NOT REMOVE THESE DEVICES PRIOR TO SAMPLE COLLECTION**

SAMPLING CONSIDERATIONS; WHERE TO BEGIN?

- HAVE I BEEN PROPERLY TRAINED TO COLLECT THE SAMPLES?
- IS THE CORRECT SAMPLE LOCATION USED DURING COLLECTION?
- WHAT TYPE OF SAMPLE IS BEING COLLECTED? POINT OF ENTRY? END OF PIPE/DISTRIBUTION? SOURCE OR FINISHED WATERS? GROUNDWATER? SURFACE?
- DO I HAVE THE CORRECT EQUIPMENT TO BE ABLE TO COLLECT A SAMPLE, INCLUDING A WAY TO STORE THE SAMPLES UNTIL DELIVERY TO THE TESTING LABORATORY?
- DO I HAVE THE REAGENTS NEEDED FOR SAMPLE COLLECTION PRESERVATION?

COLLECTION OF SAMPLES

- CHECK THE FAUCET TO BE SURE IT IS CLEAN. IF THE FAUCET IS IN A STATE OF DISREPAIR, SELECT ANOTHER SAMPLING LOCATION.
- RUN THE WATER IN THE TAP TO **FLUSH** THE LINES BEFORE COLLECTING THE SAMPLE (USUALLY 5-6 MINUTES OR UNTIL THE WATER CHANGES TEMPERATURE SHOULD SUFFICE).
- ***AN EXCEPTION TO THIS WOULD BE FOR LEAD AND COPPER TESTING FOR FIRST DRAW SAMPLES.**
- COLLECT THE SAMPLE DIRECTLY INTO THE BOTTLE UNLESS DIRECTED OTHERWISE (I.E. LT2 SAMPLING OR M. WELL SAMPLE COLLECTION, ETC.)
- ALWAYS USE THE PROPER TYPE OF SAMPLE CONTAINER FOR THE TESTING.

ACUTE PARAMETERS: MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLE COLLECTION

- GRAB: A SAMPLE TAKEN AT A SPECIFIC TIME AND POINT WHICH GIVES AN INDICATION OF THE WATER QUALITY AT THAT POINT IN TIME. ALSO DEFINED AS AT LEAST 100ML IN VOLUME SO ALL MICRO SAMPLES MUST BE AT LEAST 100ML IN VOLUME.
- ALL SAMPLES **MUST** BE AT LEAST 100ML IN VOLUME FOR **RTCR PRESENCE-ABSENCE FORMAT TESTING**. <99.5ML, THE LAB DOES NOT HAVE THE MINIMUM SAMPLE VOLUME REQUIRED. >100ML COLLECTED, LAB MUST HAVE A DOCUMENTED PROCEDURE FOR THE REMOVAL OF EXCESS SAMPLE (CANNOT SIMPLY POUR OFF EXTRA VOLUME).

ACUTE PARAMETERS: MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLE COLLECTION

- NEVER COLLECT A HOT WATER SAMPLE, ALL DW SAMPLES MUST BE COLD WATER SAMPLES.
- DO NOT TOUCH THE SAMPLING SITE OR THE INSIDE OF THE SAMPLE COLLECTION CONTAINER.
- NEVER COLLECT FROM AN OUTSIDE OR SWING OR SWIVEL OR LEAKY FAUCETS.
- COLLECT THE SAMPLE DIRECTLY INTO THE CONTAINER, NEVER USE A HOSE.
- ALWAYS LEAVE A ONE-INCH HEADSPACE TO ALLOW FOR SAMPLE MIXING.
- NEVER RINSE OR OVERFILL THE CONTAINER, ESPECIALLY FOR CHLORINATED SAMPLE SOURCES AS THIS WILL REMOVE THE AGENT DESIGNED TO DESTROY ANY DISINFECTANT IN THE ORIGINAL SAMPLE. LEAVING THE DISINFECTANT AGENT IN THE COLLECTED SAMPLE CAN YIELD FALSE NEGATIVE RESULTS!

ACUTE PARAMETERS: MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLE COLLECTION

- PROPER PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING THE 100ML REQUIRED TESTING VOLUME:
 - TRANSFER THE SAMPLE THAT DOES NOT CONTAIN A HEADSPACE OR IF GREATER THAN 100ML IN VOLUME UPON RECEIPT AT THE TESTING LABORATORY TO A LARGER **STERILE** SAMPLE CONTAINER (CHECKED FOR STERILITY BEFORE USE) AND MIX THE SAMPLE 25 ONE FOOT-ARCS AND THEN REMOVE THE 100ML ALIQUOT WITH A **MEASURING DEVICE THAT HAS BEEN VERIFIED AT THE 100 ML FILL LINE** (I.E. ANOTHER VERIFIED SAMPLE CONTAINER, CLASS A 100ML GRADUATED CYLINDER).

MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF SOURCE WATER TAPS: LT2 COLLECTION FOR E. COLI SAMPLES

- PRIOR TO SAMPLE COLLECTION, THOROUGHLY FLUSH STAGNANT WATER AND DEBRIS IN THE SAMPLE LINE UNTIL THE TEMPERATURE AND TURBIDITY STABILIZE (APPROX. 2-3 MINS OR LONGER).
- **DO NOT** RINSE THE SAMPLE BOTTLE IF THE E. COLI SAMPLE SOURCE IS CHLORINATED. NOTE: THIS SHOULD ONLY OCCUR IF THE UTILITY IS REQUESTING TESTING OF FINISHED WATERS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES.
- ASEPTICALLY FILL THE **STERILE** E. COLI SAMPLE BOTTLE FROM A PRESSURIZED SAMPLE TAP OR MANUALLY COLLECT SAMPLE USING, HOSE, PUMP, FUNNEL, ETC. FROM THE LOCATION DESCRIBED TO THE STATE (MAKE SURE THAT THE ALL MATERIALS THAT COME IN CONTACT WITH THE SAMPLE ARE STERILE BEFORE USE).

ACUTE PARAMETERS: MICROBIOLOGY SAMPLE COLLECTION

- SAMPLE COLLECTION SITES MUST BE CONTAMINATION FREE. WHEN COLLECTING SAMPLES IT IS NOT THE SURFACE OF THE FAUCET THAT IS BEING TESTED BUT THE WATER BEING SUPPLIED FOR CONSUMPTION AND USE.
- THE SITE MUST BE TESTED FOR ANY DISINFECTANT RESIDUALS (IF THE WATER BEING COLLECTED IS DISINFECTED) AND A RECORD OF THE TESTING MUST BE NOTED IN THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY RECORDS FOR THE SAMPLE (OR IN FIELD NOTES ASSOCIATED WITH THE SAMPLE COLLECTION AND TESTING).

MICROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF SOURCE WATER TAPS: LT2 COLLECTION FOR E. COLI SAMPLES

- LEAVE AT LEAST ONE INCH OF HEAD SPACE IN THE E. COLI SAMPLE BOTTLE, IF POSSIBLE. COLLECT AT LEAST 100 ML OF SAMPLE FOR ANALYSIS
- IMMEDIATELY CLOSE THE SAMPLE BOTTLE AND CHILL SAMPLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO BETWEEN 0° AND 10°C UNTIL READY FOR IMMEDIATE SHIPMENT TO THE TESTING LABORATORY (HOLD TIME IS 30 HOURS).



ACUTE PARAMETERS: NITRATE/NITRITE

- REQUIRES THE COLLECTION OF A GRAB SAMPLE. FOLLOW THE SAME PROCEDURE AS THAT USED FOR A GRAB SAMPLE FOR MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING.
- HOLDING TIMES ARE AS FOLLOWS:
 - 48 HOURS IF UNPRESERVED FOR BOTH NITRITE AND NITRATE
 - ***48 HOURS IS THE ONLY APPROVED HOLDING TIME FOR NITRITE**
 - 1.4 DAYS FOR UNPRESERVED CHLORINATED SAMPLES FOR NITRATES
 - 28 DAYS WITH SULFURIC ACID PRESERVATION
 - NOT OPTIMUM FOR AN ACUTE HEALTH CONCERN PARAMETER (MCL = 10 PPM NO₃, MCL = 1PPM FOR NO₂)
 - SHOULD ALWAYS SELECT A 48 HOUR METHOD TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH

PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR METALS

- IF ACID IS ADDED AT THE TIME OF SAMPLE COLLECTION AND THE PH IS VERIFIED TO BE <2 BY THE TESTING LABORATORY UPON RECEIPT, THEN THE TESTING CAN PROCEED.
- ALL PH VERIFICATIONS MUST BE NOTED ON THE RECORDS ASSOCIATED WITH SAMPLE COLLECTION AS WELL AS ALL TIMES WHEN ADDITIONAL ACID IS ADDED BY THE LABORATORY. THE TIME IS THE TRACKING MECHANISM FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE 16 HOUR WAIT.

TO PRESERVE OR NOT TO PRESERVE

- EITHER THE 40CFR FEDERAL REGULATIONS, NJDEP STATE REGULATIONS (INCLUDING N.J.A.C. 7:18 FOR LABORATORY CERTIFICATION) AND AS ADDRESSED IN THE ANALYTICAL METHOD, DICTATE THE NEED FOR PRESERVATION AND THE DETAILS FOR HOW TO PERFORM THE PRESERVATION. 40CFR REQUIREMENTS PREVAIL WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MORE OR LESS STRINGENT.
- IF THE 40CFR REGULATIONS DO NOT CONTAIN A REQUIREMENT FOR PRESERVATION, THEN THE REQUIREMENTS OF N.J.A.C. 7:18-SUBCHAPTER 9 PREVAIL.
- IN ALL CASES, THE LABORATORIES AND THE SAMPLE COLLECTORS (IF DIFFERENT THAN THE TESTING LAB) MUST MAINTAIN CONCISE DETAILS REGARDING SAMPLE COLLECTION AND TYPE OF PRESERVATION USED.

SAMPLING OF CHLORINATED DRINKING WATER SAMPLES FOR VOLATILE ORGANICS AND THMS

- ALWAYS CHECK THE METHOD FOR SAMPLING AND PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS.
- ALL CHLORINATED SAMPLES MUST BE DECHLORINATED BEFORE ACID ADDITION. FOR TTHM TESTING, IF SODIUM THIOSULFATE IS ADDED AT SAMPLE COLLECTION (DECHLORINATING AGENT) THEN THE SAMPLES DO NOT HAVE TO BE ACID PRESERVED.
- THE ACID AND DECHLORINATING AGENT CANNOT BE ADDED TO THE SAME EMPTY BOTTLE AND SHIPPED OUT TO THE CLIENT.

PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR METALS

- THE TIME OF ACID PRESERVATION TO A DRINKING WATER METALS SAMPLE WILL DICTATE THE TIME OF THE INITIATION OF ANALYSIS FOR METALS TESTING.
- IF THE LABORATORY RECEIVES METALS SAMPLES THAT HAVE NOT BEEN FIELD PRESERVED, THEN THE LABORATORY IS TO PERFORM THE ACID ADDITION, AND THEN WAIT 16 HOURS FROM TIME OF ADDITION TO BEGINNING THE ANALYSIS, AFTER PH IS CONFIRMED TO BE <2.
- IF THE LABORATORY RECEIVES AN ACID PRESERVED SAMPLE AND AT THE TIME OF RECEIPT BY THE TESTING LAB THE PH IS FOUND TO BE >2, THE LABORATORY IS TO ADD ADDITIONAL ACID AND THEN WAIT FOR 16 HOURS BEFORE BEGINNING THE ANALYSIS AFTER THE PH IS CONFIRMED TO BE <2.

SAMPLING OF CHLORINATED DRINKING WATER SAMPLES FOR VOLATILE ORGANICS AND THMS

- IF THE SAMPLE SOURCE BEING COLLECTED IS NOT CHLORINATED, THEN THE SAMPLE CAN BE COLLECTED DIRECTLY INTO A VIAL CONTAINING JUST HCL.
- THE LAB'S SOP MUST CLEARLY DEFINE THE PRESERVATION REQUIREMENTS.
- LABS MUST ASK THE CLIENT IF THE SAMPLES ARE COMING FROM A CHLORINATED SOURCE BEFORE SENDING OUT ANY SAMPLING CONTAINERS FOR THIS TESTING AND MAINTAIN RECORDS.
- THE LABORATORY SHALL PROVIDE TRIP/FIELD REAGENT BLANKS. IF NOT USED OR THE UNWANTED BY THE CLIENT ALL REPORTS MUST BE PROPERLY QUALIFIED.

SAMPLING OF CHLORINATED DRINKING WATER SAMPLES FOR VOLATILE ORGANICS AND THMS

- THE END RESULT FOR THIS SAMPLE COLLECTION IS THAT THE SAMPLE WILL NOT CONTAIN ANY HEADSPACE OR BUBBLES OF ANY KIND.
- THE SAMPLE IS ALLOWED TO FLOW GENTLY DOWN THE INSIDE WALLS OF THE SAMPLE CONTAINER.
- CREATE A CONVEX MENISCUS OF WATER AT THE MOUTH OF THE CONTAINER. SLOWLY ADD THE HCL IN A DROPWISE FASHION TO LOWER THE PH TO <2.

EXCEEDANCES FOR ACUTE PARAMETER TESTING RESULTS

- IF THE LABORATORY FINDS + RESULTS FOR E. COLI IN A DRINKING WATER SAMPLE OR IF THE CONCENTRATION OF NITRATE AND NITRITE OR NITRATE/NITRITE EXCEEDS THE MCL...IT HAS **24 HOURS TO REPORT THE EXCEEDANCE TO THE NJDEP**
- **BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER 609-292-5550 OR THE NJDEP HOTLINE AT 1-877-WARNDEP IF THE BSDW OFFICES ARE CLOSED**
- APPLICABLE CITATIONS: (N.J.A.C. 7:18-4.6(k) E. COLI AND 5.6(i) NITRATE AND NITRITE OR NITRATE/NITRITE).
- NO EXCEPTIONS, INCLUDES ORIGINAL SAMPLE AND THE CONFIRMATION SAMPLE RESULTS.

SAMPLING OF CHLORINATED DRINKING WATER SAMPLES FOR VOLATILE ORGANICS AND THMS

- IF THE SAMPLE IS FROM A NON-CHLORINATED SOURCE AND THE SAMPLE CONTAINERS ALREADY CONTAIN THE HCL, THEN SIMPLY ALLOW THE FLOW OF THE SAMPLE DOWN THE INSIDE WALLS OF THE SAMPLE CONTAINER BUT DO NOT OVERFILL (EFFECTIVELY FLUSHING THE PRESERVATIVE OUT OF THE CONTAINER).
- CAP THE CONTAINER AND THEN SLOWLY INVERT THE CONTAINER TO MAKE SURE NO BUBBLES EXIST.
- PLACE THE SAMPLE IN THE COOLER CONTAINING THE REQUIRED TRIP BLANK/FIELD REAGENT BLANK FOR SHIPMENT TO THE TESTING LAB FOR ANALYSIS. *A LISTSERV EMAIL REGARDING TB/FRBS WENT TO ALL LABS ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2018.

IN ADDITION TO NJDEP NOTIFICATION

- NON-TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY AND TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS, THE LABORATORY **SHALL NOTIFY THE WATER PURVEYOR AND THE MUNICIPAL HEALTH AGENCY OR, IF THERE IS NO MUNICIPAL HEALTH AGENCY FOR THE MUNICIPALITY IN QUESTION, THE COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY**
- COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS, THE LABORATORY **SHALL NOTIFY THE WATER SYSTEM'S SUPERINTENDENT**

CONVEX MENISCUS AT THE MOUTH OF THE SAMPLE CONTAINER



N.J.A.C. 7:10-2.6(d)

- N.J.A.C. 7:10-2.6(d) NOTIFICATION TO THE DEPARTMENT REQUIRED PURSUANT TO THE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE CERTIFICATION OF LABORATORIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENTS, N.J.A.C. 7:18, OF A NITRATE, NITRITE, OR NITRATE/NITRITE DRINKING WATER SAMPLE RESULT EXCEEDING THE MCL OR AN E. COLI POSITIVE DRINKING WATER SAMPLE RESULT SHALL BE MADE BY TELEPHONE TO (609) 292-5550 DURING BUSINESS HOURS, OR, IF OUTSIDE OF NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS, TO THE DEPARTMENT'S HOTLINE AT 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337).
- FOR THE CONFIRMATION SAMPLE RESULTS THE BSDW REQUESTS ALL LABS TO REPORT THE RESULTS OF ALL CONFIRMATION SAMPLES (ALL RESULTS NOT JUST EXCEEDANCES) TO THE PROGRAM WITHIN 72 HOURS OF THE TIME OF SAMPLE COLLECTION AS A POLICY DESIGNED TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH.
- **THE N.J.A.C. 7:18 24 HOUR REPORTING REQUIREMENT IS APPLICABLE TO ALL EXCEEDANCES OF THE MCL (ORIGINAL AND CONFIRMATION RESULTS).**

FOR AN E. COLI OR NITRATE MCL EXCEEDANCE, NOTIFICATION WITHIN 24 HOURS OF DETERMINING THE RESULT MUST BE MADE BY THE LAB TO THE FOLLOWING PARTIES.

System Type	BSDW or Hotline (if other business hours)	Health Dept.	Water purveyor (owner of system or system superintendent)	Licensed operator	Client or Entity requesting the analysis
CWS	X	--	X	*X	--
HTWC	X	X	X	*X	--
TNC	X	X	X	--	X

*Note: The licensed operator is considered by the program, to be a responsible party for the water system but the N.J.A.C. 7:18 regulations specifically state the "water purveyor" so this notification must be made. But don't forget to let the LO know about the notification as soon as possible.
 **Note: The regulated entity (RE)/owner and it's consultants, etc. need to be made aware of the results of the testing in order to be able to effect changes needed to bring the system back into compliance.

NJDEP - PRECAUTIONARY TIER 1 PN

FOR THE WATER SYSTEMS TO COMPLY WITH THE PROGRAM POLICY THE LABS MUST CALL THE BSDW OR THE HOTLINE WITH THE NITRATE CONFIRMATION RESULT WITHIN 72 HOURS OF ITS COLLECTION WHETHER OR NOT IT EXCEEDED THE MCL (AND THE N.J.A.C. 7:18 REQUIREMENTS FOR EXCEEDANCE NOTIFICATIONS AT 24 HOURS IS MET).

IF THE CONFIRMATION RESULT IS NOT RECEIVED BY THE BSDW WITHIN 72 HOURS OF ITS COLLECTION, THE WATER SYSTEM WOULD NEED TO POST A PRECAUTIONARY TIER 1 PN.

WHILE THIS ADDED NOTIFICATION FOR CONFIRMATION NITRATE SAMPLES IS NOT CURRENTLY A LAB CERT REGULATION, COMPLIANCE WITH THE 72 HOUR TIMEFRAME IS REQUESTED SINCE IT INVOLVES POSTING OF A POTENTIAL ACUTE PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE.

40CFR PART 141.23 (f)(2)

- WHERE NITRATE OR NITRITE SAMPLING RESULTS INDICATE AN EXCEEDANCE OF THE MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVEL, THE SYSTEM SHALL TAKE A CONFIRMATION SAMPLE WITHIN 24 HOURS OF THE SYSTEM'S RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION OF THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF THE FIRST SAMPLE.
- SYSTEMS UNABLE TO COMPLY WITH THE 24-HOUR SAMPLING REQUIREMENT MUST IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY PERSONS SERVED BY THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 141.202 AND MEET OTHER TIER 1 PUBLIC NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBPART Q OF THIS PART.
- SYSTEMS EXERCISING THIS OPTION MUST TAKE AND ANALYZE A CONFIRMATION SAMPLE WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF NOTIFICATION OF THE ANALYTICAL RESULTS OF THE FIRST SAMPLE.
- ONE LAST REMINDER: ALL MCL EXCEEDANCES MUST BE REPORTED WITHIN 24 HOURS AS PER THE LAB CERT REGULATIONS.**

NJDEP - PRECAUTIONARY TIER 1 PN

IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AT 72 HOURS, ONLY PRELIMINARY RESULTS MAY BE AVAILABLE (EXAMPLE: RESULTS INDICATING THE NEED FOR DILUTION) FOR THE CONFIRMATION NITRATE SAMPLE.

THEREFORE, A PRELIMINARY RESULT OBTAINED FROM THE LABORATORY TO MEET THE 72 HOUR TIMEFRAME IS ACCEPTABLE. IT WILL NOT REQUIRE THAT THE RESULT BE REPORTED THROUGH E2 WITHIN THAT 72 HOUR TIMEFRAME.

IN THE EVENT THAT A ROUTINE NITRATE SAMPLE TRIGGERS THE REQUIREMENT FOR A CONFIRMATION NITRATE SAMPLE FOR A WATER SYSTEM THAT IS UNAWARE OF THIS POLICY, THE LAB MAY WANT TO EXPLAIN THE SYSTEM'S CHOICE TO EITHER EXPEDITE THE ANALYSIS TO OBTAIN A RESULT WITHIN 72 HOURS OR POST A PRECAUTIONARY TIER 1 PN.

NJDEP - PRECAUTIONARY TIER 1 PN

- IN DEALING WITH THIS CONFIRMATION SAMPLE FEDERAL REQUIREMENT, AROUND JUNE OF 2017, THE NJDEP WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM HAD INSTITUTED A POLICY WHEREBY THE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM MUST POST A PRECAUTIONARY TIER 1 PUBLIC NOTICE IF THE RESULTS OF THE CONFIRMATION SAMPLE WERE NOT REPORTED TO THE BSDW WITHIN 72 HOURS OF COLLECTION OF THE CONFIRMATION SAMPLE.
- IN ADDITION TO THE NOTIFICATION REQUIRED BY THE LAB CERT REGULATIONS FOR ANY EXCEEDANCE OF THE MCL.**

PRECAUTIONARY TIER 1 PN

- THE DEP DEFINES REGULATORY SAMPLES TO INCLUDE BOTH THE ORIGINAL AND CONFIRMATION SAMPLES.
- TO ASSIST THE LABORATORIES IN COMPLYING WITH THIS REQUEST, THE WATER SYSTEM THAT COLLECTS THEIR OWN SAMPLES SHOULD INDICATE ON THE CHAIN OF CUSTODY IF THE INCOMING NITRATE SAMPLE IS A CONFIRMATION SAMPLE THAT WOULD REQUIRE THIS ADDITIONAL ATTENTION AND NOTIFICATION.
- IN SUMMARY, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE LAB PHONE THE NJDEP BUREAU OF SAFE DRINKING WATER (OR THE NJDEP HOTLINE) WITH THE RESULT (FINAL OR PRELIMINARY) OF A CONFIRMATION SAMPLE OBTAINED WITHIN 72 HOURS WHETHER OR NOT IT EXCEEDS THE MCL (THE N.J.A.C. 7:18 REQUIREMENTS FOR EXCEEDANCE NOTIFICATIONS AT 24 HOURS MUST BE MET FOR ALL EXCEEDANCES).
- ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT THE BSDW FOR FINAL CLARIFICATION

CONFIRMATION SAMPLE COLLECTION

- THE CONDITIONS THAT WERE FOUND WITH THE ORIGINAL SAMPLE MUST BE THE SAME AS THE CONFIRMATION SAMPLE.
- NO ALTERATIONS OF THE SAMPLING CONDITIONS AND NO MODIFICATIONS TO THE TREATMENT IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF THE ORIGINAL SAMPLE COLLECTION CAN BE MADE FOR THE CONFIRMATION SAMPLE. (CAN USE A DIFFERENT LAB /METHOD FOR THE CONFIRMATION TESTING BUT THE SAME SAMPLE TREATMENT AND CONDITIONS MUST EXIST).
- NEED TO RECREATE THE SAME CONDITIONS FOR BOTH SAMPLES IN THE ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM THE ORIGINAL RESULT.

SUMMARY

- BE PREPARED AHEAD OF THE ACTUAL SAMPLING EVENT SO THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO COLLECT A SAMPLE THAT IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYSTEM BEING MONITORED.
- FOLLOW THE APPLICABLE REGULATORY AND METHOD REQUIREMENTS.
- USE BEST PRACTICES WHEN COLLECTING SAMPLES TO PROTECT ITS INTEGRITY.
- FOLLOW ALL REQUIREMENTS FOR STORAGE BOTH IN THE FIELD AND AT THE LABORATORY.
- MAKE SURE THAT ALL CHAIN OF CUSTODY FIELD AND LABORATORY RECORDS ARE COMPLETE AND ACCURATE.
- CONTACT THE OFFICE OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AT 609-292-3950 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING LABORATORY ISSUES