

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

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, then four (4) repeat samples must be collected.

If the system normally collects two (2) or more routine samples, 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) sample from the same tap as the original "present" sample.

One (1) sample from a tap within five (5) service connections upstream from the original "present" sample.

One (1) sample from a tap within five (5) service connections downstream from the original "present" sample.

Note: Under the Ground Water Rule (GWR), if there is a present sample in the distribution, repeat sample(s) must also be taken at the source(s). If three (3) repeat TCR samples are required, then under the GWR, an additional sample is required from all groundwater sources in use. If four (4) repeat samples are required, the fourth sample may be taken at the source to satisfy the requirements of both the TCR and GWR, however if that sample is present, it will result in an MCL violation. You have the option to take the source water sample *in addition* to the 4 repeats, in this case even if the source water repeat sample is present, it will not result in a TCR MCL violation.
3. All repeat samples must be taken on the same day within 24 hours of notification. 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.

If any of the repeat sample laboratory results are "invalid", the system must collect another sample(s) from the same location within 24 hours of notification. See technical bulletin BSDW-92-3 "Invalid Bacteriological Sample Procedures".

Five (5) samples must be submitted the month following a total coliform "present" sample, even if the maximum contaminant level for total coliform bacteria has not been violated. If a sample taken at the end of a month is total coliform "present", repeat samples taken the following month will apply to the month in which the original "present" sample was taken. For example, if a sample taken on March 30 is total coliform "present", and repeat samples are taken on April 2, the repeat samples will be applied to March for compliance purposes and another five (5) samples must be collected in April. Systems taking five (5) or more routine samples per month should continue their regular sampling routine (5 additional samples are not required). *All 5 samples must be representative of the distribution system.*

*** 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*.