



SUMMARY OF SDWA FEE SERVICES – Fiscal Year 2019

I. INTRODUCTION

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Fee program was enacted in July 1993 to help water systems in the state comply with new unfunded federal mandates. The program provides the resources for South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to continue as the primacy agency and gives DHEC the responsibility to conduct federally mandated water testing for all water systems in the state. The fee to be paid by each water system is based upon three components: (A) Administration, (B) Distribution Monitoring and, (C) Source Monitoring.

The following is a list of the Safe Drinking Water Act services that either are or will be provided by the Department for: Community Water Systems (CWS), Non-Transient Non-Community Water Systems (NTNCWS), Transient Non-Community Water Systems (TNCWS); and State Water Systems (SWS).

II. COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS (CWS) AND NON-TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS (NTNCWS)

(A) **ADMINISTRATION:** This component of the fee applies to **ALL** CWS and NTNCWS, and is based upon a sliding scale where each system pays the same amount for each service connection within a given range. It provides the resources necessary for DHEC to maintain primacy. This fee component allows DHEC to provide the following services for these public water systems:

1. **EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** Both the Emergency Response Team and the Bureau of Water staff are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day in the event of a water quality crisis in the state. Our state's potable water supplies have been threatened in the past by both natural and man-made hazards. The Department has responded with personnel and equipment to collect and analyze water samples and to offer advice and coordination of response efforts.
2. **SECURITY ISSUES:** The Department conducts training seminars to assist water systems in bioterrorism and security issues. Department staff is involved in multi-media workgroups to assess vulnerability and response to terrorist attacks.
3. **SANITARY SURVEYS:** The sanitary survey helps the water systems comply with all federal and state regulations and gives the Department staff a chance to spot potential problem areas based on their knowledge of upcoming regulations.

4. **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Some of the technical assistance programs that are provided by the Department are as follows:
 - a. **Regulation Interpretation:** The Department serves as a liaison between the state's water systems and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Complex federal regulations often require a certain amount of interpretation based on individual circumstances.
 - b. **Training:** The Department conducts training seminars to help keep the water systems informed about current and future regulations. Department staff is also involved in operator training schools and are readily available to make presentations to local, state and national organizations concerning drinking water issues.
 - c. **Consulting:** The Department staff is often called upon to answer questions from water systems, engineers or the public, concerning water quality, water treatment, water system design, and water system construction. Staff members are constantly updating their knowledge of water treatment techniques and passing this knowledge on to systems as they experience problems with water quality. The Department also has plans to expand the technical assistance programs to place more emphasis on on-site investigation and resolution of water quality problems for all system types and sizes.
 5. **WATER SYSTEM PERMITTING:** The Department reviews and approves engineering plans and specifications prior to new construction, modification or expansion of any public drinking water system in the state. This review ensures compliance with state and federal regulations which set forth standards for water system design.
 6. **ENGINEERING REPORT REVIEW:** Preliminary Engineering Reports and Engineering Evaluations addressing water system upgrades, regulatory compliance and/or consolidation are reviewed by the Department. By reviewing these documents, the Department can offer suggestions to design engineers prior to the submittal of final plans and specifications, or offer viable alternatives for systems that are out of compliance.
- (B) **DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:** This component of the fee applies to CWS and NTNCWS (except as noted) and is based upon a fixed charge that varies upon system size. Water testing increases as a water system's size increases. **The estimated cost of compliance distribution monitoring is approximately \$1,000 to \$18,000 per year.** This fee component includes sample collection and laboratory analysis for the following:
1. **LEAD AND COPPER SAMPLE ANALYSIS: (2 contaminants)** Service includes delivery and return shipment of sample bottles. The water system's population determines the number of samples required. A system may receive anywhere from 5 to 100 bottles. Most systems are on reduced monitoring (i.e., one round of sampling every 3 years). Staff contact is Idris Liban at (803) 898-3573 or libani@dhec.sc.gov or contact Tyra Cunningham at (803) 898-4154 or cunnints@dhec.sc.gov.
 2. **TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES/HALOACETIC ACIDS (TTHM/HAA): (9 contaminants) -** For surface water systems and ground water systems under the direct influence of surface water and that treat their source water, and master-metered systems that purchase treated water from other water systems. Required monitoring is quarterly or annually depending upon source water type and population served. Staff contact is Wendi Smith at (803) 898-4149 or smithwa@dhec.sc.gov.

(C) **SOURCE MONITORING:** This component does not apply to master-metered systems or any system that buys its water from another water system. This component is based upon a fixed charge per source that varies with system size (not to exceed \$7,500.00). **The estimated cost of compliance monitoring for each source is approximately \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year.** Water testing is required for each permanent source (emergency backup wells will be tested for all required parameters if placed into service). Staff contact is Megan Johnson at (803) 898-4156 or johnsomm@dhec.sc.gov. This fee component includes sample collection and laboratory analyses for the following contaminants:

1. **VOLATILE ORGANICS (VOC):** One sample is collected between 2014 -2019 for all groundwater systems below the detection limit. One sample is collected every year for surface water systems. For sources with results above the detection limit, sampling occurs on a quarterly basis.
2. **INORGANICS, METALS & FLUORIDE (IOC):** All surface water sources are monitored on an annual basis for IOCs. All ground water systems are monitored on a three (3) year cycle (2017-2019). If the MCL is exceeded, sampling occurs on a quarterly basis.
3. **NITRATE:** Annually for all sources. If the initial results are 50% or greater than the MCL, sampling will occur on a quarterly basis.
4. **NITRITE:** One sample between 2011 - 2019 for all sources. If the initial result is 50% or greater than the MCL, sampling will be conducted on a quarterly basis.
5. **SYNTHETIC ORGANICS (SOC):** All surface water sources are monitored on an annual basis for SOCs. All groundwater systems with a population greater than 3,300 are monitored once every 3 years between 2017 – 2019. All groundwater systems with a population equal to or less than 3,300 are monitored once every nine (9) years between 2011- 2019. Upon detection of a contaminant, the source is placed on quarterly monitoring.
6. **RADIONUCLIDES:** Applies to CWS only. A new source is subject to initial monitoring protocol, four (4) consecutive quarters of sampling. After initial monitoring, a source is placed on one of the following monitoring cycles: 9 Year < detection limit; 6 Year based on > detection limit but less than ½ the MCL; 3 Year > ½ the MCL but < MCL; Quarterly > MCL. Staff contact is Megan Johnson at (803) 898-4156 or johnsomm@dhec.sc.gov.

III. TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS (TNCWS), STATE WATER SYSTEMS (SWS) AND WATER VENDING MACHINES

Fees are based on a fixed rate. The services listed in the Administration section are also provided to these systems.

(A) TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS (TNCWS)

1. DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:

- a. **COLIFORM MONITORING:** A minimum of one (1) routine sample is collected during the calendar year. New TNCWS require four (4) consecutive quarters of initial monitoring. If

a sanitary survey has not been completed in the last three (3) years, then the system returns to quarterly monitoring until such time that a sanitary survey is conducted. If a system has an Unsatisfactory (UNSAT) sanitary survey, they are placed on quarterly monitoring until the UNSAT sanitary survey is resolved and upgraded to either a Needs Improvement rating or a Satisfactory rating. Staff contact is Connie Zeigler at (803) 898-0279 or zeiglecl@dhec.sc.gov.

2. SOURCE MONITORING:

- a. **NITRATE:** Annually at each source.
- b. **NITRITE:** One sample at each source between 2011 - 2019.

(B) STATE WATER SYSTEMS (SWS)

1. DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:

- a. **COLIFORM MONITORING:** A minimum of one (1) routine sample is to be collected during the calendar year. New SWS require four (4) consecutive quarters of initial monitoring. If a sanitary survey has not been completed in the last five (5) years, then the system returns to quarterly monitoring until such time that a sanitary survey is conducted. If a system has an Unsatisfactory (UNSAT) sanitary survey, they are placed on quarterly monitoring until the UNSAT sanitary survey is resolved and upgraded to either a Needs Improvement rating or a Satisfactory rating. Staff contact is Connie Zeigler at (803) 898-0279 or zeiglecl@dhec.sc.gov.

2. SOURCE MONITORING:

- a. **NITRATE:** One routine sample at each source between 2011 – 2019.