



SUMMARY OF SDWA FEE SERVICES

I. INTRODUCTION

The 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 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, Non-Transient Non-Community Water System, Transient Non-Community Water System; and State Water Systems.

II. COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS AND NON-TRANSIENT, NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS

(A) **ADMINISTRATION:** This component of the fee applies to **ALL** Community and Non-transient, non-community water systems 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 are 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 are 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 general public concerning water quality, water treatment and water system design and 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:** The Department reviews Preliminary Engineering Reports and Engineering Evaluations that address water system upgrades, regulatory compliance and/or consolidation. By reviewing these documents, the Department staff members 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 **ALL** Community and Non-transient non-community water systems (except as noted) and is based upon a fixed charge that varies upon system size. Water testing increases as a system's size. **The estimated cost of compliance distribution monitoring is roughly \$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)** Includes delivery and return of sample bottles. Depending on the population, systems may receive anywhere from 5 to 100 bottles. The majority of the systems are on ultra reduced monitoring (i.e., one round of sampling every 3 years).

2. **TOTAL TRIHALOMETHANES/HALOACETIC ACIDS (TTHM/HAA): (9 contaminants)** - For surface water systems and ground water systems under the direct influence of surface water serving 10,000 or more people and that treat their source water. Beginning 2004, all surface water systems serving less than 10,000 population and all groundwater systems that disinfect will be required to perform TTHM/HAA sampling. A

minimum of four (4) sites for each permanent plant. This also includes mastered-metered systems that purchase water from a surface water system **and** add additional treatment. Quarterly monitoring.

(C) **SOURCE MONITORING:** This component does not apply to master-metered systems or any system that obtains all its water from another water system. This component is based upon a fixed charge per source, that varies with system size (not to exceed \$5,000.00 currently; proposed is \$7,500.00). **The estimated cost of compliance monitoring for each source is roughly \$2,000 to \$10,000 per year** Water testing is required for each permanent source (emergency backup wells will be tested for all of the required parameters if placed into service). This fee component includes sample collection and laboratory analyses for the following contaminants:

1. **VOLATILE ORGANICS (VOC):** One sample is collected between 2008-2013 for all groundwater systems below the detection limit. One sample is collected every year for surface water systems. . Above detection limits places the source on quarterly monitoring.

2. **INORGANICS, METALS & FLUORIDE:** One sample will be collected between 2002-2010 for all groundwater sources and annually for all surface water sources. If the MCL is exceeded, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

3. **NITRATE:** Annually for all sources. If the initial results are 50% or greater than the MCL, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

4. **NITRITE:** One sample between 2002-2010 for all sources. If the initial result is 50% or greater than the MCL, sampling will continue on a quarterly basis.

5. **SYNTHETIC ORGANICS AND SEMI-VOLATILE PESTICIDES (SOC):** All surface water sources are monitored on an annual basis for SOCs. All groundwater systems with a population of less than 3300 are monitored on a nine (9) year cycle (2002-2010) based on waivers being granted. All ground water systems with a population of greater than 3300 are monitored on a three (3) year cycle (2008-2010). If a detect occurs then the source is placed on quarterly monitoring.

6. **RADIONUCLIDES:** If a new source exist then four (4) consecutive quarters of monitoring is performed for all Community PWS. Non-Community Non-Transient PWS and Transient Non-Community PWS do not get this type of sampling. After the initial round of four (4) consecutive quarters of sampling is completed then a sources is placed on one of four cycles: 9 Year < detection limit; 6 years based on > detection limit but less than ½ the MCL; 3 years > ½ the MCL but < MCL; Quarterly > MCL.

III. TRANSIENT NON-COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEMS, STATE WATER SYSTEMS AND WATER VENDING MACHINES:

Fees for these systems 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

1. DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:

a. **COLIFORM MONITORING:** All Transient Non-Community and State defined Public Water Systems (PWS) require as a minimum one (1) sample collected during the year. New PWS require four (4) consecutive quarters of sampling. If a sanitary survey has not been done in the past three years for Non-Community PWS then the system reverts back to quarterly monitoring until such time that a satisfactory sanitary survey is completed. For State PWS they revert back to quarterly monitoring if a sanitary survey has not been completed in the past five (5) years. If a system has an UNSAT sanitary survey then they are placed on quarterly monitoring until the UNSAT sanitary is resolved an upgraded to either a needs improvement or a satisfactory sanitary survey.

2. SOURCE MONITORING:

- a. **NITRATE:** Annually at each source.
- b. **NITRITE:** One sample at each source between 2002-2010.

B. STATE WATER SYSTEMS

1. DISTRIBUTION MONITORING:

a. **COLIFORM MONITORING:** All Transient Non-Community and State defined Public Water Systems (PWS) require as a minimum one (1) sample collected during the year. New PWS require four (4) consecutive quarters of sampling. If a sanitary survey has not been done in the past three years for Non-Community PWS then the system reverts back to quarterly monitoring until such time that a satisfactory sanitary survey is completed. For State PWS they revert back to quarterly monitoring if a sanitary survey has not been completed in the past five (5) years. If a system has an UNSAT sanitary survey then they are placed on quarterly monitoring until the UNSAT sanitary is resolved an upgraded to either a needs improvement or a satisfactory sanitary survey.

2. SOURCE MONITORING:

a. **NITRATE:** Department staff will collect and analyze a nitrate sample every 9 years 2002 - 2010.