



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Drinking Water Branch Chemical Contaminant Monitoring IOCs, SOCs, & VOCs

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Introduction:

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM), Office of Water Quality, Drinking Water Branch regulates, monitors, permits and licenses drinking water facilities and operators in order to meet the requirements of Rule 327 IAC 8-2, Public Drinking Water Supply; Drinking Water Standards.
- Drinking water is any water supplied for the purpose of human consumption or domestic use. The source of the water can be ground water from wells or surface water from rivers and lakes.
- The purpose of this fact sheet is to explain the requirements to monitor and report for chemical contaminant groups for community and nontransient non-community public water systems (PWSs).

What is a Public Water System?

A public water system is any facility that has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves an average of at least 25 individuals daily, for at least 60 days per year. If a facility regularly serves the same 25 or more persons at least six months of the year, that facility is classified as a nontransient non-community public water system.

Who is required to monitor for chemical contaminants?

All community and nontransient non-community public water systems are required to monitor for three chemical contaminant groups.

Contaminants to be Monitored:

Monitoring is required for the following chemical contaminant groups: inorganic chemicals (IOCs), which often appear as naturally occurring contaminants in source water, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as industrial solvents and synthetic organic compounds (SOCs). Common examples of SOCs include pesticides and herbicides.

When to monitor for chemical contaminants:

Chemical monitoring is not a "one size fits all" initiative. Several factors must be considered in determining a public water supply system's chemical contaminant monitoring schedule. The Drinking Water Branch will determine each system's monitoring frequency based on established criteria for source water type, past detections, assessed vulnerability to contaminants, population and use of contaminants in the specified area.

What to do if Contaminants are Detected:

If a public water supply system detects any chemical contaminant(s), contact the Drinking Water Branch for further assistance. The Drinking Water Branch can provide information on possible health effects of the detected contaminant(s), treatment options, public notices and updated monitoring requirements for your system.

Chemical Monitoring Waivers:

- IDEM offers chemical monitoring waivers to all qualified community and nontransient noncommunity public water supply systems on a voluntary basis. The Drinking Water Branch may grant a public water system a chemical monitoring waiver if the system meets established criteria for source type, nondetection, vulnerability, population and use of contaminants in the area.
- The monitoring waiver program offers substantial savings to qualified public water systems by reducing the chemical monitoring frequency per contaminant within each compliance period.
- The types of monitoring waivers available include a "use" waiver for VOCs, SOCs and asbestos, a "statewide" waiver for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxin, a "susceptibility" waiver for glyphosate and cyanide.



IDEM's Role:

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.

Additional Information:

- For more information on chemical contaminant monitoring, please visit IDEM's website at www.IN.gov/idem/5093.htm.
- For more information on the rules concerning public water supply visit the Legislative Services website at www.IN.gov/legislative/iac.
- For questions and concerns, feel free to call IDEM's Office of Water Quality, Drinking Water Branch at (317) 232-8670.¹

¹ Note: This fact sheet is intended solely as guidance and does not have the effect of law or represent formal IDEM decisions or final actions. This fact sheet shall be used in conjunction with applicable rules and statutes. It does not replace applicable rules and statutes, and if it conflicts with these rules and statutes, the rules and statutes shall control.

