

# GROUND WATER

## Background of Ground Water Rule:

The 1986 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Amendments required the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) to set disinfection requirements for all public water supplies. In June 1989, the USEPA promulgated the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) with disinfection requirements for surface water supplies and ground water under the direct influence of surface water. The Ground Water Rule covers the disinfection requirements for ground water systems not under the direct influence of surface water by establishing multiple barriers of protection against bacteria and viruses in groundwater sources.



### IMPORTANT DATES

Final Rule: October 2006

Compliance Date: December 2009

## The Four Components to the Ground Water Rule:

1. Periodic sanitary surveys of ground water systems requiring the evaluation of eight critical elements and the identification of significant deficiencies (e.g., a well located near a leaking septic system). States must complete the initial survey by December 31, 2012 for most community water systems (CWSs) and by December 31, 2014 for CWSs with outstanding performance and for all non-community water systems.
2. Source water monitoring to test for the presence of *E. coli*, enterococci, or coliphage in the sample. There are two monitoring provisions:
  - a. Triggered monitoring for systems that do not already provide treatment that achieves at least 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation or removal of viruses and that have a total coliform-positive routine sample under Total Coliform Rule sampling in the distribution system.
  - b. Assessment monitoring- As a complement to triggered monitoring, a State has the option to require systems, at any time, to conduct source water assessment monitoring to help identify high risk systems.
3. Corrective actions required for any system with a significant deficiency or source water fecal contamination. The system must implement one or more of the following correction action options:
  - correct all significant deficiencies,
  - eliminate the source of contamination,
  - provide an alternate source of water, or
  - provide treatment which reliably achieves 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation or removal of viruses.
4. Compliance monitoring to ensure that treatment technology installed as a corrective action reliably achieves at least 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation or removal of viruses.

For more information, visit EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/gwr>.