

**BEFORE THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

May 20, 2015

**Public Notice: Proposed Rulemaking Governing
Operator Certification and Public Water System Operational Requirements**

Notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) drafted revisions to rules 3745-7-01 and 3745-7-03 in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) establishing definitions for the operator certification rules, classifications and staffing requirements for public water system (PWS) or treatment plant and distribution systems. DDAGW also drafted revisions for OAC rule 3745-83-01, which outlines operational practices for PWSs to ensure optimal water quality including disinfection requirements, approval of chemicals being used, minimum pressure requirements, operational analyses and reporting requirements. The draft amendments are, in part, a result of the five year rule review requirements of Section 106.03 of the Revised Code.

Revisions to OAC rules 3745-7-01 and 3745-7-03 include a few clarifications to definitions and clarifying classification of systems, including satellite and consecutive PWSs. An additional revision to rule 3745-7-03 of the OAC is to require a class I operator for transient noncommunity PWSs serving less than 250 people treating for nitrate or 4-log virus inactivation and removal. Lastly, revisions added fluoride as a chemical that must be monitored continuously in order to receive a minimum staffing reduction.

Draft amendments to OAC rule 3745-83-01 include the following:

- Require noncommunity PWSs serving less than 1,000 people that opt to chlorinate but are not required to, to meet the minimum chlorine residual requirements unless the chlorine is used solely for the oxidation for iron, manganese or hydrogen sulfide.
- Add a requirement to maintain records of monthly operational reports (MOR) for a period of 10 years.
- Require MORs to be signed by the operator of record.
- Add a requirement for maintenance, so facilities and equipment operate as intended.
- Remove expired electronic reporting deadlines.

Amendments to this rule also include updating the American Water Works Association (AWWA) standard, "Disinfecting Water Mains" (C651-05) to the 2014 version, C651-14. Major revisions in this standard include the following:

- Expanded guidance for disinfecting existing water mains after repair. This includes a rationale for evaluating risk during pipe repairs, and the level of disinfection and sampling needed under each of those conditions. The revision also clarifies differences in the requirements between new and repaired mains.
- Added a spray disinfection method for large transmission mains.
- Changed the requirement for bacteriological sampling in new mains from two sets of samples 24 hours apart to add two options for two sets of samples: Option A samples are

- 16 hours apart and Option B samples are 15 minutes apart after a 16 hour rest period.
- The flushing rate of 2.5 ft. /sec. has been increased to 3.0 ft. /sec. for a scour flush based on testing performed under recent studies.
 - References to new standard American National Standards Institute or ANSI/AWWA C-655 are included for dechlorination and disposing of heavily chlorinated water.
 - The update takes into account the findings from a recent project from the Water Research Foundation (Project No. 4307, Effective Microbial Control Strategies for Main Breaks and Depressurization).

As part of the rule-making process, the Agency is required by Section 121.39 of the Ohio Revised Code to consult with organizations that represent political subdivisions, environmental interests, business interests, and others affected by the rule. Additionally, the Agency is working with the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office. The Agency is offering you and your organization the opportunity to comment on the draft rules and CSI Business Impact Analysis (BIA) Form, before the division formally proposes them.

To obtain a copy of the draft rules, policy and guidance, contact Susan Kramer at Ohio EPA at (614) 644-2752 or email at Susan.Kramer@epa.ohio.gov. Please request the "draft amendments operator certification & operational requirements," and be sure to include your name, telephone number, and complete mailing address. There is no charge for the copies. The draft documents will be available on the Agency web page until they are formally proposed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). The address is: <http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/rules.aspx>.

Comments can be submitted in hard copy to the following address: "Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, P.O. Box 1049, Lazarus Government Center, Columbus, Ohio 43216-1049, Attn: Susan Kramer" or by email to ddagw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov. Comments should be received at the above address by close of business, June 17, 2015.