

**BEFORE THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

February 10, 2015

Public Notice: Proposed Rulemaking To Adopt U.S. EPA's Revised Total Coliform Rule

Notice is hereby given that the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters (DDAGW) has drafted a set of rules comprised of seven new rules and amendments to fourteen rules in Chapters 3745-81 and 3745-96 of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC). The proposed amendments are, in part, a result of the five year rule review requirements of Section 106.03 of the Revised Code. However, the rules have been drafted primarily to adopt changes to the State's primary drinking water standards.

The new and amended content of these rules will adopt relevant portions of U.S. EPA's Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), which will become effective on April 1, 2016. Adoption of regulations at least as stringent as the Federal rule is required for Ohio EPA to maintain primary enforcement authority for the SDWA. The RTCR is a major update to the existing framework for ensuring the microbiological safety of public drinking water supplies. It applies to every public water system and has the overall goal of improving public health protection by reducing fecal pathogens to minimal levels through a combination of strategies. Regular monitoring for total coliform will remain the primary means of warning of possible microbiological contamination, however the rule changes will require public water systems to investigate conditions at systems more rapidly than in the past to look for sources of contamination.

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 Mark Sheahan at Ohio EPA at (614) 644-2752 or email at mark.sheahan@epa.ohio.gov. Please request the "draft amendments for the Revised Total Coliform Rule 2014," 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 rules may be found at <http://epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/rules.aspx> under the "Interested Party Review" tab.

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: Mark Sheahan" or by email to ddagw_rulecomments@epa.ohio.gov. Comments should be received at the above address by close of business April 13, 2015.