



Fact Sheet – Water Quality Parameters

for Optimal Monitoring [40 CFR 141.87]

<https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-public.html>

[Ver 1.2, January 25, 2021]

Introduction

- Optimal Water Quality Parameter (OWQP) monitoring is applicable to Community and Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems that have installed Corrosion Control Treatment (CCT) or receive corrosion control treated water for the purpose of reducing levels of lead and/or copper and have State designated OWQP values.
- OWQP monitoring results will help the system and the State determine whether CCT is being properly operated and maintained.
- OWQP monitoring is required following the State designation of system-specific OWQP values and will continue indefinitely.

Sample Sites:

- Entry Point to the Distribution System (EPTDS):
 - Each EPTDS with CCT
 - Active interconnections receiving corrosion control treated water
 - Only those active during the monitoring period
- Distribution System (DS):
 - Representative sites throughout the DS (outlined in sampling plan)
 - The number of sites required is based on the population served.

Population Served	No. of Standard DS Sites	No. of Reduced DS Sites*
> 100,000	25	10
10,001-100,000	10	7
3,301 to 10,000	3	3
501 to 3,300	2	2
≤ 500	1	1

*If OWQPs are maintained during 2 consecutive 6-month monitoring periods the water system may be eligible to reduce the number of DS sites (See Table above).

Sample Point

Required Parameters

Minimum Frequency

EPTDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH • Alkalinity (Only if adjusted) • Orthophosphate (as P) and/or Silica (Only when an inhibitor containing one of these compounds is used.) • Calcium (Only if adjusted) • Dosage rate and concentration of any CCT chemical feed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biweekly (1 sample every 14 days) Click Here for Biweekly Monitoring Periods
DS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH • Alkalinity (Only if adjusted) • Orthophosphate (as P) and/or Silica (Only when an inhibitor containing one of these compounds is used.) • Calcium (Only if adjusted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every 6-months (January – June and July – December) • 2 sets of samples from each site on different days in each period. • Recommend collecting 1 set/quarter.

Excursions and Action Plans

- An excursion occurs when any daily value for a WQP is below the minimum value or outside the range set by the State.
- On days when more than one measurement is collected for compliance at a location, the daily value shall be the average of all compliance results collected within 24 hours at the location.
- An excursion is unresolved until the system collects a sample at the same location that meets the OWQP value.
- A treatment technique (TT) violation is more than 9 excursions within a 6-month monitoring period.
- Action Plans for single excursions, TT violations, and Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) violations must be included in the WQP Sampling Plan.
- The Action Plans should detail the required follow-up, including the appropriate public notice, changes to WQP and lead and copper monitoring, and possible treatment evaluation.

Additional Resources:

- [DEP Lead in Drinking Water - Public Water System Information Including WQP Guidance EPA WQP Compliance EPA Optimal CCT Evaluation](#)
- View your water system's WQP monitoring schedules and results on [Drinking Water Watch](#)
- For further assistance, please contact the Bureau of Water System Engineering at 609-292-2957 or watersupply@dep.nj.gov