Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) Overview

The Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) applies to any community or nontransient noncommunity water system that treats water with a chemical disinfectant or that provides water containing a chemical disinfectant. The DBPR sets maximum contaminant levels (MCL) in drinking water for total trihalomethanes (TTHM), haloacetic acids (HAA5), bromate, and chlorite.

In order to comply with DBPR systems must submit a monitoring plan. The water system must collect a TTHM and HAA5 sample in accordance with the table below (excerpt from Title 22 Section 64534.2-C)

Water System classification	Routine Monitoring Frequency
Surface Water serving 10,000-49,999 persons	4 dual sample sets per quarter*
Surface Water serving 3,301--9,999 persons	2 dual sample sets per quarter*
Surface Water serving 500-3,300 persons	1 TTHM and 1 HAA5 sample per quarter*: one at the location with the highest TTHM measurement, one at the location with the highest HAA5 measurement**
Surface Water serving <500 persons	1 TTHM and 1 HAA5 sample per year: one at the location with the highest TTHM measurement, one at the location with the highest HAA5 measurement**
Systems using only groundwater (not GWUDI) serving 10,000-99,999	4 dual sample sets per quarter*
Systems using only groundwater (not GWUDI) serving 500-9,999	2 dual sample sets per year
Systems using only groundwater (not GWUDI) serving <500	1 TTHM and 1 HAA5 sample per year: one at the location with the highest TTHM measurement, one at the location with the highest HAA5 measurement**
All systems shall monitor during the month of highest disinfection byproduct concentrations.	

* Systems on quarterly monitoring shall take dual sample sets every 90 days at each monitoring location, except for systems using approved surface water and serving 500-3,300 persons.

**Only one location with a dual sample set per monitoring period is needed if the highest TTHM and HAA5 concentrations occur at the same location and month.

Reduced Monitoring

A water system may apply to DEHS for reduced monitoring frequency in accordance with Title 22 Section 64534.2-D. The water system shall submit a proposal to DEHS which includes the results of all TOC, TTHM, and HAA5 monitoring conducted in the previous 12 months and the proposed revised monitoring plan. The water system will need written approval from DEHS prior to starting a reduced monitoring frequency.

Distribution System Disinfectant Residuals Monitoring

Systems using chlorine as a disinfectant must measure the chlorine residual at the same place and time that the bacteriological samples are collected. The chlorine residual must be reported to this office with the bacteriological sample results. **Systems who contract with a private laboratory to collect their monthly bacteriological samples, will need to contact their lab and request that the lab sample for chlorine residuals at the time they collect these samples and report the result on the lab slip.** The DBPR has set a maximum disinfectant residual level (MRDL) for chlorine of 4.0 mg/L. This MRDL can only be exceeded to protect public health in the event that the system has been contaminated.

The DBPR requires that a monitoring plan be approved by our Department prior to sample collection. Please complete and submit the DBPR monitoring plan to our office for review and approval. A template monitoring plan can be found on the DEHS website below however also refer to Title 22 Section 64530 for more information on monitoring and reporting.

http://www.sbcounty.gov/dph/dehs/Depts/EnvironmentalHealth/BusinessServices/safe_drinking_water.aspx

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