



## Drinking Water Issues in the News

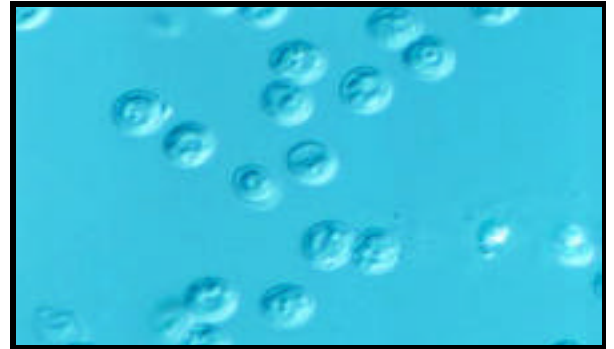
### EPA Finalizes Surface Water Rule for Small PWS

A final rule, released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this month requires 99 percent removal of *Cryptosporidium* for small drinking water systems. Those systems serving less than 10,000 people and using surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water are required to enhance their filtration system to almost totally eliminate this microorganism.

This requirement finalizes the EPA's Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR) that was originally slated for promulgation in the fall of 2000. The main purpose of the LT1ESWTR is to "improve control of microbial pathogens and address the risk tradeoffs with disinfection byproducts." This final rule mirrors the protective requirements now in place for large PWS systems serving 10,000 customers or more.

The rule requirements fall into four categories: the removal of *Cryptosporidium*; enhanced filtration requirements; microbial inactivation benchmarking; watershed treated water storage protection. More specifically the rule requirements cover the following.

- Newly constructed treated water storage reservoirs must be covered.
- Systems must develop a disinfection profile if concentration of TTHM  $\geq 0.064$  mg/l or HAA5  $\geq 0.048$  mg/l.
- Combined filter effluent monitoring must be less than 0.3 NTU in 95% of samples and not exceed 1 NTU.
- Turbidity monitoring for each filter every 15 minutes.
- 99% removal of *Cryptosporidium*.



*Cryptosporidium* LM (1000X)

While small systems affected by this announcement have three years to come into total compliance the rule is effective 30 days after it is published in the *Federal Register*. Publication is scheduled for sometime this month.

*continued on back ...see LT1ESWTR*

## D/DBP Rule Monitoring Plan Deadline Approaching

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Disinfectants/Disinfection Byproducts Rule (D/DBP) required monitoring plans must be submitted to the local Virginia Department of Health field office for review and approval by February 10, 2002. The plan should be made available for state and public inspection by January 31, 2002.

The D/DBP, which became effective for large waterworks (serving  $\geq 10,000$ ) on January 1, 2002, requires monitoring for disinfection byproducts precursors, disinfection byproducts and disinfectant residuals. The plan must be established for each parameter or contaminant specified in the Rule. The plan must also identify specific sampling locations and include sample collection schedules.

For more information contact your local VDH field office.



## Draper Aden Associates

Engineering ♦ Surveying ♦ Environmental Services

2206 South Main Street  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24060

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*LTIESWTR...cont. from front*

The EPA estimates the average household cost for the new requirements to be \$6.24. The annual cost of the rule across the nation is roughly estimated at \$39.5 million. Financial assistance is available from several state and federal agencies for those water systems that need funding to come to compliance.

Funding opportunities are available through Virginia's DEQ Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (VWFRF) and the Virginia Department of Health's Virginia Water Supply Revolving Fund (VWSRF). The Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture also has accessible funds for purposes of compliance. This is just a few of the possible sources for funding help. For additional information concerning the above-mentioned sources or for more resources contact Sheryl Stephens at (804) 261-2915 or contact by email at [sstephens@daa.com](mailto:sstephens@daa.com).

For more information about the LTIESWTR call Matt Stolte, P.E. ([mstolte@daa.com](mailto:mstolte@daa.com)) at (540) 552-0444 or Fred Pribble, P.E. ([fpribble@daa.com](mailto:fpribble@daa.com)) at (804) 264-2228. Information for this article was derived from the EPA's website. To get more information you can go to [www.epa.gov/safewater/mdbp/ltieswtr.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mdbp/ltieswtr.html) or contact the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

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## State Water Legislation Under Consideration

House Bill 226 is currently under consideration in the Virginia General Assembly, which if passed will allow localities to require drinking water tests before issuance of building permits. Localities will not be able to set water standards but will be allowed to establish reasonable testing requirements to determine compliance with existing federal and state drinking water quality standards. Such testing requirements shall apply only to building permit applicants proposing to utilize private ground water wells as their primary potable water source.

## Arsenic Rule Effective Date in February

February 22, 2002 remains the effective date of the arsenic in drinking water regulation published on January 22, 2001. The effective date was delayed in order to conduct reviews of the science and cost analysis and make the results available for public review. The effective date for clarifications to compliance and new source contaminates monitoring in the arsenic regulation remains unchanged as January 22, 2004.

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## Draper Aden Associates

Engineering ♦ Surveying ♦ Environmental Services

Corporate Offices: 2206 South Main Street  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
(540) 552-0444  
Fax: (540) 552-0291  
[www.daa.com](http://www.daa.com)

Blacksburg, VA (540) 552-0444  
Richmond, VA (804) 264-2228  
Charlottesville, VA (434) 295-0700  
Raleigh/Durham, NC (919) 367-9997  
[daa@daa.com](mailto:daa@daa.com)