

New Sampling Tap Requirements for Groundwater Public Water Systems

On December 1, 2009, public water systems (PWSs) using groundwater sources will be required to comply with provisions of the Ground Water Rule (GWR). The “Triggered Source Water Monitoring” component of the Rule will require PWSs to test their groundwater sources for a fecal indicator whenever there is a Total Coliform Rule (TCR) positive sample in distribution system monitoring.

Systems must be able to collect raw water samples from their groundwater sources for fecal indicators within 24 hours of being notified of a TCR positive. For this reason, all groundwater systems will be required to have sampling taps installed that are capable of collecting raw water samples from each individual source of supply.

Sampling taps should be located prior to any treatment system or storage tanks. The tap should be pointed downward and free of any obstructions to allow easy access with an adequate clearance for sampling containers. Taps should be of the chrome, threadless type or equivalent.

For systems that do not currently have an instantaneous and totalizing flow meter installed on individual well discharge lines and plan to install raw water sampling taps, the department is recommending that a meter be installed at the same time. Meters are important to allow systems to determine if their supply is adequate to meet demands, and aid the department in determining compliance with separating distance requirements.