Understanding Disinfection Residuals

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- Chlorine residual concentration regulations
- Monitoring location considerations
- Deeper dive into available disinfectant residual data
First Introduced in the Surface Water Treatment Rule, 6/1989, 40 CFR 141.72 (b)(3)(i)

The residual disinfectant concentration in the distribution system, measured as total chlorine, combined chlorine, or chlorine dioxide...cannot be undetectable in more than 5 percent of the samples each month, for any two consecutive months...a heterotrophic bacteria concentration less than or equal to 500/ml...is deemed to have a detectable disinfectant residual...
Intent of Residual Regulation

- US regulatory requirement → “detectable”
  - Surface water (SW)
  - Groundwater under direct influence (GWUDI) of SW
  - Heterotrophic plate count (HPC) < 500/mL ≡ “detectable”

- Intent behind regulations
  - Distribution system integrity
  - Proper system maintenance
  - Identify & limit outside contamination
  - Limit heterotrophic bacteria & *Legionella* growth
  - Provide quantifiable minimum target → action
Issues with Detectable Free Chlorine

- Method Detection Limit
- Pathogenic organism continuous disinfection
- Premise plumbing concerns
- Is there really residual present?

Chloramines

- Organic chloramines
  - Poor disinfectants
  - Interfere with analytical methods
- Nitrification/biofilm
- Premise plumbing concerns
- Pathogenic organism continuous disinfection
State Free Chlorine Residual

State Total Chlorine Residual

141.74C(3)(i) ... the residual disinfectant concentration must be measured at least at the same points in the distribution system and at the same time as total coliforms are sampled, ..... 

141.853 General monitoring requirements for all public water systems. (a) Sample sitting plans. (1) Systems must develop a written sample sitting plan that identifies sampling sites and a sample collection schedule that are representative of water throughout the distribution system ..... These plans are subject to State review and revision.......

Residual Monitoring Locations

Total Coliform Rule
State RTCR
Sample Site Requirements

- Conducted preliminary web–based search
- Three general categories
  - Prescribed minimum number of sample sites
    - Arkansas
    - Kansas
    - Louisiana
    - New Mexico
    - North Carolina
    - South Dakota
    - Texas
  - General guidance on “representative”
    - New Jersey
    - Oklahoma
    - Tennessee
  - No additional guidance
Based on population and # samples required

Texas (RG-421):

New Mexico:
Specific Sample Site Number Requirements

• Louisiana (Rule - Title 51):
  • §903. Coliform Routine Compliance Monitoring.
    • The monitoring plan shall include a minimum number of point of collection (POC) monitoring sites calculated by multiplying 1.5 times the minimum number of samples required to be routinely collected.

• §367. Disinfectant Residual Monitoring and Record Keeping
  • B. Disinfectant Residual Monitoring in Distribution System. A public water system shall measure the residual disinfectant concentration within the distribution system:
    • 1. by sampling at the same points in the distribution system and at the same times that samples for total coliforms are required to be collected by the public water system under this Part;
    • 2. by sampling at an additional number of sites calculated by multiplying 0.25 times the number of total coliform samples the public water system is required under this Part to take on a monthly or quarterly basis, rounding any mixed (fractional) number product up to the next whole number. These additional residual monitoring samples shall be taken from sites in low flow areas and extremities in the distribution system at regular time intervals throughout the applicable monthly or quarterly sampling period; and
    • 3. by sampling at the site that represents the maximum residence time (MRT) in the distribution system at least once per day
General Sample Site Number Requirements

- **Oklahoma**
  - Areas of concern in the distribution system should be represented in the routine sample sites to ensure representative sampling. Such areas include:
    - Dead ends
    - Low pressure zones
    - Areas with longer retention times
    - Upstream and downstream of storage tanks
    - Areas serving water from different sources

- **Tennessee**
  Systems may generally follow the procedure below when selecting sampling sites
  1. Coliform samples shall be collected at sites, which are representative of water throughout the distribution system according to the written sample-siting plan.
  2. Samples are to be collected from a free flowing outlet of the ultimate user of the public water system, a dedicated sampling station or other designated compliance sampling location.
  3. The goal should be to collect at least 30% of the required samples from residential areas. For the purposes of this plan, residential areas are defined as locations in the distribution systems which are served by the smallest distribution lines.
  4. The system some of the required samples from dead end lines, low use areas, and areas near large storage tanks.
  5. A map of the system with designated sampling zones and sampling site locations should be developed and included in the plan.
Developing a Bacterial Sampling Plan Guidance Manual
Narasimhan, R., Brereton, J., 2004, AwwaRF report 90989F

• The procedures used in setting up an effective bacterial monitoring program involve the following sequence of steps:
  • **Step 1: Information Assessment** - This involves gathering all relevant information and compiling system maps to be used in drawing out the monitoring plan.
  • **Step 2: Development of Sectors** - This provides techniques to divide the entire system into manageable sectors.
  • **Step 3: Sample Distribution by Sectors** - Based on the number of compliance samples required, the number of samples per sector is determined.
  • **Step 4: Sector Characterization and Sample Siting Within Sectors** - Critical elements impacting bacterial monitoring are identified and general monitoring locations are identified within each sector.
  • **Step 5: Tap Selection Process** - Specific sampling locations are identified according to recommended criteria that best provide representative results reflective of the bacterial water quality in the distribution system.
  • **Step 6: Documentation of a Formal Bacterial Monitoring Plan**
Case Study

- Medium size city
- ~100,000 population
- 100 monthly TCR samples required
- 10 locations, 3× week

- EPA asked to assess chlorination in the DS to ensure the disinfection residual barrier and public health protection
Case Study

- Additional Cl₂ monitoring locations justified:
  - Areas embedded with residences
  - Smaller diameter DS network/ representing ageing water

- 1 week implementation

- Mapped all public locations (i.e. schools, churches, etc.)

- Developed sectors

- Investigated areas closest to primary residential water usage

- Measured service lines and flow rates / calculated flush times
Case Study

- Added 24 Cl₂ monitoring sites
- Mostly churches, schools, childcares
- Combined with the 10 Utility sites, total = 34 Cl₂ monitoring locations weekly
Case Study

- Cl₂ residuals
- 10 Utility TCR monitoring locations
- Working with Utility to implement best practices
- Including flushing program for localized low residual areas
Case Study

- $\text{Cl}_2$ residuals
- 10 Utility TCR monitoring locations + 24 EPA $\text{Cl}_2$ monitoring locations
- Enough Sites?
Six–Year Review (SYR) Process
https://www.epa.gov/dwsixyearreview

- 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requirement
- Review primary drinking water regulations every six years
- Third Six–Year Review (SYR3) completed December 2016
  - Occurrence data (2006–2011)
  - Included Microbial and Disinfection By–Product (DBP) regulations
- Revision candidates
  - Chlorite
  - *Cryptosporidium* (under IESWTR, LT1)
  - *Giardia Lamblia* (under SWTR)
  - HAA5 & TTHM
  - HPC
  - *Legionella*
  - Viruses (under SWTR)
SYR3 Microbial Dataset

- 2006–2011 occurrence data collection
  - 46 states/entities
  - 47 million compliance & water quality records
  - Initial QA processing → Full Dataset
    - 12 million microbial → total coliform (TC), *E. coli* (EC), or fecal coliform (FC)
    - 9 million residual → free chlorine or total chlorine

- Additional QA/QC processing
  - Paired disinfectant residual & microbial data
  - 5.5 million paired records → Reduced Dataset
  - 34 states/entities
    - 27 states
    - 7 tribes/territories

- Datasets available online
Residuals in Reduced Dataset

- 5.5 million records
  - 3.3 million free chlorine
  - 2.2 million total chlorine
- Free chlorine only ➔ free chlorine system
- Total chlorine only ➔ chloramine system?
- Both ➔ system?
Further Dataset Reductions

- Reported residual
  - Free chlorine only $\rightarrow$ free chlorine system
  - Total chlorine only $\rightarrow$ chloramine system
  - Both free & total chlorine $\rightarrow$ excluded

- Systems
  - Small: $\leq 17,200$ (less than 20 samples/month)
  - Large: $> 17,200$ (20 minimum samples/month)
  - Community water systems (CWSs) only
  - Surface water systems (SW) only

- System–month screening
  - Months where $\geq 50\%$ of total coliform rule (TCR) required samples were collected
  - Exclude months not meeting standard
Total Coliform Positives
Free Chlorine SW CWSs by Size

Note: Routine samples only (2006–2011)

% Total Coliform Positives

- SYR3 Ex. 6.12 Free Chlorine Only (n = 1,216,373)
- All Systems Free Chlorine Only (n = 1,167,919)
- Small Systems Free Chlorine Only (n = 435,960)
- Large Systems Free Chlorine Only (n = 731,959)

- 0 mg/L
- > 0 to 0.2 mg/L
- > 0.2 to 0.5 mg/L
- > 0.5 to 1.0 mg/L
- > 1.0 mg/L
Total Coliform Positives
Total Chlorine SW CWSs by Size

Note: Routine samples only (2006–2011)

- SYR3 Ex. 6.12 Total Chlorine
  - Total Chlorine (n = 1,102,664)
- All Systems Total Chlorine Only
  - Total Chlorine Only (n = 731,798)
- Small Systems Total Chlorine Only
  - Total Chlorine Only (n = 331,317)
- Large Systems Total Chlorine Only
  - Total Chlorine Only (n = 400,481)
Cumulative % Residual in SW (2006–2011) – System Level

- Large SW (Total Chlorine Only; n=69) - System Size: Large
- Small SW (Total Chlorine Only; n=1,150) - System Size: Small
- SYR3 Ex 6.5 (All Total Chlorine Samples, 2011) - System Size: Small
- Large SW (Free Chlorine Only; n=189) - System Size: Large
- Small SW (Free Chlorine Only; n=2,186) - System Size: Small
- SYR3 Ex. 6.5 (All Free Chlorine Samples, 2011) - System Size: Small

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Size</th>
<th>% Systems &lt; 0.2 mg/L</th>
<th>% Systems &lt; 0.5 mg/L</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Small</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Systems' 5th Percentile Residual Concentration (mg Cl₂/L)
Water samples from 21 utilities tested to determine impact of increasing residual chlorine on DBPs

- Trace chlorine residuals insufficient to fully react with organics
  - DBP formation potential remains
  - Suggests insufficient chlorine to fully react with introduced pathogens or other contaminants

- Increasing chlorine residuals:
  - Trace to 0.2-0.5 mg/L results in large DBP increases
  - Once demand is met, DBP increases are modest

Roth, D.K., Cornwell, D.A. DBP Impacts From Increased Chlorine Residual Requirements. JAWWA, 110(2) 13-28, 2018
Questions?

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