



State of Hawaii
**ANNUAL PUBLIC
WATER SYSTEM
COMPLIANCE
REPORT**

Calendar Year 2023

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PREPARED BY:

Hawaii Department of Health
Environmental Management Division
Safe Drinking Water Branch
Uluakupu Building 4
2385 Waimano Home Road, Suite 110
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782-1400
(808) 586-4258
doh.sdwb@doh.hawaii.gov



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1. Overview of the Drinking Water Program

1.1 Federal Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) Program under the authority of the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Under the SDWA and the 1986 and 1996 Amendments, EPA sets national limits on contaminant levels in drinking water to ensure that the water is safe for human consumption. These limits are known as Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) and Maximum Residual Disinfectant Levels (MRDLs). For some contaminants, EPA establishes Treatment Techniques (TTs) in lieu of an MCL to control unacceptable levels in water. The EPA also regulates how often public water systems (PWSs) monitor their water for contaminants and report the monitoring results to the states or EPA. Generally, the larger the population served by a water system, the more frequent the monitoring and reporting requirements. In addition, EPA requires PWSs to monitor for unregulated contaminants to provide data for future regulatory development. Finally, EPA requires PWSs to notify their consumers when they have violated these regulations. The 1996 Amendments to the SDWA require consumer notification to include a clear and understandable explanation of the nature of the violation, its potential adverse health effects, steps that the PWS is undertaking to correct the violation and the possibility of alternative water supplies during the violation.

The SDWA applies to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Indian Lands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The SDWA allows states and territories to seek EPA approval to administer their own PWSS Programs. The authority to run a PWSS Program is called primary enforcement authority or primacy. For a state to receive primacy, EPA must determine that the state meets certain requirements laid out in the SDWA and the regulations, including the adoption of drinking water regulations that are at least as stringent as the Federal regulations and a demonstration that they can enforce the program requirements.

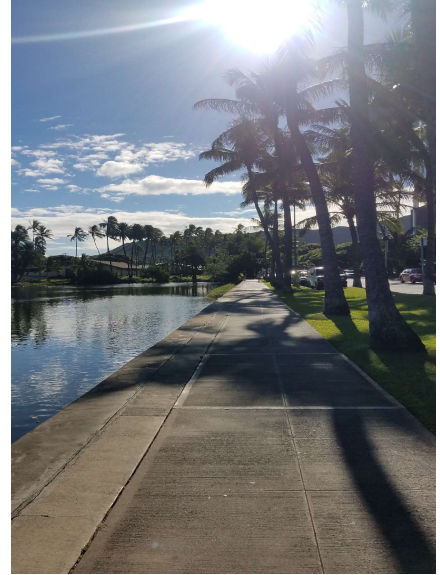
EPA can also set other requirements for states to qualify and maintain primacy. Once a state receives primacy, it has the responsibility to administer all applicable terms of the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations with EPA oversight. In addition, EPA can provide federal funding to states that have been given primacy.

Appendix A-2 lists the rules which EPA currently enforces and their effective dates.

1.2 Hawaii Program

Hawaii's drinking water program was created in 1976, when the state Safe Drinking Water Act (Chapter 340E, Hawaii Revised Statutes) was adopted. The state act is similar to the federal legislation and establishes two separate programs, one for supervision of public water systems, and the other for the protection of underground sources of drinking water from pollution.

The State of Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) was first granted primary enforcement authority over public water systems in the state pursuant to the federal SDWA in January 1978.



1.3 Public Water Systems¹

A public water system (PWS) is defined as a system that provides water for human consumption via piping or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people. The different types of water systems are defined below.

- **Community Water System (CWS)**

A PWS that serves the same people year-round. Examples include cities such as Wailuku and communities such as Hawaiian Beaches.

- **Non-Transient Non-Community Water System (NTNC)**

A PWS that serves the same people more than six (6) months per year, but not year-round. Examples include schools such as Punahou School and businesses such as Mililani Memorial Park.

- **Transient Non-Community Water System (TNC)**

A PWS that serves the public but not the same individuals for more than six (6) months. Examples include the Hawaii Nature Center and Polihale State Park.

- **Wholesale Water System**

A PWS that supplies water to one or more PWSs for resale, such as the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Honolulu-Windward-Pearl Harbor system that supplies water to the Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

¹ United States Code, Title 42, Section 300f (42 U.S.C. §300f et seq.)

- **Consecutive Water System**

A PWS that does not have its own drinking water source but receives water from a wholesale water system. The Marine Corps Base Hawaii is a consecutive water system.

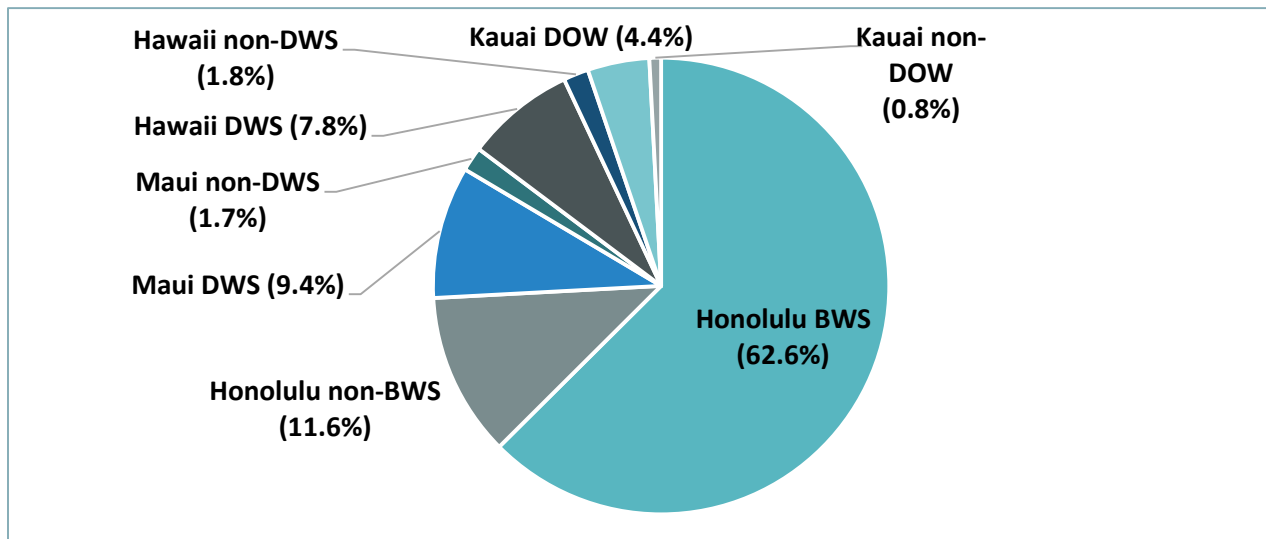
As of December 31, 2023, there were 138 regulated public water systems in Hawaii. Table 1 shows the number of systems in each county, by the number of county water department systems (such as Hawaii Department of Water Supply (DWS)), and non-county systems (state, federal and private water companies).

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF WATER SYSTEMS IN EACH COUNTY

County	Water Department	No. of Systems	Water Purveyor	No. of Systems
Hawaii	Hawaii DWS	23	Hawaii non-DWS	17
Maui	Maui DWS	12	Maui non-DWS	28
Honolulu	Honolulu BWS	8	Honolulu non-BWS	32
Kauai	Kauai DOW	9	Kauai non-DOW	11
	County Total	52	Non-County Total	88

Figure 1 shows Hawaii's service population broken down by county water department and non-county entity (state, federal or private water company).

FIGURE 1: HAWAII PWS BY SERVICE POPULATION



1.4 Sources of Drinking Water

Most Hawaii PWSs use ground water as their primary source of supply. Table 2 shows the number and percentage of systems that use ground and surface water, and the percentage of population served by each type of source water. Public water systems that use both ground water and surface water sources are categorized as surface water systems by convention. The population of systems served surface water is determined based on breakdowns of ground water vs. surface water served per system provided by the water departments.

TABLE 2: PRIMARY SOURCES OF DRINKING WATER USED BY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

Source	No. of systems	Percent of Systems	Percent by population
Ground Water ²	130	92.9%	85.8%
Surface Water	10	7.1%	14.2%
Total Number of Systems	140		

1.5 Safe Drinking Water Act

Under the 1974 federal SDWA and subsequent reauthorizations in 1986 and 1996, the EPA set national limits on contaminant levels in drinking water for human consumption to protect the health of users. These limits are known as maximum contaminant levels (MCL) and maximum residual disinfectant levels (MRDL). For some regulations, treatment techniques (TTs) or action levels (ALs) have been established in lieu of an MCL to control levels of specific contaminants in drinking water. Water systems are also regulated as to the frequency of monitoring and the reporting (M/R) of water quality or rule compliance. Systems can incur a violation for failure to collect required samples during a monitoring period (monitoring violations) or failure to report sample results or rule compliance in the required manner (reporting violations).

There are three basic types of violations that a water system can incur:

- **MCL Violation**

Primary drinking water standards have been adopted by DOH for contaminants that may be found in drinking water supplies in Hawaii. These limits are known as MCLs and are necessary to protect the public from acute and chronic health risks associated with consuming water containing these contaminants.

² Catchment systems are treated as groundwater systems.

- **TT Violation**

Treatment techniques and performance standards have been adopted to provide safe drinking water in instances where adoption of a specific MCL may be impractical or impossible. Treatment techniques are a proven means to reduce the risk from various contaminants by closely controlling the treatment processes.

- **Monitoring and/or Reporting Requirement (M/R) Violation**

A water system is required to monitor and verify that the levels of contaminants present in the drinking water supplies do not exceed an MCL. A monitoring violation occurs when a water system fails to have its water tested as required within a compliance period. A reporting violation occurs when a water system fails to report test results in a timely fashion to the regulatory agency or fails to provide certification that mandated information was provided to the public, such as through the issuance of a public notice or the annual Consumer Confidence Report. A water system that fails to perform required monitoring for a group of chemicals (such as synthetic organic chemicals or volatile organic chemicals) would incur a violation of Monitoring and Reporting Requirements for each of the individual chemicals within this group.

The SDWA requires PWSs to notify their consumers when a drinking water standard has been violated, including MCL, TT, AL, and M/R requirements. Notifications must include:

- A clear and understandable explanation of the nature of the violation,
- The potential adverse health effects from the violation,
- The steps that the water system is undertaking to correct the violation, and
- The possible use of alternative water supplies available during the violation.

1.6 Annual Compliance Report

Section 1414(c)(3) of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act requires states to provide the EPA and the public with an annual report of violations of the federally-adopted primary drinking water standards. This report provides the numbers of violations in each of six categories: MCLs, MRDLs, TTs, variances and exemptions, significant monitoring and/or reporting violations, and significant public or consumer notification violations. Significant monitoring and/or reporting violations occur when no samples are taken, or no results are reported during a compliance period. A significant public notification or CCR notification violation occurs when a public water system completely fails to provide the required notification to its customers or to the public.

1.7 Data Presented in this Report

Each quarter, primacy states submit data to the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS/FED), an automated database maintained by EPA. The data submitted include, but are not limited to, PWS inventory information, the incidence of MCL, Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level,

2023 Annual Compliance Report

monitoring, and TT violations for regulated contaminants; violations concerning public and consumer notification; information on enforcement activities related to these violations, and data associated with the Lead and Copper Rule. Data submitted to SDWIS/FED forms the basis of this Annual Compliance Report.

The 2023 Annual Compliance Report compiles violations for the following rule families:

- Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR)
- Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), including the Filter Backwash Rule (FBR), Interim Enhanced SWTR (IESWTR), Long Term 1 (LT1) Enhanced SWTR, and Long Term 2 (LT2) Enhanced SWTR
- Ground Water Rule (GWR)
- Inorganic Contaminants (IOC)
- Synthetic Organic Contaminants (SOC)
- Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOC)
- Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products Rule (DBPR), including Stage 1 DBPR and Stage 2 DBPR
- Lead and Copper Rule (LCR)
- Radionuclides Rule (RAD)
- Public Notification Rule (PNR)
- Consumer Confidence Report Rule (CCR)
- Variances and Exemptions (V&E)

2. Review of 2023 Violation Data

For this Annual Compliance Report, EPA has deemed that significant M/R violations are reportable. A M/R violation is significant if no samples were collected in the monitoring period.

Appendix A-3 shows the number of violations by rule family and by system for MCL/TT and M/R requirements for calendar year 2023. A summary of the violations with the water system names, is provided in Appendix A-4.

2.1 Discussion of Violations

Hawaii's annual compliance report is based on State records and the violations submitted to the federal EPA SDWIS database.

Revised Total Coliform Rule

There was one (1) RTCR violation in July 2023. PWS 218, Honokohau, incurred a M/R violation for failing to collect the minimum amount of monthly sample.

Surface Water Treatment Rule

Two (2) PWSs incurred violations in 2023.

PWS 130, South Kohala, incurred two (2) TT violations in January and May 2023. The TT violations were due to NTU exceedances on two (2) separate days in 2023.

PWS 320, Mililani Memorial Park, incurred four (4) violations in April and May 2023. Two (2) TT violations were due to failing to conduct grab sampling every four (4) hours in lieu of continuous monitoring when the system lost power and the analyzer wasn't functioning. Two (2) M/R violations were incurred due to failure to demonstrate that the system was meeting the disinfection criteria required to determine contact times and a total inactivation ratio of 1.0 or greater.

Ground Water Rule

There was one (1) GWR violation in July 2023. PWS 360, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, incurred a M/R violation for failing to collect the TSWM sample at the required source.

Inorganic Chemicals

There were no inorganic chemicals violations incurred in 2023.

Volatile Organic Chemicals

There were no VOC violations incurred in 2023.

Semi-volatile Organic Chemicals

There was one (1) SOC violation in January 2023. PWS 213, Makawao, incurred a M/R violation for each of the three (3) contaminants, EDB, DBCP, and TCP, as the water system failed to collect in the monthly sampling period.

Disinfectant/Disinfectant By-Product Chemicals

There were no DBP violations in 2023.

Lead and Copper Rule

There were no LCR violations in 2023.

Radiological Contaminants

There were no MCL violations for radiological contaminants and no significant M/R violations. The next radionuclides monitoring period for most CWS ends on December 31, 2025.

Public Notification Rule

There were no PNR violations incurred in 2023. However, PWS 337, Aliamanu incurred a PNR violation in 2021 that remains unresolved as of this report.

Consumer Confidence Report Rule

There were no CCR violations in 2023.

Variances and Exemptions Rule

No variances or exemptions were granted by the State of Hawaii, and no variances or exemptions were already in existence. Therefore, there were no violations of variances or exemptions in 2023.

2.3 Hawaii-Specific Standards

One contaminant (1,2,3-Trichloropropane) is regulated by the State of Hawaii but not by the EPA, i.e. the contaminant has a state MCL but no federal MCL. Two contaminants (Ethylene dibromide and Dibromochloropropane) are regulated at a more stringent (lower) state MCL than the federal MCL.

There were no violations of the Hawaii-specific standards in 2023.

TABLE 3: FEDERAL MCL VS. HAWAII STATE MCL

Contaminant	Federal MCL	State MCL
1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP)	None	0.0006 milligrams/Liter (mg/L)
Ethylene Dibromide (EDB)	0.00005 mg/L	0.00004 mg/L
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP)	0.0002 mg/L	0.00004 mg/L

3. Conclusion

The DOH Safe Drinking Water Branch (SDWB) is the primacy agency responsible for administration and enforcement of the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements in Hawaii. SDWB undertakes several activities to implement this program, including conducting sanitary surveys (inspections) of the water systems, monitoring for compliance with regulations, and taking enforcement action when violations are identified.

Water systems in Hawaii continue to have a very high rate of compliance with drinking water regulations.

DOH continues to track compliance, ensure that the public is notified of violations, provide technical assistance to public water systems to address violations, and provide funding assistance to public water systems that are capable of undertaking planning or construction projects to address violations.

3.1 Drinking Water Compliance Activities

DOH has implemented several projects to improve the tracking and reporting of water quality monitoring data, assist water systems with meeting their regulatory monitoring requirements, and ensure compliance with the drinking water regulations.

DOH Environmental Health Administration, SDWB, and an information technology consultant partnered in 2012 to design and develop the Sample Analysis Tracking System (SATS) which implemented a data exchange from the DOH State Laboratories Division to the SDWB's SDWIS/State information management system.

The Sample Collection and Reservation System (SCRS) was developed in 2013 to provide PWSs with a comprehensive source of information and tools they need to meet their compliance monitoring obligations. A PWS can review its monitoring requirements and schedule analyses with the State Laboratories Division.

The SDWIS Viewer was developed to give users the ability to query drinking water system, facility and sample point data and return results in a tabular and/or spatially enabled format.

Going forward, SDWB will work closely with our Hawaii State Lab Division to update or rebuild our SCRS and SDWIS Viewer systems to be able to work with the Lab's new Laboratory Information Management System software that is currently being developed.

3.2 Obtaining a Copy of this Report

As required by the SDWA, Hawaii has made the 2021 Annual Public Water System Compliance Report available to the public. Interested individuals can obtain a copy of the 2021 Annual Public Water System Compliance Report for Hawaii by accessing the DOH/SDWB Website:

<http://health.hawaii.gov/sdwb/newsletters/>.

Responsible State Department

Hawaii Department of Health, Environmental Management Division, Safe Drinking Water Branch

Uluakupu Building 4

2385 Waimano Home Road, Suite 110

Pearl City, HI 96782-1400

State Contact

Mr. Gaudencio C. Lopez, P.E., Program Manager

Safe Drinking Water Branch

Phone: (808) 586-4258

Fax: (808) 586-4351

doh.sdwb@doh.hawaii.gov

Appendices

A-1. Glossary

A-2. Safe Drinking Water Rules and Effective Dates

A-3. Number Of Violations Incurred in CY 2023 by Rule and by System for MCLs / TT, and Significant M/R

A-4. Summary of Violations by Rule and Water System

A-1. Glossary

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Community Water System (CWS)	A PWS that serves the same people year-round.
Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)	An annual summary of water quality data collected during the year for a particular CWS, sent from the CWS to its consumers. The report includes educational material, information on the source water(s), levels of any detected contaminants, and any issues in complying with the drinking water regulations.
Disinfection Byproducts (DBP)	Also called trihalomethanes, are formed when chlorine and bromine interact with natural organic materials in water
Public Notification Rule (PNR)	This rule requires all PWS to notify its consumers any time a PWS violates a national primary drinking water regulation or has a situation posing a risk to public health. The timeframe in which a PWS must notify the public depends on the risk posed by the violation or situation. Notices must be provided to persons served (not just billing consumers).
Public Water System (PWS)	A system that provides water for human consumption via piping or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections, or serves an average of at least 25 people. A public water system may be publicly or privately owned.
Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)	The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to the MCL Goals as is economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste, and appearance of drinking water. In Hawaii, there is one MCL for a contaminant which EPA does not regulate: 1,2,3-Trichloropropane (TCP). In Hawaii, there are two MCLs for federally regulated contaminants that are lower than the federal MCL (more stringent). These MCLs are for 1,2-Dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP) and Ethylene dibromide (EDB).
Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL)	The EPA sets national limits on residual disinfectant levels in drinking water to reduce the risk of exposure to disinfectant byproducts formed when public water systems add chemical disinfectant for either primary or residual treatment.

<u>Term</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Monitoring and Reporting (M/R)	A water system is required to monitor and verify that the levels of contaminants present in the water do not exceed the MCLs. A monitoring violation occurs when the system fails to have its water tested as required or fails to report test results correctly to the DOH.
Non-transient noncommunity (NTNC)	A PWS that serves the same people more than six (6) months per year, but not year-round. This may include schools, businesses or other facilities.
Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)	A law established in 1974 to protect the quality of drinking water in the U.S. This law focuses on all waters actually or potentially designed for drinking use, whether from above ground or underground sources.
Significant Monitoring or Reporting Violations (M/R)	For this report, EPA defined significant monitoring or reporting violations as occurring when required samples were not taken, or results not reported.
Transient non-community (TNC)	A PWS that serves the public but not the same individuals for more than six (6) months.
Treatment Technique (TT)	A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water in lieu of an MCL. For example, TTs have been established for the treatment of surface waters to control the level of viruses and bacteria.

A-2. Safe Drinking Water Rules and Effective Dates

	RULE	PROMULGATION DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
1	Phase I Volatile Organic Chemical Rule	7/8/1987	1/9/1989
2	Total Coliform Rule	6/29/1989	12/31/1990
3	Surface Water Treatment Rule	6/29/1989	12/31/1990
4	Lead and Copper Rule	6/7/1991	12/7/1992
5	Phase II Synthetic Organic/Inorganic Chemical Rule	1/30/1991	1/1/1993
6	Phase V Synthetic Organic/Inorganic Chemical Rule	7/17/1992	1/1/1993
7	Stage 1 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products Rule	1/16/1998	2/16/1999
8	Consumer Confidence Reports Rule	8/19/1998	10/19/1999
9	Lead and Copper Rule Minor Revisions	9/20/1999	4/11/2000
10	Public Notification Rule	5/4/2000	6/5/2000
11	Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule	9/17/1999	1/1/2001
12	Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule	12/16/1998	1/1/2002
13	Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule	1/14/2002	2/13/2002
14	Revised Radionuclides Rule	12/7/2000	12/8/2003
15	Filter Backwash Rule	6/8/2001	6/8/2004
16	Arsenic and Clarifications to Compliance and New Source Monitoring Rule	1/22/2001	1/23/2006
17	Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule	1/5/2006	3/6/2006
18	Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection By-Products Rule	1/5/2006	3/6/2006
19	Ground Water Rule	10/11/2006	12/1/2009
20	Revised Total Coliform Rule	2/13/2013	4/1/2016

A-3. Number Of Violations Incurred in CY 2023 by Rule and by System for MCLs / TT, and Significant M/R

Rule Family Name	MCL/TT		M/R	
	Violations	Systems in violation	Violations	Systems in violation
RTCR	-	-	1	1
SWTR, FBR, IESWTR, and LT 1 and 2 SWTR	4	2	2	1
GWR	-	-	1	1
SOC	-	-	3	1
Total Number of Federally Regulated PWS in Hawaii in CY 2023:		140		
Total Number of PWSs with 1 or more Violations		5 (3.6%)		
Total Number of Violations in CY 2023:		11		

A-4. Summary of Violations by Rule and Water System

PWS ID	PWS Name	Population Served	Rule	Violation Trigger
130	South Kohala	10,095	SWTR	NTU exceedance
213	Makawao	37,811	SOC	Failed to collect EDB/TCP/DBCP monthly monitoring sample
218	Honokohau	50	RTCR	Failed to collect the minimum amount of RTCR monthly monitoring sample
320	Mililani Memorial Park	100	SWTR	Failed to conduct grab sampling every four (4) hours in lieu of continuous monitoring. Failed to demonstrate meeting disinfection criteria to determine contact times and a total activation ratio of 1.0 or greater.
360	Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam	65,230	GWR	Failed to collect the triggered source water sample within 24 hours of confirmation of the final total coliform positive sample results.

EDB Ethylene Dibromide
 DBCP Dibromochloropropane
 NTU Nephelometric Turbidity unit
 TCP 1,2,3-Trichloropropane
 TTHM Total Trihalomethanes
 TSWM Triggered Source Water Monitoring
 SVOC Semi-volatile Organic Compound