LONG TERM 1 ENHANCED SURFACE WATER TREATMENT RULE
REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

Pursuant to K.S.A. 77-416

PROPOSED NEW REGULATIONS

K.A.R. 28-15a-2;
K.A.R. 28-15a-70;
K.A.R. 28-15a-73;
K.A.R. 28-15a-153;
K.A.R. 28-15a-170;

May 12, 2004
Executive Summary of
Proposed New Regulations
Necessary to Implement the
Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule under the
Safe Drinking Water Act

Legal Authority

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA - P.L. 104-182), title XIV of the Public Health Service Act (P.L. 93-523), is the key federal law for protecting public water system customers from harmful contaminants. First enacted in 1974 and substantively amended in 1986 and 1996, the SDWA is administered through regulatory programs that establish standards and treatment requirements for drinking water, control underground injection of wastes that might contaminate water supplies, and protect groundwater. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the federal agency responsible for administering the provisions of the SDWA.

The 1974 law established the current federal-state arrangement in which states may be delegated primary implementation and enforcement authority for the drinking water program. The Public Water Supply Supervision (PWSS) program and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program are the basic federal programs for regulating and financing SDWA requirements to the nation’s public water systems through state, tribal, and territorial governments. Kansas Statutes Annotated (K.S.A.) 65-171m states in part: “The secretary of health and environment shall adopt rules and regulations for the implementation of this act... The standards established under this section shall be at least as stringent as the national primary drinking water regulations adopted under public law...”

Background

The Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR) is the third such rule in a series of at least four possible, related staged rules which have been designed by EPA to implement a comprehensive standard on microbial contaminants in drinking water supplies in all sizes of public water systems. As explained below, the LT1ESWTR follows the implementation of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) and the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR). The LT1ESWTR extends the requirements of the IESWTR to public water supplies serving populations of less than 10,000 people. EPA is now in the process of promulgating the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR).

In response to national concerns about the safety of our drinking water and its impact on public health, Congress first adopted the SDWA in 1974. Twelve years later, disease-causing microbial contamination had still not been sufficiently controlled, and Congress significantly amended the act when it was re-authorized in 1986. Although the SDWA had been slightly amended on three previous occasions,
the 1986 amendments were more comprehensive and required the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to establish regulations within certain time-frames, to require disinfection of nearly all public water supplies, to specify filtration requirements for nearly all water systems that draw their water from surface sources or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (GWUDI), and to develop additional programs to protect ground water supplies. The 1986 amendment also required EPA to set maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) and maximum contaminant level goals (MCLGs) for 83 named contaminants (including microbial pathogens such as *Giardia lamblia* and *Legionella*). EPA responded to Congress’ mandate by establishing the Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Total Coliform Rule.

Accordingly, more than 240 million people in the United States now consume water that has been disinfected. Over the last 15 years, however, it has been determined that some microbial pathogens such as *Cryptosporidium* are highly resistant to traditional disinfection practices. Further, it has also since become known that drinking water disinfectants themselves can react with naturally occurring substances in source water and distribution systems to form unintended organic and inorganic byproducts which may pose health risks.

In 1996, Congress amended the SDWA again by requiring EPA to develop rules which balance the risks between microbial pathogens and disinfection byproducts in drinking water. EPA responded to this directive in 1998 by promulgating two companion rules, the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR - regulates microbial contaminants) and the Stage 1 Disinfection and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 1 DBPR - regulates disinfectants). Both of these rules build on the existing foundations in the SDWA and the previous rules on disinfectants and microbe treatment. They are intended by EPA to form a parallel foundation for implementing sets of progressively more protective regulations in the future. The IESWTR and LT1ESWTR are specifically intended to prevent significant increases in microbial risk that might otherwise occur when systems implement the Stage 1 DBPR and begin reducing the level of disinfectants in their treatment programs. It is also designed to concurrently optimize treatment reliability and to enhance physical removal efficiencies in order to minimize the *Cryptosporidium* levels in finished water.

The key provisions of the IESWTR include a MCLG of “zero” for *Cryptosporidium* and a *Cryptosporidium* filtering requirement of 99% (2-log) removal for systems that filter water prior to treatment processing. It also requires strengthened turbidity performance standards and combined / individual filter effluent monitoring provisions. It further requires that all subject systems complete a disinfection profiling and benchmarking program, and prohibits the construction of new uncovered finished water storage facilities. For system which do not filter (none applicable in Kansas), water systems must include *Cryptosporidium* in their watershed control programs.

The LT1ESWTR represents the IESWTR counterpart for small systems and now applies to all PWSs that use surface water or GWUDI as a source and which serve less than 10,000 people. The provisions of the LT1ESWTR are essentially the same as the IESWTR, but the time frames and monitoring rates required to achieve compliance have been modified to reduce the burden on small systems.
Federal law now requires that applicable PWSs comply with these drinking water standards regardless of state or tribal law. Concurrent amendments to Kansas Administrative Regulations, however, are necessary to maintain compliance with the provisions of the SDWA regarding state primacy for administrative and enforcement authority and related state eligibility for federal PWSS program grants and DWSRF program loan capitalization grants.


As codified under 40 C.F.R. 141, recent federal revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations summarized as the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule which now require concurrent amendments to Kansas Administrative Regulations are summarized in their constituent articles, as follows:

**Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule**

**Part 141 - National Primary Drinking Water Regulations**

**Subpart A** - General

§ 141.2 Definitions.

**Subpart H** - Filtration and Disinfection

§ 141.70 General requirements.

§ 141.73 Filtration.

**Subpart O** - Consumer Confidence Reports

§ 141.153 Content of the reports.

**Subpart P** - Enhanced Filtration and Disinfection

§ 141.170 General requirements.
Subpart Q - Public Notification of Drinking Water Violations

§ 141.202 Tier 1 Public Notice - Form, manner, and frequency of notice.
§ 141.203 Tier 2 Public Notice - Form, manner, and frequency of notice.

* Appendix A to Subpart Q of Part 141 - NPDWR Violations and Other situations Requiring Public Notice

* Appendix B to Subpart Q of Part 141 - Standard Health Effects Language for Public Notification

Subpart T - Enhanced Filtration and Disinfection - Systems Serving Fewer than 10,000 People

General Requirements
§ 141.500 General requirements.
§ 141.501 Who is subject to the requirements of subpart T?
§ 141.502 When must my system comply with these requirements?
§ 141.503 What does subpart T require?

Finished Water Reservoirs
§ 141.510 Is my system subject to the new finished water reservoir requirements?
§ 141.511 What is required of new finished water reservoirs?

Additional Watershed Control Requirements for Unfiltered Systems
§ 141.520 Is my system subject to the updated watershed control requirements?
§ 141.521 What updated watershed control requirements must my unfiltered system implement to continue to avoid filtration?
§ 141.522 How does the State determine whether my system’s watershed control requirements are adequate?

Disinfection Profile
§ 141.530 What is a Disinfection Profile and who must develop one?
§ 141.531 What criteria must a state use to determine that a profile is unnecessary?
§ 141.532 How does my system develop a Disinfection Profile and when must it begin?
§ 141.533 What data must my system collect to calculate a Disinfection Profile?
§ 141.534 How does my system use this data to calculate an inactivation ratio?
§ 141.535 What if my system uses chloramines, ozone, or chlorine dioxide for primary disinfection?
§ 141.536 My system has developed an inactivation ratio; what must we do now?
Disinfection Benchmark
§ 141.540 Who has to develop a Disinfection Benchmark?
§ 141.541 What are significant changes to disinfection practice?
§ 141.542 What must my system do if we are considering a significant change to disinfection practices?
§ 141.543 How is the Disinfection Benchmark calculated?
§ 141.544 What if my system uses chloramines, ozone, or chlorine dioxide for primary disinfection?

Combined Filter Effluent Requirements
§ 141.550 Is my system required to meet subpart T combined filter effluent turbidity limits?
§ 141.551 What strengthened combined filter effluent turbidity limits must my system meet?
§ 141.552 My system consists of “alternative filtration” and is required to conduct a demonstration - what is required of my system and how does the State establish my turbidity limits?
§ 141.553 My system practices lime softening - is there any special provision regarding my combined filter effluent?

Individual Filter Turbidity Requirements
§ 141.560 Is my system subject to individual filter turbidity requirements?
§ 141.561 What happens if my system’s turbidity monitoring equipment fails?
§ 141.562 My system only has two or fewer filters - is there any special provision regarding individual filter turbidity monitoring?
§ 141.563 What follow-up action is my system required to take based on continuous turbidity monitoring?
§ 141.564 My system practices lime softening - is there any special provision regarding my individual filter turbidity monitoring?

Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements
§ 141.570 What does subpart T require that my system report to the state?
§ 141.571 What records does subpart T require my system to keep?

Environmental Benefit Statement

1. Need for proposed amendments and environmental benefit likely to accrue.

A. Need

All of the changes are needed to retain approval of KDHE’s PWSS program and DWSRF loan program by the EPA. The SDWA requires state programs to meet federal primacy requirements for administering and enforcing the SDWA, or they must forfeit their PWSS program grants (approximately $1.1 million to Kansas in FY2004) and DWSRF loan program capitalization grants (approximately $9.5 million to Kansas in FY2004).

The federal requirements established in the LT1ESWTR apply to all PWSs that use surface water or GWUDI and serve less than 10,000 people (about 91 in Kansas). (In concurrence with the LT1ESWTR, the IESWTR rule also requires primacy states to conduct sanitary surveys for all PWSs that use surface water or groundwater under the influence of surface water, regardless of the population served - a total of about 107 in Kansas.)

b. Environmental benefit

In 1990, EPA’s Science Advisory Board, an independent panel of experts appointed by Congress, cited drinking water contamination as one of the most important environmental risks and indicated that disease-causing microbial contaminants are probably the greatest remaining health risk management challenge for drinking water suppliers. Adoption of the proposed regulations is expected to provide improved drinking water quality and an increased level of health protection to the general public through the improved safety of drinking water supplies. According to EPA, the LT1ESWTR decreases the likelihood of endemic illness from Cryptosporidium by 12,000 to 41,000 cases annually.

No other direct benefits to the extended environment are anticipated.

2. When applicable, a summary of the research or data indicating the level of risk to the public health or the environment being removed or controlled by the proposed regulations or amendments.

Because the LT1ESWTR encompasses the same subject matter and regulatory requirements as the IESWTR, except being applied to PWSs serving smaller populations, EPA relied on essentially the same research and data in formulating the public health risk being addresses by LT1ESWTR as it did in IESWTR.
The U.S. Center for Disease Control indicates that over 400 waterborne disease outbreaks were reported between 1980 and 1996, with over 750,000 associated cases of disease; the principal disease-causing agents include protozoa, viruses, and bacteria, as well as several chemicals. Most of these cases were associated with surface water. It is generally considered that, for a variety of reasons, the occurrence of these cases is substantially understated and generally under-reported.

In considering the maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of “zero” for Cryptosporidium, EPA relied upon animal studies, human epidemiology studies of waterborne outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis, and most notably a human feeding study which indicates that human ingestion of even a single Cryptosporidium oocyst can result in a 0.5% probability of infection. EPA considered eight new studies on the removal of Cryptosporidium by filtration in addition to existing data and information from the Microbial-Disinfection Byproduct Advisory Committee which determined that only a 2-log removal of Cryptosporidium could be justified by the higher treatment costs.

In considering the amendments to turbidity control related to filtration performance and filter monitoring and reporting, EPA relied on three recent data sets to evaluate the national impact of modifying existing turbidity requirements, four new studies to evaluate the potential for improving individual filter performance, and four new studies to assess the performance evaluation of turbidity measurement. EPA concluded that revising turbidity criteria was necessarily the only practical method which will insure that systems consistently achieve a higher level of compliance with the current existing standard as well as attempting a higher level of compliance with the new standard, that systems need to have a greater understanding of individual filter performance by more frequent monitoring to achieve more uniform treatment results, and that avoidable variability currently results from using different turbidimeter models and methods, and different laboratory procedures, which can be modified and improved by the new standards.

In considering the strategy for disinfection profiling and benchmarking, EPA considered data on microbial inactivation provided by PWSs to the Microbial-Disinfection Byproduct Advisory Committee; the data demonstrated high variability of microbial inactivation on a day-to-day basis as well as on a yearly basis depending on changes in water temperature, flow rate, contact time, seasonal changes in residual disinfectant, pH, and disinfectant demand and disinfectant residual. EPA concluded these requirements were the most comprehensive and efficient way for a PWS to document the variations, to characterize disinfection practices, and if necessary, to change its disinfection practices to reduce disinfectant residuals and eliminate disinfection byproducts.

In considering the revisions pertaining to the definition of “groundwater under the direct influence of surface water”, the inclusion of Cryptosporidium in watershed control requirements, and covered finished water reservoirs, EPA relied extensively on a mixture of studies and policy recommendations from the American Water Works Association, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and surveys of current public water system practices and state regulations. Consistent with its ruling in IESWTR for systems serving 10,000 or more people, EPA concluded that the level of microbes present
in groundwater closely associated with surface water now warrants its inclusion in the requirements for the LT1ESWTR for systems serving less than 10,000 people. Similarly, EPA concluded that the level of Cryptosporidium present in the uncontrolled watersheds of systems which do not use filtration treatment also warrants the inclusion of Cryptosporidium in watershed management requirements. Further, EPA conclusively determined that requiring all new finished water reservoirs to be covered was justified by its cost in relation to the level of pathogen protection afforded, but that the requirement was not justified in being made retroactive to all existing systems at the current costs of reconstruction.

In regard to the concurrent IESWTR requirement that all primacy states conduct regular sanitary surveys on all PWSs utilizing surface water or groundwater under the direct influence of surface water (regardless of population served), EPA utilized a report from the General Accounting Office which found that sanitary surveys are often deficient in how they are conducted, documented, and/or interpreted. The report also indicated that, regardless of size, the deficiencies previously disclosed went uncorrected. EPA subsequently utilized a report by the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators in establishing the integral components of a comprehensive sanitary survey requirement under IESWTR which is consistent with EPA’s re-affirmation of this requirement under LT1ESWTR.

3. If specific contaminants are to be controlled by the proposed regulation or amendment, a description indicating the level at which the contaminants are considered harmful according to current available research.

Pursuant to studies conducted and evaluated in consideration of this rule, EPA regards any level of Cryptosporidium in drinking water to be potentially harmful, and under the IESWTR, has previously set a maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) of “zero” for this pathogen; this is consistent with the agency’s existing MCLGs for similar pathogens such as Legionella and Giardia lamblia. PWSs serving less than 10,000 people that use filtered surface water or groundwater under the influence of surface water are now required to achieve a 99% (2 log) physical removal of Cryptosporidium under the new LT1ESWTR.

In concept, EPA similarly regards a maximum turbidity level of “zero” as the optimum standard at which public health risks from high densities of pathogens in poor quality source waters are totally minimized. However, by definition, EPA similarly regards a conventional and direct filtration combined filter effluent of 0.3 nephelometric turbidity units (or less) in at least 95% of the measurements taken each month, and a maximum level of 1 nephelometric turbidity units at any time, to be the most practical and justifiable minimum standard which can be achieved in consideration of current treatment technology and costs.

KDHE is not required to adopt, and is not proposing to adopt, the MCLG which was previously established for Cryptosporidium in the IESWTR.
Economic Impact Statement

1. Are the proposed regulations or amendments mandated by federal law as a requirement for participating in or implementing a federally subsidized or assisted program?

Yes. Federal law now requires that all PWSs using surface water and GWUDI which serve less than 10,000 people comply with these drinking water standards regardless of state or tribal law. The concurrent amendments proposed to these Kansas Administrative Regulations are necessary to maintain compliance with the provisions of SWDA regarding state primacy for administrative and enforcement authority and related state eligibility for federal PWSS program grants and DWSRF program loan capitalization grants.

2. Do the proposed regulations or amendments exceed the requirements of applicable federal law?


3. Description of costs to agencies, to the general public, and to persons who are effected by, or subject to, the regulations.

The core components of KDHE’s PWSS program have already been developed and maintained for many years. However, KDHE must continually conform its regulations with EPA’s regulations to maintain primacy under the SDWA. The regulations will only be minimally revised as it regards the required amendments for the LT1ESWTR. There will be costs to the agency and to the general public associated with the amendments which will be significantly offset by EPA grants to KDHE for the PWSS program and the DWSRF loan program.

a. Capital and annual costs of compliance with the proposed regulations or amendments and the persons who will bear those costs.

As with KDHE, the core components of compliance with the SDWA for the majority of these subject public water systems have already been developed and maintained for many years. The primary costs associated with these proposed regulations will be borne by the PWSs (both publically and privately owned) who are required to conduct the necessary sampling, analysis, and monitoring, and in those cases
where standards are exceeded, to provide improved turbidity treatment for the removal of contaminants to achieve standards. These activities will, however, require additional time, labor, and/or financial resources by these entities to generate, maintain, retain, disclose, and/or provide information to the regulating party as well as developing and maintaining technological infrastructure.

EPA estimates that these regulations will result in total national compliance costs of $44.8 million in 1999 dollars at a 7% rate of cost of capital for implementing the turbidity, disinfection benchmarking, and covered finished water reservoir provisions of the LT1ESWTR which apply to approximately 5817 PWSs in the United States. This estimate includes:

- $38.2 million as total start-up and treatment upgrade and monitoring costs to utilities.
- $6.6 million as total start-up and monitoring costs to the states.

Because of increased costs to the public water systems, EPA expects that:

- 90% of households will incur less than $1.25 of extra monthly cost;
- 9% of households will incur an additional monthly cost between $1.25 and $10;
- and 1% of households will incur an additional monthly cost of more than $10.

In general, conventional surface water treatment facilities used in Kansas are capable of meeting the more stringent performance requirements with increased attention to plant operation. KDHE has funded on-site training for small system surface water treatment operators through a set-aside from the DWSRF.

There are many different treatment options available for surface water systems which will be required to comply with this new rule. Treatment options vary from constructing a new treatment plant or upgrading an existing treatment plant, to simply making a change in chemicals used to treat the water. For many water systems, treatment options are also influenced by other rules such as the IESWTR and Stage 1 DBPR. The actual costs of compliance won’t be known until communities evaluate their options, and the costs associated with these treatment process upgrades are expected to be extremely variable depending on the current system size and age, and on the present system process configuration.

“Average” or “typical” system costs for new rule compliance can be masked by several factors. With ever-changing and more complex drinking water regulations, some water systems benefit by making costly improvements to address more than one new rule or regulation at once. In some cases, water systems are also replacing infrastructure which is already very old, outdated, and badly in need of repair. Other systems may find that it is entirely more cost-effective to discontinue primary treatment operations and opt to purchase and pipe water from other nearby systems.
For example, in order to comply with all of the new rules, the City of Burlington opted to construct a totally new water treatment plant at a cost of $5.8 million. The City of Baxter Springs recently upgraded their existing water treatment plant to comply with all of the new rules and regulations at a cost of $2.6 million. The City of Council Grove upgraded their existing treatment plant at a cost of $1.8 million to comply with the LT1ESWTR and the Stage 1 DBPR, whereas the City of Eskridge was able to complete a chlorine contact basin to comply with the same two rules at a cost of $73,000. In order to comply with just the LT1ESWTR, the City of Florence installed new membrane filter plant at a cost of $600,000. Woodson Rural Water District No. 1 recently decided to just purchase water from Yates Center and completed a new 10 mile water transmission line at a cost of $942,431.

The LT1ESWTR requires turbidimeters be installed as monitoring devices on all system filters. Standard costs for the turbidimeter equipment and installation are approximately $7,500 per filter.

It is expected that the cost of implementing and enforcing the proposed regulations will ultimately be passed through to other PWSs which are purchasing water from primary treatment PWSs and to all PWS customers. These costs will be incurred by the PWSs and their customers even if Kansas does not adopt the proposed regulations because EPA will still be enforcing the LT1ESWTR. If Kansas does adopt the proposed regulations, KDHE will be provided with federal grant funds (PWSS and DWSRF) which can be distributed to water systems requiring treatment upgrades and some other compliance related cost reimbursements.

EPA expects that these costs will be offset by the national benefits of reducing illness from the requirements in LT1ESWTR in an estimated amount ranging from $18.9 million to $90.9 million per year. This estimate is calculated on a valuation of $796 to $1,411 per incidence of cryptosporidiosis prevented. EPA estimates the IESWTR will also reduce the risk of more severe health impacts on sensitive populations, including the risk of mortality. Additionally, the LT1ESWTR will reduce the likelihood of outbreaks of cryptosporidiosis and its associated costs by providing a larger margin of safety against such outbreaks in some systems. EPA expects the LT1ESWTR will also result in reduced risks from other pathogens and enhance the aesthetic quality of waters available to the public.

b. Initial and annual cost of implementing and enforcing the proposed regulations or amendments, including the estimated amount of paperwork, and the state agencies, other governmental agencies or other persons or entities who will bear the costs.

The associated requirement under the IESWTR that KDHE conduct a sanitary survey of every public water supply using surface water or GWUDI at least every 3 years will result in significant costs to the agency. A sanitary survey is defined as an onsite review of the water source, facilities, equipment, operation, maintenance, and monitoring compliance of a public water system to evaluate the adequacy of the system, its sources, and operations and the distribution of safe drinking water. Additional staff and office resources will be needed in the District offices to inspect these 107 PWSs which ultimately serve approximately 1.8 million people.
KDHE added four additional positions to implement the LT1ESWTR, and two additional rules, the Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Stage 1 Disinfectants / Disinfection Byproducts Rule. These positions are an environmental engineer, two environmental scientists, and a clerical position. Salary, benefits, and other costs are an estimated $203,000 annually. These costs are funded with a grant from the EPA.

No other state agencies, governmental agencies, persons, or entities are anticipated to incur or bear any of the costs associated with these proposed regulations.

c. Costs which would likely accrue if the proposed regulations or amendments are not adopted, the persons who will bear the costs and those who will be effected by the failure to adopt the regulations.

The SDWA requires state programs to meet federal primacy requirements for administration and enforcement authority in order to qualify for PWSS program grants and DWSRF program loan capitalization grants. Failure to amend these regulations would result in KDHE losing approximately $1.1 million to Kansas program grants in FY2004 and DWSRF program loan capitalization grants of approximately $9.5 million to Kansas in FY2004. This would in turn negatively impact the PWSs and their customers who would not be eligible for state financial assistance but must still comply with the EPA requirements under LT1ESWTR.

d. A detailed statement of the data and methodology used in estimating the costs used in the statement.

The data and methodology used in preparing this regulatory impact statement were primarily obtained from EPA references, documents, and statements on the Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule as published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2002. Where supportable, some general inferences were made to relate national level data to the State of Kansas and KDHE. Representative cost figures for Kansas systems were also obtained from the KDHE DWSRF loan program data.

e. Description of any less costly or less intrusive methods that were considered by the agency and why such methods were rejected in favor of the proposed regulation.

There are no less intrusive or less costly methods available for consideration by KDHE to achieve the purposes of the proposed amendments.
f. Consultation with the League of Kansas Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, and Kansas Association of School Boards.

KDHE anticipates that the proposed amendments will have a direct and substantial fiscal impact on the constituency of the League of Kansas Municipalities. No direct impact is anticipated on the constituents of the Kansas Association of Counties or of the Kansas Association of School Boards. A copy of this regulatory impact statement was sent to each of these organizations on May 12, 2004.