



**American Water Works  
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## Regulatory Alert

**TO: AWWA Section Government Affairs Contacts  
All Utilities**

**FROM: AWWA Government Affairs**

**DATE: June 17, 2010**

**Who: EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson proposes changes for ALL drinking water systems under the Revised Total Coliform Rule**

**What: View the rule online and voice your opinion during the 60-day open comment period**

**When: End of June**

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson today signed the proposed Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), a rule that will apply to all drinking water systems.

The proposal will likely be published in the *Federal Register* by the end of June. Once published, it will have a 60-day public comment period, so comments will be due toward the end of August. AWWA encourages all its members to read this proposal and to voice their opinions. AWWA will be developing formal comments.

The pre-publication version of the proposal can be found on EPA's website at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/tcr/regulation.html#tcr1989>

The Total Coliform Rule (TCR) is the only regulation ensuring the integrity of the distribution system and requiring routine monitoring for the presence of microbial contamination in the distribution system. The new proposal is based on the Agreement-In-Principle resulting from the TCR Distribution System Advisory Committee (TCRDSAC), of which AWWA was a member.

The TCR was last revised in 1989 when the rule shifted from a coliform density measurement to presence/absence. Currently, EPA is proposing to:

- Remove the Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of zero for total coliforms and the associated public notice for total coliforms;
- Set triggers for assessment and corrections that parallel the previous MCL for total coliforms;
- Maintain a zero MCLG and MCL for *E. coli*; and
- Introduce a tiered approach for assessment and corrections.

Questions? Contact Steve Via in the AWWA Washington Office at (202) 628-8303 or [svia@awwa.org](mailto:svia@awwa.org).