EPA has revised three of its rules to comply with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, including the Total Coliform Form, the Public Notification Rule, and the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule. EPA has determined that these revisions are consistent with and no less stringent than the corresponding federal regulations. Therefore, EPA intends to approve these revisions to the State of Ohio’s public water system supervision program, thereby giving Ohio EPA primary enforcement responsibility for these regulations. Ohio EPA’s revised coliform and public notification requirements became effective on December 20, 2007, and Ohio EPA has been administering the filter backwash recycling requirements since August 3, 2004.

Any interested party may request a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be submitted by January 23, 2013, to the Regional Administrator at the EPA Region 5 address shown below. The Regional Administrator may deny frivolous or insubstantial requests for a hearing. However, if a substantial request for a public hearing is made by January 23, 2013, EPA Region 5 will hold a public hearing, and a notice of such hearing will be given in the Federal Register and a newspaper of general circulation. If EPA Region 5 does not receive a timely and appropriate request for a hearing and the Regional Administrator does not elect to hold a hearing on her own motion, this determination shall become final and effective on January 23, 2013.

Any request for a public hearing shall include the following information: The name, address, and telephone number of the individual, organization, or other entity requesting the hearing; a brief statement of the requesting person’s interest in the Regional Administrator’s determination and a brief statement of the information that the requesting person intends to submit at such hearing; and the signature of the individual making the request, or, if the request is made on behalf of an organization or other entity, the signature of a responsible official of the organization or other entity.

ADDRESSES: All documents relating to this determination are available for inspection at the following offices: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters, 50 West Town Street, Suite 700, Columbus, Ohio 43215, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch (WG–15J), 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Illinois 60604, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Wendy Drake, EPA Region 5, Ground Water and Drinking Water Branch, at the address given above, by telephone at (312) 886–6705, or at drake.wendy@epa.gov.


Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator, Region 5.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY


Office of Environmental Information; Notice of availability for a 30 day review and comment period for the Draft Quality Standard for Environmental Data Collection, Production, and Use by Non-EPA (External) Organizations and two associated QA Handbooks

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability & request for comment.

SUMMARY: Notice of availability for a 30 day review and comment period is hereby given for the draft Quality Standard for Environmental Data Collection, Production, and Use by Non-EPA (External) Organizations and two associated draft QA Handbooks: 1) draft Handbook for Preparing Quality Management Plans (QMPs) and 2) draft Handbook for Preparing Quality Assurance (QA) Project Plans (QAPPs).

The draft Quality Standard for Environmental Data Collection, Production, and Use by Non-EPA (External) Organizations contains no new requirements.

DATES: Comments must be submitted on or before January 25, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OEI–2012–0774 by one of the following methods:

• www.regulations.gov: Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
• Email: oeii.docket@epa.gov
• Fax: 202–566–9744
• Mail: Announcement of Availability and Comment Period for Draft Quality Standard For Environmental Data Collection, Production, and Use By Non-EPA (External) Organizations Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code: 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW., Washington, DC 20460.

• Hand Delivery: 1301 Constitution Ave. NW., EPA West Building, Room 3334, Washington, DC 20460.

Such deliveries are only accepted during the Docket’s normal hours of operation, and special arrangements should be made for deliveries of boxed information.

Instructions: Direct your comments to Docket ID No. EPA–HQ–OEI–2012–0774. EPA’s policy is that all comments received will be included in the public docket without change and may be made available online at www.regulations.gov, including any personal information provided, unless the comment includes information claimed to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Do not submit information that you consider to be CBI or otherwise protected through www.regulations.gov. The www.regulations.gov website is an “anonymous access” system, which means EPA will not know your identity or contact information unless you provide it in the body of your comment. If you send an email comment directly to EPA without going through www.regulations.gov your email address will be automatically captured and included as part of the comment that is placed in the public docket and made available on the Internet. If you submit an electronic comment, EPA recommends that you include your name and other contact information in the body of your comment and with any disk or CD–ROM you submit. If EPA cannot read your comment due to technical difficulties and cannot contact you for clarification, EPA may not be able to consider your comment. Electronic files should avoid the use of special characters, any form of encryption, and be free of any defects or viruses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Warren; Environmental Protection Agency; 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, MC 2811R; Washington, DC 20460; Phone: 202 564–6876; Fax: 202 565 2441; Email: quality@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The draft Standard provides greater clarity about QA requirements for environmental data projects; addresses modeling activities, which were not specifically addressed in the previous EPA Order (CIO
The draft Quality Standard contains appendices which provide the requirements for QMPs and the requirements for QA Project Plans. When the standards are issued, EPA QA/R–2, EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans, March 2001 (Reissued May 2006) 3 and EPA QA/R–5, EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans, March 2001 (Reissued May 2006) 4 will be rescinded. Section 2.3.1 of the draft Quality Standard describes how this will impact non-EPA organizations with existing external agreements. Design of the draft Handbooks provides assistance to users creating QMPs and QAPPs that address the specifications listed in the draft Quality Standard.

EPA also plans to issue a Quality Standard for Environmental Collection, Production and Use by EPA organizations. The content of this standard is similar to the draft Quality Standard for External Organizations. This draft Quality Standard is currently being reviewed by EPA organizations. It is anticipated that both Quality Standards will be issued simultaneously.

Dated: December 18, 2012.

Monica D. Jones,
Director, Quality Staff.