

Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions: Background and Overview

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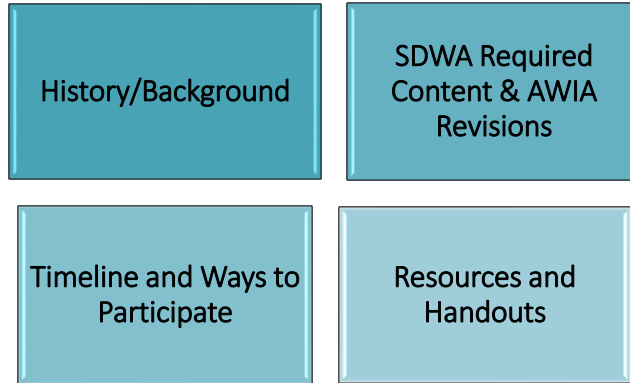
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Agenda, Objective, and Overview



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History and Background

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History and Background

- 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments created “Right to Know” rules to increase the amount of information made available to community water system (CWS) consumers
- Founded on the principle that water system consumers have a “right to know what is in their drinking water and where it comes from”
- At least annually, CWSs are required to provide a summary of water quality related information

A Community Water System provides water for human consumption

- to the same population year-round
- through pipes or other constructed conveyances
- to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people.

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[Federal Register, Volume 63 Issue 30 \(Friday, February 13, 1998\) \(govinfo.gov\)](#)
Public Law 104-182 Sec. 114

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History and Background Cont.

- CCRs help to:
 - Raise consumer awareness of where their water comes from
 - Inform consumers of the process by which their water is delivered
 - Educate consumers on the importance of water safety measures (e.g., source water protection)
 - Start a dialogue between consumers and their CWS and increase consumer participation in decisions impacting their drinking water
 - Allow consumers (especially those with special health needs) to make more informed decisions regarding their drinking water

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[Federal Register, Volume 63 Issue 30 \(Friday, February 13, 1998\) \(govinfo.gov\)](#)

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AWIA 2018 and CCR revisions

- America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) was signed into law in 2018
 - Improves America's water infrastructure, water health and safety, and enhances public health through increased investments
- AWIA required the CCR Rule to be amended within a 2-year deadline
- A 2021 lawsuit was brought against EPA for failure to meet SDWA statutory deadlines for rule promulgation
 - [FRN for Proposed consent decree](#)

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[BILLS-115s3021enr.pdf \(congress.gov\)](#)
[Civil Cover Sheet \(epa.gov\)](#)

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SDWA Required Content & AWIA Revisions

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CCR Required Content

- Source water information
- Definitions of Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG), variances, exemptions, and action level
- Information on detected contaminants (regulated and unregulated contaminants)
 - Required health effects language for MCL violation
 - Information on *Cryptosporidium* and Radon

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SDWA Section 1414(c)(4)

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CCR Required Content (Cont.)

- National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) compliance, including violations and if operating under a variance or exemption
- Statements related to presence of contaminants in drinking water, including bottled water
- Statement that the presence of contaminants in drinking water does not necessarily indicate a health risk
- Additional information to educate consumers on the water supply
- Information to contact EPA's Safe Drinking Hotline for more information

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SDWA Section 1414(c)(4)

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Distribution and Delivery

- Mail, or provide by electronic means, to each customer
- With state Governor's approval, systems serving less than 10,000:
 - May publish their CCR in the local newspaper, inform customers that the CCR will not be delivered, and make CCRs available upon request
 - Systems serving less than 500 may provide notice to customers that the CCR is available upon request

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SDWA Section 1414(c)(4)

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Revisions Required by AWIA

- Revise the CCR Rule to increase readability, clarity, and understandability of the reports
- Revise the CCR Rule to increase the accuracy of information and risk communication in the reports
- Revise delivery requirements

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AWIA §2008 (4)(f)(1)

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AWIA Revisions to Delivery

- Delivery
 - Require systems serving at least 10,000 consumers to provide CCRs biannually and;
 - Allow electronic methods of CCR delivery
 - *Consistent with EPA policy memorandum [Water Supply Guidance 189 (January 2013)] 'Safe Drinking Water Act–Consumer Confidence Report Rule Delivery Options'*

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SDWA Section 1414(c)(4)
[SDWA CCR Delivery Options Memo](#)

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LCR Content Changes

- AWIA requires CCRs to include information on the CWS's LCR-required corrosion control treatment
- CCRs must also include all lead action level exceedances (ALEs) for which corrective actions were required by the primacy agency during the monitoring period

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40 CFR §141.153(d)(4)(vi), 40 CFR §141.153(1)(d)(1), AWIA § 2008 (3)(A)

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Timeline and Ways to Participate

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Timeline and Ways to Participate

- EPA will consult with PWSs, environmental groups, public interest groups, risk communication experts, states, and other interested parties about the revisions.
- Timeline:
 - Stakeholder engagement – through summer 2022
 - Proposed rule – anticipated March 2023*
 - Final rule spring – anticipated March 2024*
- More information on upcoming engagements will be available on: <https://www.epa.gov/ccr>

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*Proposed consent decree milestones, <https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-23427>

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Resources and Handouts

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Resources and Handouts

- [EPA Consumer Confidence Report](#)
- [SDWA CCR Section](#)
- [AWIA Section 2008](#)
- [Notice of proposed consent decree](#)
- Contact Information
 - OGWDWCCRrevisions@epa.gov

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Questions

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