



National Rural Water Association

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Regulations Update

April 5, 2007

New Test Methods for Wastewater and Biosolids

Effective April 25, 2007, there will be several new test methods for wastewater and biosolids that will likely impact NPDES permit holders. Permit holders will be required to use these new test methods for permit application and reporting. The new test methods include five new E. coli methods for wastewater, two enterococci methods for wastewater, two fecal coliform methods for biosolids and one Salmonella method for biosolids. In addition when using the new fecal coliform methods for sludge, the sample holding time has been extended from 6 hours to 24 hours for Class A composted sludge, Class B aerobically digested sludge and Class B anaerobically digested sludge. NPDES permit holders should consult with their contract lab to insure the new methods will be used or update their internal laboratory procedures for in-house analysis. Further information including references to the test methods can be found in the attached pdf file.

Analytical Methodology Changes

Effective April 11, 2007, EPA has made numerous changes to analytical methods, holding times, preservatives and sample collection containers effecting both drinking water and wastewater. In some cases there are new methods, in some modifications of existing methods and elimination of current methods. The following sections of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) have been impacted: 40 CFR 122 - the NPDES program, 40 CFR 136 - Test Procedures, 40 CFR 141 - Primary Drinking Water Regulations, 40 CFR 143 - Secondary Drinking Water Regulations, and 40 CFR 430/455/465 - certain industrial point sources. All utilities should refer to the following before sample collection to ensure compliance with the latest updates. <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-WATER/2007/March/Day-12/w1073.htm>. In addition the utility needs to update in-house laboratory procedures and/or insure contract laboratories are aware of these changes.

For compliance with the biosolids regulations under 40 CFR 501-503, the new rule specifically requires the use of analytical methods under 40 CFR 136 unless a different analytical methodology is specified in 501-503.