



Department of Environmental Protection

Notice of New Arsenic Standard

Drinking Water Standard for Arsenic Has Been Changed

Florida's drinking water standards are contained in Chapter 62-550, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.). The primary drinking water standards, which are health based, are described in Rule 62-550.310, F.A.C., and specific numeric limits are listed in a series of tables contained in this chapter. Currently, the standard for arsenic is 0.050 mg/L. **Please note that, effective January 1, 2005, the arsenic standard will change to 0.010 mg/L.**

Impact on Land Application Projects and Water Reuse

This forthcoming change in the drinking water standard for arsenic also has implications for both land application and water reuse projects in Florida. This results from the fact that Rule 62-520.420(1), F.A.C., establishes the primary and secondary drinking water standards as Florida's ground water standards. **Hence, beginning January 1, 2005, reuse and land application projects must meet the revised ground water standard (0.010 mg/L) at the edge of the zone of discharge – at their compliance wells.**

Note: (Reuse and land application projects that do not have a zone of discharge must meet the revised arsenic standard (0.010 mg/L) at the point of discharge.)

Review Data for Your Facilities

If you already are required by your permit to monitor your effluent or the ground water for arsenic, you probably will want to review results of your monitoring. This will provide an opportunity to identify any potential problems related to your ability to meet the 0.010-mg/L arsenic standard, when it becomes effective on January 1, 2005.

Note: For Domestic Wastewater Facilities

Most water reuse and land application projects currently are required to monitor for arsenic. Figure 3 in Chapter 62-601, F.A.C., includes arsenic as a parameter that is to be analyzed for as part of the quarterly ground water monitoring program for reuse and land application projects. In addition, treatment facilities having capacities of 0.1 MGD and larger that discharge to ground water are required by Rule 62-601.300(4), F.A.C., to conduct an annual scan of the primary and secondary drinking water parameters in their reclaimed water (including arsenic).

If you currently are not required to monitor either ground water or your reclaimed water for arsenic, you may want to voluntarily sample your reclaimed water before January 1, 2005 to verify that you will not encounter problems once the arsenic standard changes.

Discuss Potential Problems with the DEP District Office

If you anticipate any potential compliance issues related to the forthcoming arsenic standard change, we invite you to discuss these issues with representatives of your DEP district office as soon as possible.

Department of Environmental Protection District Offices

Central District Office.....407-894-7555

3319 Maguire Boulevard, Suite 232
Orlando, Florida 32803-3767

Northeast District Office.....904-807-3300

7825 Baymeadows Way, Suite B200
Jacksonville, Florida 32256-7590

Northwest District Office.....850-595-8380

160 Government Center
Pensacola, Florida 32501-5794

South District Office.....941-332-6975

P.O. Box 2549
Ft. Myers, Florida 33901

Southeast District Office.....561-681-6743

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West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Southwest District Office.....813-744-6100

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