



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ONE WINTER STREET, BOSTON, MA 02108 617-292-5500

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
Governor

JANE SWIFT
Lieutenant Governor

BOB DURAND
Secretary

LAUREN A. LISS
Commissioner

Follow-Up Action for Coliform Positive Results
From A Single Routine Sampling Point
(Year 2000 Printing)

Effective Date: 10-13-93
Program Applicability
Supersedes Policy, SOP or Guidance #:
Approved by:

Policy, SOP or Guideline # 91-05

This policy is adopted to establish uniform procedures to be followed after coliform positive results are shown to be an isolated event at a single routine sampling location.

Policy

It is the policy of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to follow-up on coliform positive results that are shown to be an isolated occurrence at a single routine sampling location, by requiring the public water system (PWS) to take the following sequential steps:

1. If the first repeat sample (at the routine sampling location) is E-coli or fecal coliform positive the DEP shall issue a boil order for the building. The exact nature of the action taken will be site specific.
2. The PWS shall immediately initiate additional bacteriological sampling as directed by the Department at the original sampling location and at other locations within the building, particularly at taps used for drinking water. Sampling design will have to be site specific.
3. The PWS will be required to conduct a cross connection survey of the site/building where the sampling tap is located. If the survey indicates a need for backflow prevention, the necessary device(s) shall be installed immediately.
4. If a cross connection survey does not disclose the source of contamination and if coliform positive results persist after the cross connection survey, the PWS shall:
 - a. Install a testable backflow prevention device where the water supply enters the building in order to contain the contamination within the building.
 - b. Select, with the Department's review and approval, a new routine sampling location (not the same building).
 - c. Notify the local Board of Health of the problem.

- d. Consider the feasibility of on-site disinfection of the building system, and on time flushing of the water within the building .
- e. Take other measures as appropriate.