



Department of Environmental Protection

One Winter Street Boston, MA 02108 • 617-292-5500

Charles D. Baker
Governor

Karyn E. Polito
Lieutenant Governor

Matthew A. Beaton
Secretary

Martin Suuberg
Commissioner

June 16, 2016

Re: **Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3)**

Dear Supplier of Public Water;

Your public water system's (PWS) sources were tested during the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) third cycle (2013-2015) of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3). This rule required all PWSs serving more than 10,000 persons to monitor for 21 chemical contaminants. EPA has made the results of this testing available to the public. To assist you in locating your system's results we have posted a copy of the EPA results on our webpage. See link below. We anticipate that PWSs will receive many inquiries on the UCMR3 results because unlike the first and second UCMR cycles, UCMR3 required the laboratories to analyze and report all results that exceeded EPA's minimum reporting levels for each contaminant. Please take the following actions to ensure that you are in compliance with the UCMR3 requirements and are ready to respond to questions from your consumers on any UCMR3 results for your system.

A. Reporting UCMR3 Results

Please review your results and take the following actions required by EPA and MassDEP:

1) Public Notification Requirements - Issue Tier 3 Public Notification (PN)

All PWSs must notify customers about the availability of UCMR3 results no later than 12 months after the results are known, as specified in 310 CMR 22.16(7). See link below for an example Tier 3 PN Template for UCMR3 Special Notice.

We encourage you to include your Tier 3 PN in your 2015 calendar year Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). If you do not include the PN in your CCR, you must issue a separate Tier 3 PN.

All systems must submit a PN certification form to MassDEP within 10 days of issuing the Tier 3 PN. If you include your PN in your 2015 CCR, the current CCR Certification form (see link at end) includes a section for PN Certification. See link below for UCMR PN certification form.

2) CCR Requirement- Include your UCMR3 results in your CCR

You must include UCMR3 detection information in your CCR in accordance with 310 CMR22.16A (4) (l).

CCR reporting Deadlines for UCMR3

Dates UCMR3 samples collected	CCR Reporting Year	CCR Due Date
2013	2013	July 1, 2014
2014	2014	July 1, 2015
2015	2015	July 1, 2016

If you missed any UCMR3 CCR reporting deadlines, you may include all prior reports in the 2015 CCR to be issued no later than July 1, 2016. Failure to use this opportunity for all missing UCMR3 CCR reporting may result in enforcement action.

UCMR3 information for your CCR:

- You must include **the average and range of detections from the prior year's monitoring.**
- Even though it is not required, your customers will want to know the reason for this sampling and what the results mean. To assist you in explaining the results, MassDEP recommends that you include a brief statement describing why you did this monitoring, such as **“Unregulated contaminants are those that don't yet have a drinking water standard set by US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The purpose of monitoring for these contaminants is to help US EPA decide whether the contaminants should have a standard.”**

You may also choose to provide any health advisory or guideline value so that your customers have some reference level for comparing the results. Customers are likely to be reassured if the detected values are below the guideline values. *Please note: MassDEP will provide technical assistance to all PWS that have exceeded a health advisory or other guideline.* If you are over an EPA HRL or other guideline and have not yet contacted MassDEP for assistance, we recommend that you contact your regional UCRM3 contact listed below.

Please note: failure to comply with the PN and CCR requirements may result in enforcement action.

B. UCMR3 Results

Here is a summary of the Massachusetts UCMR3 result detections **over** the EPA Health Reference Level (HRL) or other guidelines.

Summary of Massachusetts UCMR3 Detections over a HRL or other guidelines

Contaminant	# PWS with detections	# PWSs above HRL or Benchmark	Max Concentration (ug/l)	HRL, or Guideline Concentration (ug/l)
1,4-dioxane	49	5	1.1	0.3 ¹
Chlorate	151	78	11,000	(1) 700 ² (2) 210
chromium-6	152	1	20	* ³
perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)	4	2	0.43	0.070 ⁴

¹ MassDEP Office Of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG)

² (1) WHO provisional guidance value, (2) CCL3 Contaminant Information Sheets

³ EPA is now reviewing data from a 2008 long-term animal study by the Department of Health and Human Service's National Toxicology Program, which suggested that chromium-6 may be a human carcinogen if ingested. When the review is completed, EPA will consider this and other information to determine whether the drinking water standard for total chromium needs to be revised. See

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/chromium-drinking-water#is-total-chrome-health>. Please note: The state of California(CA) has set a MCL of 10.0 ug/L and a Public Health Goal of 0.02 ug/L. see

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/Chromium6.shtml

⁴ New EPA Health Advisory issued May 19, 2016. See:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_5_19_16.final_1.pdf

C. UCMR3 Results over a HRL or other guideline

Please carefully review your UCMR3 results and determine if any results are over a HRL or other guideline. To help you to prepare to address any questions from your consumers and others we recommend that you take the following actions if you have results over or close to a HRL or other guideline.

- 1) Take additional samples using the same analytical method used for the original sample.
- 2) If the re-sampling confirms the original result, perform an analysis of the potential cause of the elevated levels and prepare a mitigation plan to bring levels down to or below the Health Reference Level (HRL).
- 3) **In addition, if you are over the EPA HRL for chlorate** take into account chlorate is a known byproduct of drinking water disinfection when sodium hypochlorite or chlorine dioxide is used in the disinfection process. Review your chemical storage, handling, and feeding procedures and implement best management practices including minimizing storage time, avoiding exposure to light sources and proper chemical handling. Results from public water systems indicate that efficient chemical storage and handling can reduce chlorate levels while ensuring necessary disinfection efficacy.

Please note: MassDEP will provide assistance to all PWSs to help them communicate any results over a HRL or guideline to their customers and identify possible sources of the contaminant(s) and potential actions to reduce contaminant levels.

If you are over an EPA HRL or other guideline and have not yet contacted MassDEP for assistance, we recommend that you contact your regional UCMR3 contact listed below.

D. Web links For More Information

EPA UCMR3 results and other UCMR3 information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/lead-and-other-contaminants-in-drinking-water.html#20> .

MassDEP example of Tier 3 PN Template for UCMR3 Special Notice:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html#24>.

MassDEP UCMR3 PN certification Form:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/laws/i-thru-z/pncert.pdf>.

For examples of the required Public Notice and CCR UCMR3 information:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/us-epa-unregulated-contaminants-monitoring-rule-3.html>.

List of HRL and other guidelines are included in the Unregulated Contaminant Table located in

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/docs/dep/water/ccrguide.pdf>. See pages 44 - 61

New EPA HRL Fact Sheet for PFOS and PFOA located at:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-05/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_5_19_16.final_1.pdf

EPA UCMR3 information:

<https://www.epa.gov/dwucmr/third-unregulated-contaminant-monitoring-rule>

CCR Certification Form which includes PN for UCMR3:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/water-systems-ops.html#7>, then click on Consumer Confidence Report Certification.

E. Technical Assistance

MassDEP shares your goal of providing safe water to all users and remain available for technical assistance. MassDEP Drinking Water Program UCMR3 contacts are listed below.

Location	Name	Phone #	Email Address
CERO	Paula Caron	508-767-2719	Paula.Caron@state.ma.us
NERO	William Zahoruiko	978-694-3232	William.Zahoruiko@state.ma.us
SERO	Charles Shurtleff	508-946-2879	Charles.Shurtleff@state.ma.us
WERO	Cathy Wanat	413-755-2216	Catherine.Wanat@state.ma.us
Boston	Kenneth Pelletier	978-242-1329	Kenneth.Pelletier@state.ma.us

If you wish to be contacted by a technical assistance provider please contact Michael Maynard at 508-767-2735 or Michael.Maynard@state.ma.us.

You may also contact the Drinking Water Program at Program.Director-dwp@state.ma.us or 617-292-5770.

Thank you for your continued work to provide safe drinking water and information to your consumers.

Sincerely,



Yvette DePeiza
Program Director
Drinking Water Program
MassDEP BWR

eCC: DPH, BOH

Y/DWPArchive/UCMR3 Results-2016-6-16