

# What Is the Health of Your Water?



## Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Requirements

All Community Water Supply's (CWSs) must deliver a CCR to their customers by July 1 of each year. The CCR provides a snapshot of water quality over the preceding year. CCRs must include water quality data, monitoring results and an explanation of their significance, and health effects language and "likely source" information for Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) and treatment technique violations.

The 2001 Arsenic Rule updates the specific health effects language and likely source information for arsenic.

Source: EPA Arsenic Guidance – November 2001

## CCR Educational Statements and Health Effects Language

CCR Due Date	If the System Sends Out the Report...	And Detects Arsenic at...	Then the System must Include the Following Statement(s) in the CCR	
			Educational Statements	Health Effects Statements
July 1, 2002 and beyond <sup>1</sup>	After February 22, 2002	> 5 µg/L but ≤ 10 µg/L	While your drinking water meets EPA's standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA's standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems.	None.
July 1, 2002 thru July 1, 2006 <sup>1</sup>	After February 22, 2002 thru January 22, 2006	> 10 µg/L but ≤ 50 µg/L <sup>2,3</sup>	None.	Some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years could experience skin damage or problems with their circulatory system, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.
July 1, 2007 and every July 1 thereafter	Anytime after January 1, 2006	> 10 µg/L		

<sup>1</sup>A system that collects a sample before March 23, 2001 and does not collect a sample in 2002 and 2003, must use the result of the 2001 sample for the CCRs due 2003 and 2004. If the result of the 2001 sample is > 5 µg/L but ≤ 10 µg/L the system must include an educational statement and if the result of the 2001 sample is > 10 µg/L but ≤ 50 µg/L the system must include the health effects statement from the final Arsenic Rule.

<sup>2</sup>Since the revised 10 µg/L MCL does not take effect until January 23, 2006, if the system detects arsenic above 50 µg/L the system is in violation of the MCL and must include health effects language in the CCR.

<sup>3</sup>EPA invoked its authority under SDWA 144(c)(4)(B)(iv) to require inclusion of health effects language for arsenic exceedances before the February 22, 2002 effective date. Systems are required to include this health effects information even though technically, the system is not in violation of the Arsenic Rule. Systems may put this health effects information into context by explaining to customers that the system is complying with existing standards.

Source: EPA Arsenic Guidance – November 2001

