

**Part III**  
**SANITARY SURVEYS**

**§301 PURPOSE**

Sanitary surveys, or on-site inspections, are conducted to evaluate public water systems for delivery of safe drinking water by assessing operation and maintenance practices, providing technical assistance, and determining compliance with the NNSDWA and the NNPDR.

**§302 AUTHORITY**

Pursuant to the NNSDWA § 107(A), 22 N.N.C. § 2507(A), the Director has the authority to require PWSs to respond to significant deficiencies found in a sanitary survey, to conduct a Composite Correction Program (CCP), and to assure that PWSs implement any follow-up recommendations that result from the CCP.

**§303 GUIDELINES FOR SANITARY SURVEYS**

Sanitary surveys, or on-site inspections, will be performed by the PWSSP, in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9's *Conducting Sanitary Surveys of Public Water Systems Guidance*.

**§304 SANITARY SURVEYS**

- A. Groundwater systems must provide the Director, at his/her request, any existing information that will enable the Director to conduct a sanitary survey.
- B. For the purposes of this part, a "sanitary survey" as conducted by the Director, includes but is not limited to, an onsite review of the water source(s) (identifying sources of contamination by using results of source water assessments or other relevant information, where available), facilities, equipment, operation, maintenance, and monitoring compliance of a public water system to evaluate the adequacy of the system, its sources, and operations and the distribution of safe drinking water.
- C. The sanitary survey must include an evaluation of the applicable components listed in paragraphs (C)(1) through (8) of this section:
  - 1. Source,
  - 2. Treatment,
  - 3. Distribution system,
  - 4. Finished water storage,
  - 5. Pumps, pump facilities, and controls,
  - 6. Monitoring, reporting, and data verification,
  - 7. System management and operation, and
  - 8. Operator compliance with PWSSP requirements.

**§ 305 SCHEDULING OF SANITARY SURVEYS**

- A. The PWSSP will schedule surveys of all public water systems, as follows:
  - 1. Each public water system that utilizes a groundwater source(s) will be surveyed, or inspected, on a two to five year frequency based on the compliance status.
  - 2. Every surface water treatment plant will be inspected on an annual basis. The distribution system extending from the treatment plant will be inspected on a two to five year frequency.
  - 3. Every public water system that utilizes unfiltered Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water will be inspected annually.
    - a. The public water system must be subject to an annual on-site inspection to assess the watershed control program and disinfection treatment process. Either the Director or a person approved by the Director must conduct the on-site inspection. The inspection must be conducted by competent individuals such as sanitary and civil engineers, sanitarians, or technicians who have experience and knowledge about the operation and maintenance of a public water system, and who have a sound understanding of public health principles and waterborne diseases. A report of the on-site inspection summarizing all findings must be prepared every year and forwarded to the Director. The on-site inspection must indicate to the Director's satisfaction that the watershed control program and disinfection treatment process are adequately designed and maintained. The on-site inspection must include:

- i. A review of the effectiveness of the watershed control program;
  - ii. A review of the physical condition of the source intake and how well it is protected;
  - iii. A review of the public water systems equipment maintenance program to ensure there is low probability for failure of the disinfection process;
  - iv. An inspection of the disinfection equipment for physical deterioration;
  - v. A review of operating procedures;
  - vi. A review of data records to ensure that all required tests are being conducted and recorded and disinfection is effectively practiced; and
  - vii. Identification of any improvements which are needed in the equipment, public water system maintenance and operation, or data collection.
- 4. Consecutive water systems will be inspected on a two to five year basis.
  - 5. TNCWSs using only protected and disinfected ground water, as defined by the Director, must undergo subsequent sanitary surveys at least every ten years after the initial sanitary survey. The Director must review the results of each sanitary survey to determine whether the existing monitoring frequency is adequate and what additional measures, if any, the system needs to undertake to meet drinking water standards.
  - 6. In conducting a sanitary survey of a system using groundwater, information on sources of contamination within the delineated wellhead protection area, pursuant to §1700 of these regulations, that was collected in the course of developing and implementing the program will be considered instead of collecting new information, if the information was collected since the last time the system was subject to a sanitary survey.

**§ 306 REPORTING**

- 1. A report of findings will be sent to the owner/operator within 30 days after the inspection has been completed. The report will outline the compliance status with the NNSDWA and the NNPDR and any other deficiencies pertaining to the infrastructure, operation, and maintenance that may affect the delivery of safe drinking water. A courtesy copy will be forwarded to persons who participated in the sanitary survey.
- 2. The owner/operator shall respond to the report of findings and submit a compliance schedule that addresses each deficiency within 45 days after the date of inspection.

**§ 307 INSPECTIONS OF NONCOMPLYING PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS**

- A. Public water systems that have been determined by the PWSSP to be in noncompliance will be inspected annually, or more frequently as needed, to bring the system into compliance.
- B. The PWSSP will conduct follow-up inspections of systems in noncompliance. PWSSP will provide technical assistance to owners/operators in order to achieve compliance.