

# Drips & Drops



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## ***USEPA Proposes Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR)***

### **Comment:**

The USEPA estimates that the average household will pay \$1.07-\$1.68 per year with 98% to 99% of households experiencing annual costs of less than \$12 per year. Of course, many small rural communities fall into the 1-2% of households experiencing \$12 or greater per year.

Please go to: [www.epa.gov/safewater/lt2/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lt2/index.html) for more information concerning the LT2ESWTR.

### **Background**

On August 11, 2003 USEPA proposed the LT2WESWTR as the next step in tightening the requirements for treatment of surface waters and ground water under the influence of surface water used for drinking water sources. The steps in the progression of rules are Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR), Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (ESWTR), Long Term 1 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT1ESWTR), and Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment rule (LT2ESWTR). The ESWTR is the only rule that does not apply to small systems and the LT1ESWTR applies only to small systems.

Currently small systems are beginning to deal with the requirements of LT1ESWTR. The purpose of the proposed Rule is to treat for removal and destruction of *Cryptosporidium* in high risk systems. The Rule also proposes requirements for finished water reservoirs and to minimize the formation of disinfection byproducts while maintaining control of microbial contamination.

The proposed Rule was negotiated between stakeholders including the NRWA and USEPA over a two year period in 2001 and 2002. *Cryptosporidium* is a parasite that can cause severe illness and even death. Subpopulations such as infants, AIDS patients, and elderly are most vulnerable to the parasite.

### **Proposed Requirements**

Source water monitoring is the first step in achieving compliance. Small systems serving 10,000 or fewer people will be required to monitor for *E.coli* for one year after large systems complete source water monitoring for *Cryptosporidium*. The *E.coli* will be used as a trigger for *Cryptosporidium* monitoring because of the high cost of *Cryptosporidium* testing. If the *E.coli* levels exceed a trigger level small systems will have to monitor for *Cryptosporidium* and pay the high cost of monitoring. Hopefully, cost of testing will lessen and testing results will be more reliable than they are now.

After the requisite monitoring is completed, systems will be placed in a category or "bin". There are four bins or classifications and each bin has a range of treatment options known collectively as the "microbial tool box" for treatment requirements. The low risk bin carries no treatment requirements whereas the other bins require a range from an **additional 1.0 to 2.5 log reduction in cryptosporidium concentrations**. Disinfection profiling is required to maintain a level of microbial protection while reducing the level of disinfection byproducts. This will be dealt with in another rule making to be proposed shortly, Disinfection Byproducts2 (DBP2).