

Safe Drinking Water Program

DEP's Bureau of Safe Drinking Water is responsible for managing the federally delegated drinking water program and implements both the federal and state Safe Drinking Water Acts and associated regulations. To control impacts to water, the Safe Drinking Water Program: protects all Pennsylvania residents and visitors from microbiological, chemical and radiological contaminants in drinking water served at nearly 8,500 public water systems; conducts surveillance, compliance, enforcement and permitting activities at public water systems to ensure compliance with safe drinking water standards; protects Pennsylvania's drinking water sources through proper planning and management of water resources and their uses; responds to water supply emergencies, such as floods, droughts, chemical spills or waterborne disease outbreaks; and maintains a web-based reporting application to allow accredited laboratories and public water suppliers to report drinking water sample results electronically. The bureau also trains and certifies drinking water and wastewater treatment operators for over 10,000 plants.

In June 2018, the Safe Drinking Water Program produced the 'Pennsylvania Public Water System Annual Compliance Report' for the 2017 calendar year. According to this report, over 1,800 sanitary surveys (full inspections) were completed in 2017, and over 8,300 compliance notices and notices of violations were issued. An overview of the program's most recent statistics is provided in Table 1, and within DEP's [2017 report](#).

Table 1. Overview of the Safe Drinking Water Program's compliance actions according to the latest report (2017).

Compliance Notices and Notices of Violations	8,302
Consent and Administrative Orders	273
Consent Assessments	36
Boil Water advisories (Community Systems)	17
Boil Water advisories (Noncommunity Systems)	65
Civil Penalties Collected	\$120,433

DEP's [2016 Revised Total Coliform Rule](#) (RTCR) changed how public water suppliers respond to detections of bacteria in the distribution system, by requiring public water suppliers to "find and fix" sanitary defects. Public water suppliers that may be vulnerable to contamination, based on results of total coliform monitoring, need to conduct either a Level 1 or Level 2 assessment to identify sanitary defects that must then be treated and corrected to prevent future contamination of the water supply. More information about Safe Drinking Water Program updates can be found in the latest edition of DEP's [Drinking Water News](#).