UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-2029

Environmental Quality Board
P.O. Box 8477
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8477

November 23, 2015

Dear Members of the Board:

On October 3, 2015, the Pennsylvania Environmental Quality Board published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* proposed regulations to amend 25 PA Code, Chapter 109, to add the Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR). These regulations are being adopted to increase public health protection through the reduction of sanitary defects that could provide a pathway for entry of fecal contamination into the water distribution system and to maintain primary enforcement authority for the drinking water program under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) promulgated the Federal RTCR in 2013 with a compliance date of April 1, 2016.

We have reviewed these proposed regulations and find that these are no less stringent than the Federal regulations. We encourage the Board to finalize these regulations in a timely manner such that implementation and enforcement in Pennsylvania can begin in April 2016 or shortly thereafter, to reduce any confusion on the part of the public water suppliers impacted by this rule.

While EPA offers this determination regarding the stringency of the proposed regulations, this determination does not constitute an approval of a primacy program revision. Final approval can only occur after opportunity for public review and/or hearing of the findings of our regional review of the formal program revision submittal from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to the EPA Regional Administrator. These materials are due to EPA no later than February 13, 2017.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (215) 814-5668 or Kelly Moran of my staff at (215) 814-2331.

Sincerely,

Patti Kay Wisniewski

Patti Kay Wisniewski, Acting Chief
Drinking Water Branch

cc: Lisa Daniels (PADEP)

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