

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 6, 2004
TO: Division of Shellfish Sanitation Staff
FROM: Robert E. Croonenberghs, Ph.D., Director
Division of Shellfish Sanitation
SUBJECT: Shellfish Plants – Policy – Water Sampling



Purpose

To establish a protocol under which different types of water systems in shellfish and crab plants will be sampled.

Introduction

The Division of Shellfish Sanitation (DSS) has routinely sampled water from within distribution lines at shellfish and crab plants that use private wells or municipal sources. This fall the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) began taking samples from within the distribution lines for noncommunity and transient noncommunity supplies at shellfish and crab plants that met their requirements. ODW's definition's are: *A drinking water system (waterworks) owner is one who: serves piped water for drinking or domestic use to at least 15 connections, to an average of 25 individuals for at least 60 days out of a year, or to the public. A waterworks owner serves drinking water to 15 homes or to 25 persons in one home or business.* Sampling these plants by the DSS would not provide any further health safety benefit.

ODW does not sample within facilities that purchase water as the municipal supplies have their own sampling points. Sampling plants with municipal water would also be redundant as the risks associated with the contamination of water in the distribution lines of a plant on municipal water are minimal.

Policy

The Division of Shellfish Sanitation will not routinely sample plants on public systems, whether municipal or plant owned, with four exceptions. One, the plant has recently undergone repairs or additions to its distribution lines and/or associated appurtenances. Two, the plant has not been in operation for an extended time. Three, a cross connection is observed in the plant. Four, in the case of a municipally supplied plant, it is learned that repair/construction work is underway or has recently been conducted on nearby municipal/public lines. In the event of a positive result ODW will be contacted and another sample will be taken by DSS. ODW will be responsible for contacting the municipality.

The Division of Shellfish Sanitation **will not** sample a plant that ODW samples. If there is a potential issue ODW will be contacted with our concerns.

The Division of Shellfish Sanitation will continue to take samples at plants that have a private well.