What is an Assessment?
When sample results show that your PWS may be vulnerable to contamination, PWSs must perform an Assessment (Level 1 or Level 2) and **find and fix any “sanitary defects.”** A sanitary defect can provide a pathway of entry for microbial contamination into the distribution system or indicate imminent failure in an existing barrier (e.g. cracked tank, rat droppings on wellheads, or broken seals).

**There are 5 basic elements to investigate during an assessment:**
- Atypical events that may affect distributed water quality or indicate that distributed water quality was impaired;
- Changes in distribution system maintenance and operation, including water storage;
- Water source and treatment methods that affect distributed water quality;
- Inadequacies in sample sites, sampling protocol and sample processing; and
- Existing water quality monitoring data.

**A level 2 assessment is a more comprehensive and in-depth examination compared to a level 1 assessment** because the cause of the Level 2 Assessment is more critical and likely to result in a direct public health impact.

- See Table A below for details on who can complete Assessments.
- You have 30 days (after learning that you triggered the Assessment) to complete, correct sanitary defects found, and submit the DEQ approved form. For sanitary defects found but NOT fixed within 30 days, you must obtain a DEQ-approved schedule for all incomplete corrective actions.

### Table A: Who can complete Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>LEVEL 1</th>
<th>LEVEL 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conducted by PWS Owner or operator</td>
<td><strong>✓ Conducted by PWS Owner or operator</strong></td>
<td><strong>If triggered by E.coli MCL violation</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance may be provided from:</td>
<td>*DEQ Staff</td>
<td><strong>✓ Qualified DEQ staff only</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Other Certified Operators</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*ORWA</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Professional Engineer</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Licensed plumber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Licensed well driller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If triggered by two Level 1 Assessments in a rolling 12-month period</td>
<td><strong>If triggered by two Level 1 Assessments in a rolling 12-month period</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>✓ Class A certified water operator</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>✓ Operator with a higher level of certification than required for that PWS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>✓ ORWA</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>✓ Professional Engineer</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**WHAT TO DO IF YOU TRIGGERED AN ASSESSMENT?**

**Level 1 Assessment**

A Level 1 Assessment is triggered if any of the following occurs:

- A PWS collecting less than 40 samples per month has 2 or more TC+ samples (use routine and repeat results in your calculation) in one month.
- A PWS collecting at least 40 samples per month has greater than 5.0% of the samples TC+ (use routine and repeat results in your calculation) in one month.
- A PWS fails to collect all required repeat sample single TC+ sample.

**Level 2 Assessment**

A Level 2 Assessment is triggered if any of the following occurs:

- E. coli MCL violation:
  - Routine | Repeat
  - TC+ & EC- | E. coli-positive (EC+)
  - TC+ & EC- | TC+ but not analyzed for EC
  - TC+ & EC+ | TC+
  - TC+ & EC+ | One or more samples is missing
- Two Level 1 triggers in a rolling 12-month period.

**STEP 1:** Determine the appropriate person to conduct the Assessment (See Table A on previous page).

**STEP 2:** Obtain the Level 1 Assessment Form located at DEQ’s website below.

**STEP 3:** Perform the Assessment.

**STEP 4:** If sanitary defect(s) are found, fix them or propose and gain a DEQ-approved schedule for fixing, if the sanitary defect(s) cannot be corrected within 30 days of triggering the Assessment.
- After completing each scheduled corrective action you must notify DEQ in writing.
- The PWS or DEQ (at any time) may consult with each other to discuss progress or the corrective action(s) identified.

**STEP 5:** Submit the completed Level 1 Assessment Form to DEQ within 30 days of learning that your system triggered the Assessment.

**Level 2 Assessment**

**STEP 1:** Determine the appropriate person to conduct the Assessment (See Table A on previous page).

**STEP 2:** Obtain the Level 2 Assessment Form located at DEQ’s website below.

**STEP 3:** Have the Assessment performed.

**STEP 4:** If sanitary defect(s) are found, fix them or propose and gain a DEQ-approved schedule for fixing, if the sanitary defect(s) cannot be corrected within 30 days of triggering the Assessment.
- After completing each scheduled corrective action you must notify DEQ in writing.
- The PWS or DEQ (at any time) may consult with each other to discuss progress or the corrective action(s) identified.

**STEP 5:** Submit the completed Level 2 Assessment Form to DEQ within 30 days of learning that your system triggered the Assessment.

**NOTES**—Your PWS will get a treatment technique violation if you:
- Fail to perform an Assessment or take corrective action; or,
- Fail to submit the completed Assessment Form to the state within 30 days of learning that it triggered the Assessment.

You are required to provide public notice within 30 days in response to a treatment technique violation.

For more information, visit our website at [http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/pws/coliform](http://www.deq.state.ok.us/wqdnew/pws/coliform)