CONTENTS

Abstract 1
Introduction 1
NAWQA activities and their relation to microbiological issues 2
Purpose and scope 3
Overview of microbiological pathogens and indicators 3
Bacteria 5
Protozoa 6
Viruses 7
Occurrence and distribution of microbiological indicators in ground water and streamwater, 1997 7
Goals and objectives of microbiological monitoring in a National Water-Quality Assessment Program 9
Objective 1—Identify the human and natural factors associated with occurrence of pathogens and indicators from fecal sources 9
Objective 2—Characterize the quality of streamwater and ground water in relation to beneficial uses for human consumption and recreation 10
Objective 3—Determine within-year distribution of microbiological water quality and how it relates to water management, climate, and season 12
Objective 4—Describe the occurrence and distribution of *E. coli*, enterococci, and other indicators of fecal contamination in relation to the occurrence and distribution of bacterial, viral, and protozoan pathogens .. 12
Objective 5—Establish a long-term monitoring effort to identify trends and changes in microbiological water quality 13
Objective 6—Field test new and (or) improved microbiological methods to determine their applicability for incorporation into national, state, and local monitoring efforts 14
Recommendations for data collection and analysis 14
Retrospective analysis 14
Sampling strategies 14
Sample collection and analysis methods 16
Sampling procedures 17
Streamwater sample collection 17
Ground-water sample collection 18
Sample preservation and storage 19
Analytical methods 19
Field analysis 19
Laboratory analysis 20
Ancillary Data 21
Documentation, data management, and data analysis 22
Quality assurance and quality control 23
Quality assurance and quality control in the field 24
Quality assurance and quality control in the laboratory 25
Summary of objectives and recommendations 26
References cited 27

TABLES

1. Sampling activities for characterizing microbiological water quality 15
2. Analysis methods and sample volumes for streamwater and ground-water studies 18
3. National Water Information System Parameter Codes 23
4. Field and laboratory quality-control samples for microbiology 24

CONVERSION FACTORS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Multiply	By	To obtain
millimeter (mm)	0.03937	inch (in.)
micrometer (µm)	0.00003739	inch (in.)
milliliter (mL)	0.06102	cubic inch
microliter (µL)	0.00006102	cubic inch
liter (L)	2.113	pint, U.S
liter	1.057	quart, U.S.
liter	0.2642	gallon, U.S.
square kilometer (km^2)	0.3861	square mile
pound (lb)	0.4536	kilogram

Temperature: Temperature is given in degrees Celsius (°C), which can be converted to degrees Fahrenheit (°F) by use of the following equation:

$$°F = 1.8\ (°C) + 32$$

Concentrations of bacteria are given in colonies per 100 milliliters (col/100 mL) which is the same as colony forming units per 100 milliliters (CFU/100 mL)

Chemical concentrations in water are expressed in milligrams per liter (mg/L).

Other abbreviations used in this report:

APHA	American Public Health Association
CPE	Cytopathic effects, cell-culture analysis for enteric viruses
C. perfringens	*Clostridium perfringens*, a fecal-indicator bacterium
EDI	Equal discharge increment (streamwater sampling technique)
EWI	Equal width increment (streamwater sampling technique)
GWR	Ground Water Rule, USEPA
HIP	High Intensity Phase of the NAWQA Program
ICR	Information Collection Rule, USEPA
E. coli	*Escherichia coli*, a fecal-indicator bacterium
MCL	Maximum contaminant level
MF	Membrane-filtration method

MPN	Most-probable number method
mTEC	Membrane filter media for *Escherichia coli*
NASQAN	National Stream Quality Accounting Network, USGS
NAWQA	National Water-Quality Assessment Program, USGS
NWIS	National Water Information System, USGS
QA/QC	Quality assurance/quality control
RT-PCR	Reverse transcriptase, polymerase-chain reaction, method for enteric virus analysis
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act, USEPA
SWTR	Surface Water Treatment Rule, USEPA
TCR	Total coliform Rule, USEPA
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
UCMR	Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, USEPA
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency