

## **EPA Posts Stage 2 Disinfection ByProduct Rule**

The EPA is proposing the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection ByProduct Rule (DBPR) to reduce potential cancer, reproductive, and developmental risks from DBP's. The ruling focuses on monitoring and reducing two classes of DBP's: total trihalomethanes (TTHM) and haloacetic acids (HAA5). These two groups of DBP's are used as indicators of the various byproducts that may also be present in water. According to the EPA, a reduction in TTHM and HAA5 indicates a reduction in total DBP's. The Stage 2 DBPR is designed to reduce the level of exposure from disinfectants and DBP's without undermining the control of microbial pathogens. The Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) will be finalized and implemented simultaneously with the Stage 2 DBPR to ensure that drinking water is microbiologically safe at the limits set for disinfectants and DBP's. The Sapphire Group has been actively engaged in examining the association between disinfection byproducts and reproductive toxicity and in assisting the chlorine industry in objectively evaluating the health data and scientific rationales used by the EPA to support the major propositions in these proposed rules.