

## North Fork White River Raw Water Quality, IHS

The following is an excerpt from the “Amendment to the Final Feasibility Study, Water Supply Facilities for the Greater Whiteriver Area, Indian Health Service, October 2004”, included in the “Preliminary Engineering Report for the Whiteriver Surface Water Diversion and Treatment Facility, Indian Health Service, June 2005”. Also included are the raw water testing results sampled just north of the current diversion site.

### 3.0 RAW WATER QUALITY (NORTH FORK WHITERIVER)

Because raw water quality can have a significant impact on the treatment capability of the treatment facility, raw water quality is a primary design consideration for selection of treatment types. Several raw water quality parameters were considered when evaluating the treatment types including turbidity, natural organic matter (NOM) as measured by TOC, alkalinity, and Cryptosporidium. Historical raw water quality data was compiled and a present raw water quality-testing plan was developed and commenced. A comprehensive summary of testing results to date is included in Appendix 1, and the more applicable data are repeated herein:

#### 3.1 Turbidity:

Turbidity is a measure of the refraction of light caused by particulate matter in water. Turbidity is the common measure of water quality used on the effluent side of a water treatment facility. Frequently, total suspended solids (TSS) is used as the measure of the source water quality of particulates measured in mg/l. Historical seasonal turbidity data for a 20 month period of data collected at Lower Log Road on the North Fork (upstream of Alchesay Fish Hatchery) by Wayne Curry between 1982 and 1984 showed the results shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Historical North Fork Whiteriver Turbidity Concentrations

Flow Date	Discharge (cfs)	Suspended Sediment (mg/l)
12/3/1982	28	9
1/19/1983	53.4	4
2/7/1983	60.1	9
3/6/1983	205	238
4/4/1983	356	17
5/4/1983	529	19
6/18/1983	192	9
7/7/1983	70.7	7
8/5/1983	84.0	22
9/7/1983	62.1	5
11/11/1983	55.5	2
12/9/1983	68.6	2
2/8/1984	46.8	7
4/11/1984	149	7
6/19/1984	32.5	8
7/25/1984	84.3	23
8/28/1984	131	315

Recent raw water turbidity quality data collection of the proposed source commenced in late 2003. The results to date are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Recent North Fork Whiteriver Turbidity Concentrations

Date	TSS	NTU
11/10/2003		.46
2/23/2004	ND	.3
3/2/2004	ND	2.5
4/6/2004	ND	1.9
5/4/2004	11	3.4
6/1/2004	<5	1.3
7/15/2004		254
8/3/2004	9	20
9/7/2004	9	7.3

### 3.2 TOC

The results of the data indicate that the water is of a low organic concentration (Natural Organic Matter (NOM)) as measured by TOC. TOC requirements for source water were discussed under section 2.1.2, Stage 1 D/DBPR. Results of TOC and alkalinity are shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Recent North Fork Whiteriver TOC and Alkalinity

Date	TOC (mg/l)	Alkalinity (mg/l)
11/10/2003		130
2/23/2004	.9	114.6
3/2/2004	1.5	105.9
4/6/2004	2.6	51.7
5/4/2004	2.3	56.3
6/1/2004	1.7	93.9
8/3/2004	1.5	143.9
9/7/2004	2.5	115.6

The average annual running TOC concentration is less than 2.0, hence the Enhanced Coagulation requirements for TOC reduction in conventional plants do not apply to the North Fork Whiteriver based upon the results received thus far.

### 3.3 Cryptosporidium:

If promulgated, the proposed LT2ESWTR will require testing of Cryptosporidium as discussed above under section 2.2.1 titled Proposed Safe Drinking Water Act Rules, LT2ESWTR. The proposed rule will require that the laboratory be certified by the EPA for testing, and a list of laboratories with approval pending by the EPA is listed on the web. We selected the nearest lab from the list, CH Diagnostics and Consulting Services, and are following their protocol for testing in compliance with the proposed rule. Our intent would be to submit the data to EPA for acceptance under the “Grand-fathering” section of the rule once the rule is promulgated and we have completed the testing. Testing for Cryptosporidium in conformance with the proposed rule

commenced in March 2004. To date no Cryptosporidium have been detected from the North Fork Whiteriver source water.

### **5.1 Raw Water Quality Summary**

Generally, the raw water quality is consistently high throughout the year with the exception of the springtime when the snowmelt occurs, and during the monsoon season when thunderstorms occur along with large rain showers that cause high turbidity spikes. The historical data reviewed and seasonal data collected to date predict spikes in the turbidity during the higher river flow seasons typically associated with spring runoff and the monsoon seasons. The spring runoff season is a function of the winter precipitation and is estimated at between 1-2 months in March and April. The monsoon season and associated high turbidity typically occurs for a period of approximately 6 weeks beginning in July.

Cryptosporidium oocysts have not been detected in sampling to date. Sampling will continue to determine the 2-year average and confirm the proposed LT2ESWTR bin requirement of the proposed facility. Presently the assumption is that the average 2 year Cryptosporidium concentrations will be less than the .075 oocysts per liter, resulting in Bin 1 design. If this assumption does not prevail during the testing period, then higher-level treatment will be required in conjunction with higher bin levels under the proposed LT2ESWTR.

