

## Group B Water Systems Local Rule

The Washington State Board of Health adopted significant changes to the Group B drinking water systems rules, under Chapter 246-291 WAC. Group B water systems are small public water systems that serve 3-14 residential connections or non-community water systems that serve less than 25 people per day. Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) only reviews and approves designs with up to nine service connections. Above nine connections, Department of Health (DOH) will review the designs. Examples of facilities that are served by these types of water systems include churches, campgrounds, fire halls, camps, bed & breakfasts, small businesses and small community developments served by their own water system. The new rule requires a more stringent approval process for new systems but eliminates ongoing monitoring requirements. The new rule includes provisions to allow for local adoption and modification of the rule.

NETCHD adopted a local rule with the intention of providing direct benefit to water system owners and users within Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties. The new local rule is substantially based on the minimum requirements contained within Chapter 246-291 WAC, without adding additional requirements, while allowing greater flexibility.

## The Breakdown

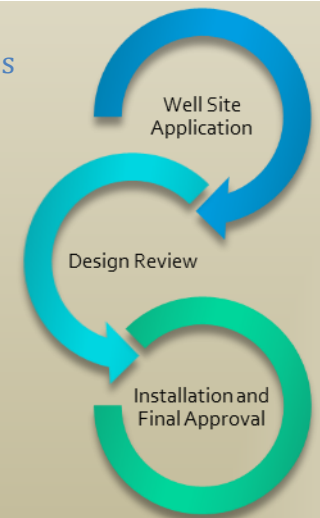
With the adoption of this new rule, there are two main differences from the WAC chapter. The first is to allow for someone with demonstrated knowledge to submit a design for a Group B water system. This individual or business does not have to be a professional engineer. This non-engineer must provide a signed statement with the workbook submittal, demonstrating their qualifications, education, and other trainings, that they feel makes them qualified to submit a well system design. The systems must meet these criteria:

- Do not use a variable speed pump
- Do not provide fire flow
- Do not have special hydraulic considerations
- Do not have atmospheric storage in which the bottom elevation of the storage reservoir is below the ground surface and
- Serve fewer than 10 service connections

The other significant difference is that NETCHD allows for treatment of primary contaminants. A proper treatment system would be a necessary part of such a submittal to provide a suitable potable water supply. Ongoing testing would also be required for these systems.

In both instances, these provisions apply to new and expanding water systems.

## The Process



### Well Site Application

- Preliminary review of the proposed or existing site
- On-site well site inspection completed
- Within 30 days of application, written notification will be provided

### Design Review

- Complete evaluation of water quality, system O&M, easements, well logs submitted for review to NETCHD
- Once design is approved, installation may commence

### Installation and Final Approval

- Install system in accordance with design approval
- Submit Construction Completion Report within 60 days of completion, and have final inspection of system not designed by a Professional Engineer. This must be completed prior to utilizing the water system

Exempt from  
Public  
Drinking  
Water System  
Requirements  
1-2 Service  
Connections



and



Less than 25  
People Per Day  
Single Family  
Residences and  
Businesses

Water supply is  
subject to water  
availability review  
and approval at  
time of building  
permit application

**Group B Water Systems**



**3-9 Service Connections (NETCHD)**  
**10-14 Service Connections (DOH)**



and



**Less than 25 People Per Day**

or



**1-2 Service Connections (NETCHD)**  
**that are ANY of the Following:**

- Food Service Establishments
- Food Processing (except SFR on a Private Water Supply)
- Residential Treatment Facilities
- Transient Accommodations
- Boarding Homes
- Child Care Centers
- Adult Family Homes

**Group A Water Systems**

Must go through DOH Spokane Regional  
Office for review and approval



15+ Service Connections

or



25+ People Per Day

**Northeast Tri County Health District**

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