

Proposed Drinking Water Regulations Changes

Currently there is little oversight to Group B public water systems that provide water to more than 4,000 homes in Kitsap County. The Kitsap Public Health District is updating the local Drinking Water ordinance to address Group B water system management and monitoring requirements. The revised regulations will:

- **Formally adopt the new Washington State Department of Health Group B Water system [design requirements](#).**
- **Require an annual operating permit for all Group B water systems.**
 - This permit fee will cover the administrative and technical costs incurred by the District as staff works to ensure that Group B system monitoring, management, and inspections have occurred. Over the last five years, the Health District has spent an annual average of 600 staff hours working on Group B water system oversight, at a cost of approximately \$60,000 annually.
- **Require that sanitary surveys be conducted every five years (for Group B systems that do not have a full-time Washington State Department of Health-approved management agency).**
 - The sanitary survey requirement is already part of the existing ordinance, but has not been enforced due to a lack of funding for oversight.
- **Require that any person selling property served by a private well or Group B water system acquire a water status report (WSR) from the Health District to be provided to the prospective purchaser of the property.**
 - The WSR provides prospective buyers important information on the water source for the home. Under the current regulations, sellers are not required to provide such information to prospective buyers.

What are Group B water systems?

Typically, Group B systems are small, public water systems that serve between 3 and 14 residential connections. In the past, they were referred to as “Class IV” water systems. There are approximately 870 Group B water systems in Kitsap County, providing water to over 4,000 households. These systems are considered public based on service, not ownership.

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Why Does the Existing Ordinance Need Revision?

The current drinking water ordinance became effective in 1999. Since that time, State rules have changed and regulatory gaps in the ordinance have been identified. In 2014, the Washington State Department of Health revised WAC 246-291 regulating Group B public water systems. The Health District needs to update the local ordinance to address the following:

- Significant changes in Group B water system design requirements.
- Ensure ongoing monitoring of Group B water systems.
- Ensure sanitary surveys of Group B water systems are regularly occurring.
- Adequately fund existing and future Health District efforts for Group B water systems.
- Provide potential owners/users of both Group B water systems and private water supplies (wells) information about the status of their water supply.

In addition to the proposed Group B water system regulatory changes, the ordinance is being updated to clarify drinking water supply requirements for building permit application reviews, land use reviews, and property transfer report requirements.

When will the ordinance requirements become effective?

If adopted by the Kitsap Public Health Board in the early 2017, the ordinance will become effective immediately. However, the property transfer report requirement would become effective in September 2017, and the Group B water system operating permit requirement would become effective in January 2018. A more detailed timeline is available at www.kitsappublichealth.org.

Provide feedback on the proposed changes

The public is invited to submit feedback or comments on the regulations changes in any of the following ways:

- 1) **Online** (www.kitsappublichealth.org) or via email to infoweb@kitsappublichealth.org
- 2) **In writing** via mail or in person at the Kitsap Public Health District offices. Written feedback must be received by **Friday, March 24 at 4:30 p.m.**
Drinking Water Regulations Changes
Kitsap Public Health District
345 6th St., Ste. 300
Bremerton, WA 98310
- 3) **By phone** by calling 360-728-2205.
- 4) **In person** at:

Public listening session

Thursday, March 16, 6-7 p.m.

Norm Dicks Government Center Chambers in Bremerton

Proposed public hearing

Tues., April 4, 2017 at 1:45 p.m. during the Kitsap Public Health Board Meeting

Norm Dicks Government Center Chambers in Bremerton

1/26/17