

Group B Water System Operating Permits

What are Group B water systems?

Typically, Group B water systems are small, community 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 more than 4,000 households. They are considered public water systems based on service, not ownership.

Is this a new requirement? Why have I not heard of this before?

Yes, the annual operating permit is a new requirement being proposed in the Health District’s 2017 revised Drinking Water Ordinance. The operating permit requirement is applicable to both existing and new Group B water systems.

Why is the Health District implementing this requirement?

The Health District has historically had insufficient funding and staff to oversee Group B water system administration, conduct complaint response, provide technical assistance, and respond to public inquiries about Group B water systems. Permit fees would pay for the cost of administrating our Group B water systems, many of which are out-of-compliance. Over the last five years, the Health District has spent an average of 600 staff hours working on Group B water system oversight, at a cost of approximately \$60,000 annually.

What kind of permit will I receive?

Water systems that are in complete compliance (possesses record of water system approval, current monitoring results, current sanitary survey inspection completed with no identified problems) will be issued a standard operating permit. Water systems without any of these listed items will receive a conditional operating permit that will note the water system is out of compliance with the regulations.

How will I acquire the necessary permit?

The water system owner/manager will be sent an operating permit invoice in November of each year. The permit fee must be paid to the Health District by January 1. The Health District requires the use of an online payment system with a credit or debit card, and a valid email address for the system owner/manager. It is important that each Group B system keep their records updated with a current point-of-contact/manager. Contact information for a Group B system can be updated at any time on the District’s website.

What is this going to cost?

The proposed cost of a Group B water system annual operating permit is \$120. For a typical system of four households, the cost equates to \$30 a year when the cost is shared equally per household.

For more information, visit the Health District’s webpage at www.kitsappublichealth.org, or call (360) 728-2235.



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