

# Proposed Changes to the Drinking Water Supply Regulations

## Why are updates to the regulations being considered?

Local health regulations to ensure safe drinking water have been in effect since 1991. The current rules overseeing drinking water supplies, [Ordinance 1999-6](#), are out-of-date. The Kitsap Public Health District has been working since 2015 with a stakeholder committee to update these rules, and is recommending adoption of an updated rule by the Kitsap Public Health Board.

Local health jurisdictions are responsible for the oversight and administration of Group B public water systems (water systems serving three to 14 residential connections), and the review and approval of private well systems (serving one to two connections), under existing state and local rules and agreements to ensure safe drinking water. Kitsap County has over 850 Group B public water systems. Group A water systems (serving more than 14 connections) are overseen by the State Department of Health.

## What are the major changes to the rule?

Based on public comment and guidance from the Health Board since mid-2016, the most recent draft of the drinking water supply regulations includes the following changes as compared to Ordinance 1999-6 (click [here](#) for a detailed summary):

- Eliminates an existing requirement that all Group B public water systems undergo a complete sanitary survey inspection by the Health District at least once every 5 years.
- Requires owners of property connected to a Group B public water system or private well to apply to the Health District for a “Water Status Report” only at the time of property sale. A water status report provides information about the drinking water supply and will address any applicable drinking water requirements or concerns. In the past, these reports have been optional, but are now required.
- Requires Group B public water systems to obtain an annual operating permit at \$75, resulting in funds of \$65,000/year to fund Group B administration (recordkeeping, sampling reminders, data management, technical assistance, complaint response, and enforcement) as required through state and local codes and agreements. This funding would replace state funding that was cut in 2009 and will allow the Health District to resume basic levels of service for Group B systems.
- Requires each Group B public water system to file a “users agreement” if there is not one already in place. A users agreement legally establishes details about the water system’s ownership and management.
- The draft rule does not require owners of 1 or 2 party private wells to obtain an annual operating permit or pay an annual fee.

## How do I find out more information?

For more information, please visit our [webpage](#). In addition, you can sign up for electronic notifications about the ordinance development process. You can also contact John Kiess, Environmental Health Director, at (360) 728-2290 or [john.kiess@kitsappublichealth.org](mailto:john.kiess@kitsappublichealth.org).



KITSAP PUBLIC  
HEALTH DISTRICT

345 6th Street  
Suite 300  
Bremerton, WA 98337

360-728-2235 t.

[kitsappublichealth.org](http://kitsappublichealth.org)