



PUBLIC HEALTH

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HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

Group B Rule Revision

Washington State Board of Health
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Today's Briefing

- Background
- Rule Development Process
- Summary of Major Changes
- What You Might Hear at Public Hearing
- Next Steps

Where We Get Our Water

System Classification	Number of Systems	Number of People Served
Large Group A <i>1,000 or more connections</i>	244	• 5,350,000
Small Group A <i>15 – 999 connections</i>	3,868	• 510,000
Group B <i>Less than 15 connections</i>	13,195	111,000
Single-family wells		• ~845,000

State population: 6,816,000 OFM estimate for 2012

Regulatory Frameworks

Group A

- Initial design/construction review
- Monthly water quality sampling
- Monitoring for 100+ contaminants
- Certified operator requirement
- Inspections every 3-5 years
- Annual operating permit
- Demonstration of capacity
 - ✓ Technical
 - ✓ Managerial
 - ✓ Financial

Group B

- Initial design/construction review
- Annual Coliform Bacteria Sample
- Initial sampling for 20+ contaminants
- Nitrate Sample every 3 years

Rulemaking Context

- In 2009, the Legislature and Governor
 - ✓ Eliminated state funding for the Group B program
 - ✓ Changed the law to allow the Board to focus the Group B rule on initial design and construction
- Goal of Rulemaking – Protect public health without relying on oversight of ongoing water quality monitoring

Rule Development Process

Who	Timeframe	Action
SBOH-EH Committee	2009 – 2012	Discussed policy options and incorporated edits
LHJ staff EH Directors	2009 – 2012	Discussed policy options; solicited comments
Water Supply Advisory Committee	2009 – 2010	Discussed policy options; solicited comments
Stakeholders, water systems, and public	2010 – 2011	Held public forums; solicited informal rule comments

Stakeholder Meetings

Who	Timeframe
Association of Realtors	Winter 2010
Association of Counties	Winter/Spring 2011
Building Industry Association of Washington	Winter 2010
Drilling and Groundwater Association	Fall 2010
Plumbing and Pipefitters Union	Fall 2010
Public Utility District Association	2010 - 2011

New Group B Rule Framework

- More rigorous approval standards
 - ✓ Water quality and quantity
 - ✓ Engineering standards
- Supports a sustainable program
 - ✓ Follows legislative direction
- Clear authority for local health jurisdictions (LHJs) to add requirements
- Flexibility for LHJ oversight

Summary of Major Changes

Item	Detail
New Source Approval	Must be a drilled well that meets all standards for primary contaminants
Water Quantity	Set minimum design flows in rule
Design Standards	New requirements for reservoirs, pipes and pumps; more complex planning and design required for large Group B's
Arsenic	Standard reduced from 50 to 10 ppb consistent with federal requirements

Summary of Major Changes (continued)

Item	Detail
Eliminate Ongoing Requirements	Eliminates annual coliform and once every three year nitrate monitoring, and reporting requirements
Consumer Notification	Require notification within 24 hours for serious health risks (currently 28 days)
Existing Group B Systems	Provides minimum standards for existing systems needing an approval
Waivers	Only local authorities can issue waivers

What You Might Hear at Public Hearing

Issue	Specific Concern
Eliminating ongoing requirements	Existing system oversight; impact to LHJs and others
More stringent initial design standards	Impact to developers
Local vs. state waivers	Consistency between jurisdictions
Minimum water supply requirements	Confusion between Ecology and Health requirements

Next Steps

July	Prepare analysis documents
August 22	File proposed rule for formal public comment
October 10	Hold public hearing
November	Prepare Concise Explanatory Statement; edit rule as needed
December	File CR-103
Early 2013	Rule effective

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