



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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March 24, 2014

The Honorable Shirley Sands, Chair
Northeast Tri County Health District Board of Health
240 East Dominion
Colville, Washington 99114

Dear Ms. Sands:

Thank you for your letter requesting a change to the rules for Group B Public Water Systems.

I have forwarded your request to Michelle Davis, Executive Director for the State Board of Health, as this chapter of rules resides with the Board's authority. You can expect that Michelle and her staff will act promptly on this petition for rulemaking and keep you informed of the status of your request.

Sincerely,

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH
Secretary of Health

cc: Michelle Davis, State Board of Health

March 11, 2014

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH, Secretary of Health
Office of the Secretary
Washington State Department of Health
P.O. Box 47890
Olympia, WA 98504-7890

Honorable Secretary Wiesman,

The Washington State Department of Health has adopted a new revised rule pertaining to "Group B Public Water Systems" (WAC 246-291 effective 1/1/14). Through the adoption of these new rules, Group B water systems with 2 to 9 connections are not allowed to treat their water supply systems unless the local boards of health have adopted local rules of equal or greater strength that allows and makes provisions for treatment system to be applied. This has allowed standards whereby these small systems would not be allowed to exist if the local boards of health feel compelled not to act.

Northeast Tri County Health District Board of Health feels that public health standards rise above the need to force adoption of an unfunded mandate to adopt local rules in order to allow our citizens to construct and treat water for safe drinking; i.e. – if raw water does not meet testing standards, local health jurisdictions cannot approve treatment of the system and it could not be approved for use. This creates the potential of people using unapproved and unhealthful water and we hope you agree with us that this is absolutely unacceptable.

We understand that there are health districts that may want more local oversight of Group B water systems, but individuals districts should have that option without being forced to decide between unhealthful water conditions or an unfunded mandate of oversight with no health risk.

Therefore, we respectfully request that you file a CR-101 as soon as possible and open WAC 246-291 for revision to fix this error. We further request that our local health district be given stakeholder status so that we are able to help work to the mutually beneficial conclusion of good, safe group water systems.

Sincerely,



Shirley Sands, Chairman
Northeast Tri County Health District Board of Health

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administration: 509-684-1301, Fax: 509-684-1002 | 509-775-3111, Fax: 509-775-2858 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clinic: 509-684-5048, Fax: 509-684-9878 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Planning: 509-684-6209, Fax: 509-684-9878 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pend Oreille County - 605 Highway 20, Newport, WA 99156 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stevens County - 240 E. Dominion, Colville, WA 99114 | 509-447-3131, Fax: 509-447-5644 |
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