



# Group A Public Water Supplies Chapter 246-290 WAC

Washington State Board of Health  
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**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND  
HEALTHIER COMMUNITY



# Department of Health Mission

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We work with others to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington State.



# Overview

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- Reason for rule making
- Process for developing draft rule
- Informal comment period
- Next steps

# Reason for Rule Making

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- Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule
- Water system planning
- Disinfection
- Emergency sources and supplies

# Reason for Rule Making

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- Revised Total Coliform Rule:
  - ✓ Necessary to maintain our formal agreement with EPA to carry out the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
  - ✓ Increases public health protection by requiring systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems

# Reason for Rule Making

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- Revised Total Coliform Rule:
  - ✓ Became effective on April 1, 2016 and applies to all Group A water systems
  - ✓ The department developed guidance and provides technical assistance to water systems

# Reason for Rule Making

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- Water system planning:
  - ✓ Updates the planning cycle from 6 years to 10 years with the option to choose a shorter timeframe
  - ✓ Revises planning elements and forecasting requirements to align with the new planning cycle
  - ✓ Revises the triggers for expanding systems to submit a plan

# Reason for Rule Making

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- Water system planning:
  - ✓ Broadens requirements for consistency with local government planning efforts
  - ✓ Clarifies conditions and options for plan amendments
  - ✓ Simplifies service area definitions

# Reason for Rule Making

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- Disinfection:
  - ✓ Establishes new treatment requirements for desalination of seawater
  - ✓ Clarifies criteria that triggers continuous disinfection of groundwater sources
  - ✓ Clarifies criteria for monitoring, treatment techniques, and reporting violations to align with federal rules

# Reason for Rule Making

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- Emergency sources:
  - ✓ Establishes safety requirements for emergency sources physically connected and physically disconnected to the distribution system
- Trucked water:
  - ✓ Establishes procedures for safe storage and delivery of drinking water during an emergency

# Process for Developing Draft Rule

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- The State Board of Health filed a CR-101 to consider revising the rule
- The Department of Health:
  - ✓ Developed draft rule language
  - ✓ Asked stakeholders and interested parties for comments on the draft rule
  - ✓ Asked water systems to provide costs of the draft rule

# 60-Day Informal Comment Period

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## Feedback from stakeholder groups

- Planning
  - ✓ What we heard:
    - Concerns about the multiple types of service areas
  - ✓ What we did:
    - Eliminated one service area definition and simplified others

# 60-Day Informal Comment Period (Cont.)

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- Planning

- ✓ What we heard:

- Concern that a longer planning cycle will:
  - Undermine local government planning efforts
  - Reduce water use efficiency responsibilities

- ✓ What we did:

- Kept the extended 10 year planning cycle based on:
  - A longer-term plan will provide local governments with more information, not less, on water system capacity and future growth plans
  - Water systems must still report their water use efficiency progress annually to the department

# 60-Day Informal Comment Period (Cont.)

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- Disinfection

- ✓ What we heard:

- Concern about establishing requirements for vulnerable sources to require continuous disinfection without identifying specific threats

- ✓ What we did:

- Added specific conditions that threaten at-risk sources to microbial contamination as a pro-active protection against illnesses

# Next Steps

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- File CR-102 proposed rule – August 24, 2016
- Public hearing – October 12, 2016
- File CR-103 adopted rule – November 16, 2016
- Rule effective date – December 17, 2016

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# Questions?