



# COWLITZ COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## THE WATER FLOWS

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### Arsenic Notification Requirement

Water systems created prior to January 1, 2014 that have arsenic test results above .010mg/L (10ppb) will need to provide written notification to all consumers of the system.

The notification is required to be sent to the consumers by March 31, 2014 if a sample collected prior to January 1, 2014 has had arsenic above the previously stated level.

Any sample collected after Jan. 1, 2014 for arsenic with results above 10ppb will require notification within 30 days.

Also any time new services are added to the water system all users are required to be notified within 30 days of adding the connection.

If you are unsure about your water systems arsenic sampling history, please feel free to contact our office to see if we have records of arsenic sampling for your system.

Notices will also be sent out to those that the department has records indicating samples exceeded 10ppb. See the article on the following page regarding required information in a notification.

### Minimum water sampling requirements for Group B water systems are as follows:

**Bacteria—Annually     Nitrate—Every Three Years**

### Group B Rule Revision

New Group B Rules have been adopted by the State Board of Health with an effective date of January 1, 2014. The final rule language and a summary of changes is available on our website at:

<http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/health/environmentalhealth/water/water.htm>

This is a brief summary of rule changes that are adopted:

- Added intent of rules is to focus on design and construction of systems
- Added language that allow local boards of health to adopt rules more stringent than the statewide minimum standards
- Requirement that all new systems or expanding systems be designed by a professional engineer
- A county may allow new system designs to be submitted by people that are not professional engineers if the county passes an ordinance exempting certain systems from the engineer submittal requirement
- Added language that exempts systems with one or two connections from requirements with some exceptions
- Added more stringent requirements for creating a new water system including

source requirements, water quality requirements, and design standards

- A new or expanding system must use a drilled well that meets primary water quality standards without treatment, and provides at least 750 gallons per day per residence
- Lowers the arsenic maximum contaminant level from 50ppb to 10ppb for new systems or expanding systems
- Systems created before January 1, 2014 that have arsenic above 10 ppb must notify consumers of potential health risks, even though the systems are not out of compliance (see article)
- Removes ongoing monitoring requirements unless local rules are adopted by the local board of health
- Existing system approval section has been altered (see article about new requirements on page 2 of newsletter)
- Customer notification time reduced to 24 hours for an *E coli* positive sample, a nitrate above 10 mg/L or other acute threat or incident has occurred.
- Purveyors are required to provide potable water on an ongoing basis
- New design manuals will be created as part of the new regulation

### Cowlitz County Group B Ordinance

Discussions are occurring about whether or not the Health Department will pursue adopting a local ordinance to complement the new state regulations. A local county ordinance would probably only cover a couple of areas such as maintaining current monitoring requirements with more flexibility for nitrate sampling, stipulating requirements when the professional engineer requirement would be exempted.

Developing a local ordinance with ongoing monitoring requirements could allow more flexibility for granting a reduction in sanitary control areas when justified or granting a waiver for treatment for bacteria problems because of the ongoing oversight that would go along with a local ordinance.

## Water Sample Labs

Below is a list of the certified labs in the local area providing drinking water sample testing for your required water quality. It is recommended that you call ahead for pricing, instructions and hours. A complete list of state certified labs can be found on the Dept. of Ecology webpage at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/labs/search.html>

Lab Name	Address	Phone Number
Addy Lab	2517 East Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver	360-750-0055
Additional Collection Sites	1220 Ocean Beach Highway, Longview	360-414-0336
Haase Watch and Clock Repair	1365 Lewis River Road, Woodland	360-225-9478
Woodland Hi-School Pharmacy		
Columbia Analytical	1317 S. 13th St, Kelso	360-577-7222
Additional Collection Site		
Dale Mcghee & Sons Well Drilling	3032 Allen St, Kelso	360-423-8493
Lewis County Health Department	360 NW North St, Chehalis	360-740-1237

### Maintaining The Sanitary Control Area

Occasionally we have water systems where development such as building a house occurs on the parcel that contains the well for the system. When development is occurring the 100 Foot Sanitary Control Area requires that any building, septic, garage, parking, animal keeping to be done at least 100 feet from the well.

Once the building has started on the parcel it becomes very costly to stop and the water system can lose the approval of the system if the development is occurring inside the 100 Foot Sanitary Control Area. Water system managers often feel they are helpless to prevent this building in the Sanitary Control Area when the parcel is owned by a private party.

There are a couple of steps that can be taken by the water system to help prevent building too close to the well. When the parcel with the well is getting a building permit they will need to get a water availability letter from the water system manager/owner.

This is a good time to review with the property owner the location of the well and the requirement to keep septic, house, garage and other sources of potential contamination away from the well. Below are some suggestions:

- Make a note on the water availability letter that the lot for which a permit is being applied, encroaches on the sanitary control area of a public water system and building within 100 feet should not be allowed without prior approval of the water system and Health Department.
- Remind the customer about the well location and the requirement to maintain a 100 foot separation.
- Give the customer a copy of the restrictive covenant that should already be recorded for the property (if no covenants have been created it is recommended to establish protective covenants—contact us for more information).
- Request to review the site plan for the proposed construction to verify the separation is maintained

### Existing System Approval

#### Requirements Effective 2014

Existing system approval section has been altered to have the following requirements in order to be considered adequate for existing connections. Adequacy is generally required for building permits and some lenders will request adequacy for loans.

- Source needs to meet well construction standards (WAC 173-160)
- No source of contamination in the sanitary control area that could cause a public health risk
- Meets all water quality standards (systems constructed prior to January 1, 2014 will still have an arsenic concentration requirement of 50ppb)
- Capable of meeting 20psi throughout distribution system during peak demands

If you have any questions regarding the approval status of your water system please feel free to call 360-414-5599 ext 6442 by email at [smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us)

### Public Notification Requirements

#### Effective 2014

The following will be the required information that needs to be included on any public notification when instances require notification such as existing systems with Arsenic above 10ppb or if the system has an e. coli positive sample.

- (a) A description of contamination and any known problem(s);
- (b) What the purveyor is doing to resolve the problem(s);
- (c) Where to get information about potential health effects;
- (d) What the consumers should do to protect their health, including the use of another source of water;
- (e) When the purveyor expects the problem(s) to be resolved; and
- (f) Group B system contact information, including address, phone number, and if available, an e-mail address.