



# COWLITZ COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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## Board of County Commissioners

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Volume 8

## THE WATER FLOWS

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### Program Contact Info

**Main Line . . . . . 414-5599**

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### Cowlitz County Group B Ordinance

New Group B Rules (WAC 246-291) were adopted by the State Board of Health with an effective date of January 1, 2014. As a result of that revision, Cowlitz County Board of Health adopted a local ordinance on December 30, 2013 to supplement the new group B regulations.

As the operator of an existing group B water system you will notice very few changes.

If you are looking to expand your water systems approved number of connections or develop a new system there are several changes to the design requirements and new Group B design guidelines are available on our website on the Group B Development webpage.

The final rule language, local ordinance and a summary of changes is available on our website at:  
<http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/index.aspx?nid=1583>

If you have any questions about the new regulations please feel free to contact this office.

### MINIMUM WATER SAMPLING REQUIREMENTS FOR GROUP B WATER SYSTEMS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

**BACTERIA—ANNUALLY    NITRATE—EVERY THREE YEARS**

#### 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 due to changes to WAC 246-291 that went into effect on January 1, 2014.

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 if your water system has ever taken arsenic samples, then please feel free to contact our office to see if we have records of arsenic sampling for your system.

The details required in the notification can be found on page 2 in Public Notification article.

This fall the Washington State Department of Health sent out notifications to the water systems that our records indicate a previous sample of at least 10.0ppb of arsenic.

The letters have been enclosed with your annual operating permits as a reminder of your requirement to send notifications.

If your water system did not receive a letter but you have a record of an arsenic exceeding the 10ppb standard then notification is still required.

If you have questions regarding the notification that you plan to send to consumers please feel free to contact this office to discuss the notification.

#### Nitrate Sampling Reduction

Nitrate samples are required every three years for Group B systems. However the sampling schedule can be reduced to every 5 years if your water system meets the following criteria:

- Three consecutive samples below 2.0 mg/L
- 100 Foot Sanitary Control Area with no potential sources of contamination in that SCA.
- Drilled well that was constructed in compliance with WAC 173-160

Please submit requests for reduction in the sampling schedule by email to (smithj@co.cowlitz.wa.us) or in writing to this office at the address above with Attn: Jesse Smith. Please submit documentation that the water system complies with above requirements when requesting a reduction in sampling schedule.

## 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		
Haase Watch and Clock Repair	1220 Ocean Beach Highway, Longview	360-414-0336
Woodland Hi-School Pharmacy	1365 Lewis River Road, Woodland	360-225-9478
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

### Building Permits and Loan Adequacies

When a building permit is needed for a property often part of the process for receiving a building permit includes a water adequacy determination. Some lenders will also require a water adequacy determination during the sale or re-finance of a home. Before this office will issue an adequacy on a water system all of the following requirements need to be met:

- The water system has an approval or adequacy determination on file,
- All ongoing water quality monitoring requirements are satisfied,
- A current Annual Operating Permit is on file and all fees owed to the department have been paid,
- The water system has had a sanitary survey in the last five years with no uncorrected significant deficiencies,
- A water availability letter signed by the operator or owner of the water system.

If you believe one of the customers on the water system will be needed a building permit in the future it is recommended to contact this office in advance to see if there are any issues that need to be addressed so the customers building permit is not delayed.

### 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. **When the system has an *E. coli* positive sample, nitrate above 10 mg/L or is subject to an acute threat of contamination such as from a flood the notification is required to be sent within 24 hours.**

- (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.

**Notification must be in writing and sent to all consumers and the department.**

### Free Online Training

- Private Well Class - [www.privatewellclass.org](http://www.privatewellclass.org) - The Private Well Class Training is a free online training that was created by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign through EPA funding. The class consists of 10 lessons that are emailed to you on a weekly basis. The training goes through a variety of topics that would impact a small well based water system. There are also some webinars posted on the website that covered water quality, proper care of wells, and how your well works.

Please note the training is not geared towards meeting or understanding drinking water regulations.