



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

Group B Background & Information

Background

Group B water systems serve 3 to 14 connections and are not subject to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. Instead, they must meet state and local requirements for water quality and operations. Systems failing to meet these requirements are subject to enforcement action. This may include notifying customers, lending institutions or local building authorities about system inadequacies, which could affect loan approvals and building permits.

The local health jurisdictions (LHJs) are responsible for administration of Group B drinking water regulations through a Joint Plan of Responsibility with Department of Health (DOH).

This fact sheet covers **key operating requirements**. For complete requirements, see the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 246-291).

Sampling requirements

Bacteria: A sample must be collected and analyzed for coliform at least once every 12 months. The sample must be taken at the furthest end of the distribution system, or as directed by the health department.

Nitrate: Following an initial complete inorganic and physical analysis, one nitrate sample must be collected from each source or well field every 36 months.

Other Contaminants: Additional samples are required in areas of known contamination, or if treatment is provided for any inorganic chemical or physical contaminant. Systems providing treatment must collect samples before and after treatment. The health department will determine how often samples must be taken.

A state-certified lab must analyze all samples. To get monitoring credit, your lab forms must include the:

- Water system name, public water system identification number and system type (Group B).
- Date and time the sample was collected.
- Sample location (street address or other type of location identifier).

Reporting requirements

Water facilities inventory and report form (WFI): You must submit an updated WFI form to the health department at least once every three years, and within 30 days of water system changes, such as the number of homes being served, the owner or operator name, or a new address or contact phone number. Updates speed retrieval of information for your use or lending institutions requiring information for loan approval.

Bacteria detected: You must contact the health department before the end of the next business day after the laboratory notifies the system that fecal coliform or E. coli has been detected in a sample, and within 10 days if coliform is detected.

Maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations: You must contact the health department before the end of the next business day after the laboratory notifies the system of an MCL violation. Customers must be contacted within 14 days.

Other records: You must provide operational records to the health department upon request.



507 N. Nanum St. Suite 102 · Ellensburg, WA 98926

T: 509.962.7515 · F: 509.962.7581

www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health/

System maintenance and operations

Sanitary control area: Protecting a water source from potential sources of contamination is one of the most important aspects of owning and operating a public water system. The system owner must maintain and enforce covenants to protect source water. Covenants generally cover a 100-foot radius around the well, but the size of the protected area may vary.

System operation and reliability: You must guard against contamination from unprotected cross connections, and conduct operations and maintenance in a way to minimize failures and provide safe, reliable water to customers. If power outages, pump failures or other problems occur, you must notify your customers.

New Group B water systems

State law places Group B systems created after July 1995 into one of the following categories:

- Systems owned or operated by a state-approved Satellite Management Agency.
- Systems approved under condition of future management or ownership by a state-approved Satellite Management Agency. The health department may require these systems to have satellite management if they are unable to meet financial viability or other operating requirements.

For more information

Call Holly Duncan at (509) 962-7580 or e-mail holly.duncan@co.kittitas.wa.us

