


DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER

POLICY/PROCEDURE

Title:	Group B – Enforcement	Number: J.20
References:	Chapter 246-291 WAC	
Contact:	Rich Sarver	
Effective Date:	April 12, 1995	
Supersedes:	N/A	
Approved:		Director, Division of Drinking Water

PURPOSE STATEMENT/BACKGROUND

A matter involving the approval of an existing two connection public water system has raised the issue of what level of enforcement action is appropriate for Group B systems in light of all the other public health issues facing the Division of Drinking Water. The Department and many of the local health jurisdictions have implemented joint plans of operation by which the local health officers are assigned primary responsibility for Group B systems within their jurisdiction. In general, when the local health officer has assumed primary responsibility for public water systems within his/her jurisdiction under WAC 246-291-030, the county has primary responsibility for enforcement action. Under WAC 246-291-050, initiation of enforcement action by the Department is discretionary. The purpose of this policy/procedure is to clarify what priority the Department of Health shall place on departmental enforcement of Group B regulations.

POLICY

When considering formal enforcement action against a Group B water system, the Department shall generally take action only when there is an imminent health threat as determined by the Department. Whether or not formal enforcement action is taken, the criteria set forth at WAC 246-291-130 will be used for evaluating the adequacy of Group B systems according to information available to the Department. The Department will provide adequacy information in relation to home loans, building permits and subdivision approval inquiries to help ensure compliance. The Department shall: (1) Ensure that the system owner is notified of the system's status; (2) Provide information to the system owner regarding

requirements for bringing the system into compliance; and (3) Shall request the system owner to notify all customers of the system status and deficiencies.