

## Summary of Draft Changes to Group A Rule for Water System Planning

### **Revised definition for “expanding public water system.”**

We broadened the definition to:

*“Expanding public water system” means a public water system that increases the existing service area or approved number of service connections.*

### **Revised “trigger” to submit a water system plan (WSP) for expanding systems.**

We narrowed the categories of water systems that are required to submit a WSP because they intend to “expand” to systems that want to grow their service area or install infrastructure to increase their approved number of connections. This means systems seeking to increase their approved connections without installing or changing current infrastructure or expanding their current service area may submit a project report under WAC 246-290-110 instead of a WSP. This also means systems seeking to install redundant infrastructure without increasing their approved number of connections may submit a project report under WAC 246-290-110 instead of a WSP.

### **Expanded WSP approval period.**

We extended the WSP approval period to 10 years, but allowed systems to choose a shorter approval period. Any system may request a shorter WSP approval period. All systems must receive approval of an updated WSP by the approval expiration date if they continue to meet a WSP submittal requirement.

### **Updated forecasting requirements.**

We narrowed the 6- and 20-year future projection requirements to the WSP approval period and to 20 years for specific elements only. The affected elements are:

- Designated land use, zoning, and population growth.
- Water demand forecasts.
- Water resource analysis.
- Capital improvement program.

### **Updated Capital Improvement Program (CIP) requirements.**

We revised the CIP requirements to include projects within the WSP approval period and any major projects that are planned within 20 years to increase flexibility beyond the approval period.

### **New section on WSP amendments.**

We added a new section to clarify that systems may amend their WSP at any time during the approval period and that any such amendment does not change or extend the current WSP approval.

### **Updated local government consistency requirements.**

We revised the growth projection timeframe to equal the new WSP approval period.

**For more information:**

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