



Drinking Water Rules Review

June-July 2013

We are evaluating the drinking water rules (chapter 246-290 WAC) to determine what is working well and what is not. For our evaluation, we want to identify:

- Where existing requirements lack clarity (such as unclear process, or unclear expectations for the purveyor)
- If requirements are inconsistent with our statutory authority
- If the rule is necessary to accomplish our mission
- Inconsistencies with other agency's rules

We will not be discussing specific changes to drinking water rules. We would like feedback that identifies problems and concerns with existing rules. A CR-101 may be filed at a later date by the State Board of Health if they determine that a specific issue or set of issues warrant rule changes. It's at that point that we would get stakeholder feedback on specific ideas for changes.

Drinking Water Rules

Department of Health oversees safe and reliable drinking water with authority delegated from US EPA and through state laws and rules. In many cases, the department implements rules into the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) that the State Board of Health adopts. In other cases, the department adopts and implements a specific chapter. When adopting federal rules, the State Board of Health typically delegates their rulemaking authority to the department.

The Office of Drinking Water implements the following chapters in the WAC:

Scope	Chapter (WAC)	Agency that Adopts	Most Recent Revision
Group A Public Water Systems	246-290	State Board of Health	2012 (Lead & Copper)
Group B Public Water Systems	246-291	State Board of Health	2012
Water Works Operator Certification	246-292	Department of Health	Currently open
Water System Coordination Act	246-293	Department of Health	1991
Drinking Water Operating Permits	246-294	Department of Health	2012
Satellite System Management Agencies	246-295	Department of Health	1994
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	246-296	Department of Health	2011
Drinking Water (Lab) Certification	246-290	State Board of Health	Currently open

This rule review pertains to Chapter 246-290 WAC, the Group A rule.

The major parts of the Group A rule include:

- Administration
- Planning and source water protection
- Engineering
- Design standards
- Water quality standards
- Operational requirements (includes cross connection control)
- Surface water treatment
- Notification and consumer confidence reports
- Water use efficiency
- Fees

We Want Your Feedback

Please provide us any thoughts that you might have about specific requirements of the Group A rule. Keep in mind that our rules cannot be less stringent than federal rules adopted under the Safe Drinking Water Act. We won't be evaluating suggestions that would make our rules less stringent than rules adopted by the US EPA.

Here are some questions to get you started:

- Which existing requirements lack clarity (either the process, or expectations for you)?
- Do you experience inconsistencies between our Group A rule and other agency's rules? If so, please specify.
- Are there requirements that seem overly complicated? Can you identify parts that seem like they need to be streamlined?
- What do you think should **NOT** change (what's working well)?

Please give us your comments either at the Drinking Water Advisory Committee meeting on June 24, or by email to Brad Burnham at brad.burnham@doh.wa.gov by July 31, 2013.

For more information on the Drinking Water Advisory Committee meeting, visit our web page at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/RelatedLinks/DrinkingWaterAdvisoryGroup.aspx>

For more information about current rulemaking activity, visit our web page: www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/RegulationandCompliance/RuleMaking.aspx