



Fact Sheet

Group A Public Water Supplies • Chapter 246-290 WAC

Overview of Rule Changes

September 2016

Background

The State Board of Health initiated rulemaking on February 25, 2014, to adopt the federal Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR), update water system planning and disinfection requirements. The rulemaking includes a new rule section on emergency sources and supplies in order to convert long-standing guidance into the rule. In addition, we are making technical and editorial changes throughout the rule chapter to improve overall clarity for consistency with federal rules and other state drinking water rules.

Federal Revised Total Coliform Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency's rule increases public health protection through the reduction of potential pathways of entry for fecal contamination into the distribution system. Systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination will be required to identify and fix problems. The RTCR applies to all Group A public water systems. For more information about this part of the rule, visit our [Revised Total Coliform Rule webpage](#).

Water System Planning

Water systems that submit water system plans have been required to update their plans every six years. For many of these systems, the public health benefit may not justify the cost of these requirements. Proposed changes include extending the plan approval period from six years to ten years, revising plan submittal triggers, and clarifying conditions and options for plan amendments. For more information about this part of the rule, see the [Water System Planning Fact Sheet](#).

Emergency Sources and Supplies (New)

The proposal includes new requirements for designating emergency sources for inclusion in the water system plan update that help improve reliability and better protect public health. Requirements include conditions for an emergency source to be physically connected to the distribution system, and requirements for the use of trucked water as an emergency source of supply. For more information about this part of the rule, see the [Emergency Sources and Supplies Fact Sheet](#).

Disinfection

The current rule has varying disinfection methods and requirements that were adopted to meet the needs of systems with specific water quality issues while other methods

were adopted to align with federal requirements. The proposal improves the requirements on the triggers for specific disinfection methods and related monitoring and reporting requirements. The proposal sets requirements for systems that desalinate seawater using reverse osmosis, criteria for treatment techniques and reporting violations, revised triggers for continuous disinfection, and revised monitoring and reporting requirements to provide flexibility. For more information about this part of the rule, see the [Disinfection Fact Sheet](#).

For More Information

Contact Theresa Phillips, 360-236-3147 or Theresa.phillips@doh.wa.gov.



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