



## Questions & Answers

# Collecting Water System Data Electronically

The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) wants to start managing map and other data electronically in a Geographic Information System (GIS). We are asking for certain information to be submitted electronically in addition to the paper version.

### What information is ODW looking for electronically?

We would like to receive the following items electronically:

- Service area boundaries
- Drinking water source locations
- Source water protection areas

### What will ODW do with the information?

We will be able to use this information to help us respond to natural and other disasters. This will help us identify which customers may be affected when a water system has water contamination issues. This will also help us identify areas where there may be overlapping service areas.

### What level of detail and accuracy is ODW looking for?

We do not expect that information we receive will be to the level of identifying individual parcels for all systems and that is acceptable. We are looking for general information to help us, local governments, and other water systems make better informed decisions.

### How often should I update my information?

We would like you to provide us updated electronic files when this information changes significantly or you develop a new water system plan.

### What information will be available online?

The service area boundaries and source water protection areas will be available on our Source Water Assessment Program website, <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/swaphome.htm>. The actual drinking water source locations will not be available online.



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

## **What is the benefit to having this information available online?**

There are many benefits to having information available online. Local governments can use this information when making land use decisions. Water systems will be able to see what other water systems are nearby and this may affect their future planning or allow for collaboration. ODW and emergency response agencies can use this information when responding to a natural or other type of disaster. Property owners will have a general idea what water system may be nearby to provide their property water service.

## **Is this information subject to public disclosure?**

All information submitted to ODW is subject to public disclosure requests unless explicitly identified in law or rule. We do not believe any of the information we are requesting poses a security risk and therefore will disclose any information collected electronically upon request.

## **Will ODW notify me if someone requests information about my water system?**

Because of the numerous requests received by ODW for public information, we will not notify a water system when a request for information is received.

## **What format would ODW prefer the information be submitted?**

### **Preferred format for data**

File type: ArcGIS Shapefile, Coverage, or Personal GeoDatabase  
Projection: Washington Stateplane South Zone, Harn Datum, units feet  
or a projection definition

## **Are there other data formats ODW will accept?**

### **Alternate format for data**

File type: AutoCAD dwg or dxf  
Projection: Washington Stateplane South Zone, Harn Datum, units feet  
or a projection definition

## **Who do I call if I have technical questions?**

If you have technical questions or your data is in a different format, please contact our technical support team at (360) 236-3113 or send email to: [HelpDeskeH@doh.wa.gov](mailto:HelpDeskeH@doh.wa.gov)

