


Policy

Office of Drinking Water

| |
|--|
| Title: Two-connection Residential Water System |
| Number: P A.13 – Administration |
| References: WAC 246-291-030(3) |
| Supersedes: P A.13 Two Connection Residential Public Water Systems August 8, 1996 |
| Contact: Karen Valenzuela |
| Effective Date: March 14, 2007 |
| Approved:  |
| Denise A. Clifford, Director, Office of Drinking Water |

Office of Drinking Water policies are written descriptions of the approach taken by the Office to implement a statute, regulation, court order, or other agency order, and may include the Office's current practice, procedure, or method of action based on that approach. Any generally applicable directives or criteria that provide the basis for imposing penalties or sanctions, or for granting or denying Office approvals, must either be in statute or established in a rule.

PURPOSE

The Office of Drinking Water will waive all water system requirements for water systems with only two-residential connections, where each connection is a single family home.

NOTE: This policy does not prevent a local health jurisdiction from regulating two-connection residential water systems.

DIRECTION

When individuals propose a water system with only two residential connections, where each connection is only a single family home, the Office of Drinking Water will provide a copy of this policy and notice which states the Office of Drinking Water has waived the requirements of chapter 246-291 WAC. The Office of Drinking Water will direct individuals to check with their local health jurisdictions to see if they have requirements.

The Office of Drinking Water will encourage local health jurisdictions that don't regulate two-connection residential water systems to provide copies of this policy and notice to future owners and developers of such water systems.

BACKGROUND

The Office of Drinking Water focuses its limited resources on those areas of greatest public health risk. Although two-connection residential water systems are defined as public water systems, they have lower public health risk than larger Group B water systems because each source serves fewer people.

In September of 1995, the State Board of Health approved changes to the Group B Public Water Systems chapter 249-291 WAC, which allows the Office of Drinking Water the same authority as local health officers to waive any or all requirements for two-connection residential water systems.

REFERENCES

- Group B Public Water Systems WAC 246-291-030 General Administration



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER

243 Israel Road Southeast • PO Box 47822 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7822

Tel: (360) 236-3100 • Fax: (360) 236-2253 • TDD Relay Service: 1-800-833-6388

NOTICE TO FUTURE OWNERS OF TWO-CONNECTION WATER SYSTEMS

The Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water waives all water system requirements for water systems with only two-residential connections, where each connection is a single family home, as defined by Group B Public Water Systems WAC 246-291-030(3). Your local health jurisdiction may choose to regulate two-connection residential water systems.

As the future owner of a two-connection residential water system, on-going water quality monitoring, maintenance of satisfactory water quality, and operation and maintenance is up to you.

The Office of Drinking Water recommends that you:

- Protect the well from contamination by keeping a 100-foot radius circle around the well free of potential sources of contamination. Protective covenants can help legally protect this area and are strongly recommended.
- Collect at least 1 coliform bacteria sample every 12 months from one of the homes served by the water system.
- Collect at least 1 nitrate sample every 36 months from the well.

If the water system expands to three or more connections, or if either of the two connections change to something other than a single family home, for example, a home becomes a place of business, the water system then becomes a public water system and is required to follow Group B Public Water Systems WAC 246-291 or Group A Public Water Supplies WAC 246-290, and any other applicable state and local regulations. At that time, the above recommendations become requirements and other requirements may also apply.

If you decided to expand your water system beyond the two connections, you must submit plans and obtain approval before expanding the water system. Please call your local health jurisdiction or the Office of Drinking Water's regional office serving your county if you have any questions.

Northwest Region – Kent (253) 395-6750
Southwest Region – Olympia (360) 236-3030
Eastern Region – Spokane (509) 456-3115