

Drinking Water Operating Permits

Chris McCord
Compliance Coordinator
360-236-3165
chris.mccord@doh.wa.gov



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

1. Basis for the permit

See Fact Sheet on
Operating Permits

2. Legal Authorities

- 1991 Legislation amended chapter 70.119A RCW
- Fees established in RCW - \$0 to \$10,000
- Implemented program in 1993 (chapter 246-294 WAC)

3. Operating Permit Categories and Trends

Green
Yellow
Blue
Red

Mission

To protect the health of the people of Washington State by assuring safe and reliable drinking water.



4. Compliance Tools

- Water Tap Newsletter
- Training and Outreach
- Properly Certified Operator
- Water System Planning
- WQMR
- Sanitary Surveys
- Enforcement Process
- **Operating Permits**
- **Adequacy Reports**
- Capital Improvement Loans
- Restructuring

7. Resources

- *Revenue*
- *Implementation*

6. Water System Planning Process

See Fact Sheet on
Water System Planning

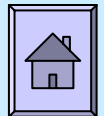
5. Compliance and Enforcement

- *Compliance decision matrix (SSNC) when is enough, enough*
- *Compliance strategies include use of operating permit as a compliance tool*
- *Compliance strategies can affect status of operating permit*

Drinking Water Operating Permits

Purpose

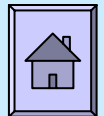
- 💧 **Provide revenue source to meet costs involved in running DW program**
- 💧 **Provides passive compliance tool linked to performance and other criteria**



Operating Permits

Legal Authorities

- 💧 **1991 Legislation amended chapter 70.119A RCW**
- 💧 **Fees established in RCW - \$0 to \$10,000**
- 💧 **Implemented program in 1993 (chapter 246-294 WAC)**



Permit Categories

Green – Adequate for growth up to approved number and existing uses

Water system in substantial compliance



Permit Categories

Yellow – Adequate for growth up to approved number unless otherwise limited by compliance agreement and adequate or existing uses.

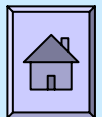
Planning issue and/or categorized as State Significant Non-Complier and in compliance with signed agreement



Permit Categories

Blue – Does not meet design approval (unapproved) or exceeded approved connections.

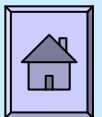
Not adequate for growth, but adequate for existing uses



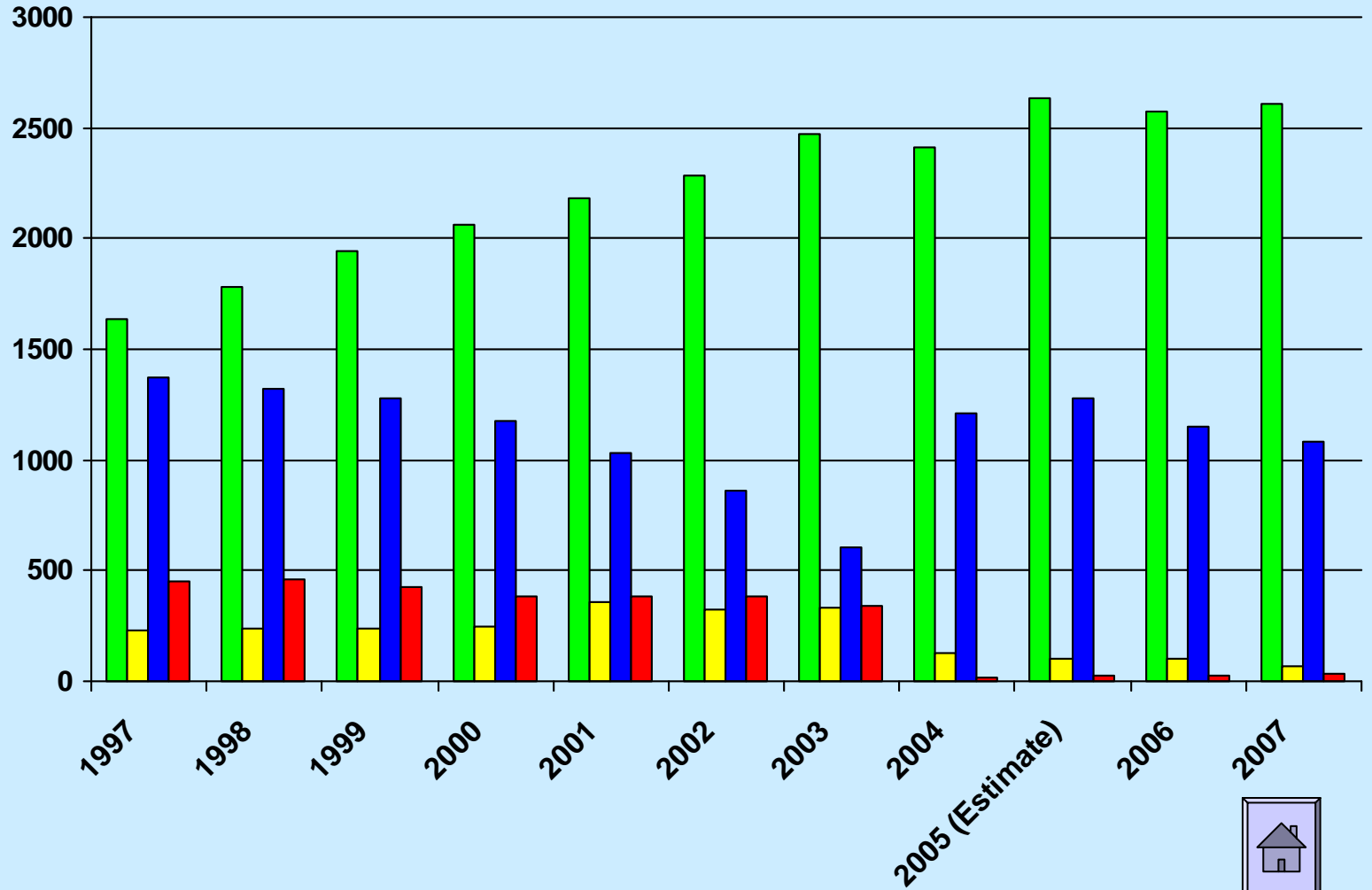
Permit Categories

Red – In substantial non-compliance.

Not adequate for growth or existing uses

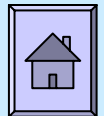


Operating Permit Trends



Compliance Tools

- 💧 Water System Planning
- 💧 Properly Certified Operator
- 💧 Training and Outreach
- 💧 Sanitary Surveys
- 💧 Adequacy Reports
- 💧 Capital Improvement Loans
- 💧 Operating Permits
- 💧 WQMR
- 💧 Water Tap Newsletter
- 💧 Enforcement Process
- 💧 Capacity Development
- 💧 Consolidation and Restructuring



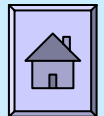
Compliance Process

Notification, Violation letter \Rightarrow NOV, Offer
BCA \Rightarrow SSNC \Rightarrow **Red Operating Permit**
 \Rightarrow Formal Enforcement (Orders,
Penalties and Receivership)

NOV = Notice of Violation

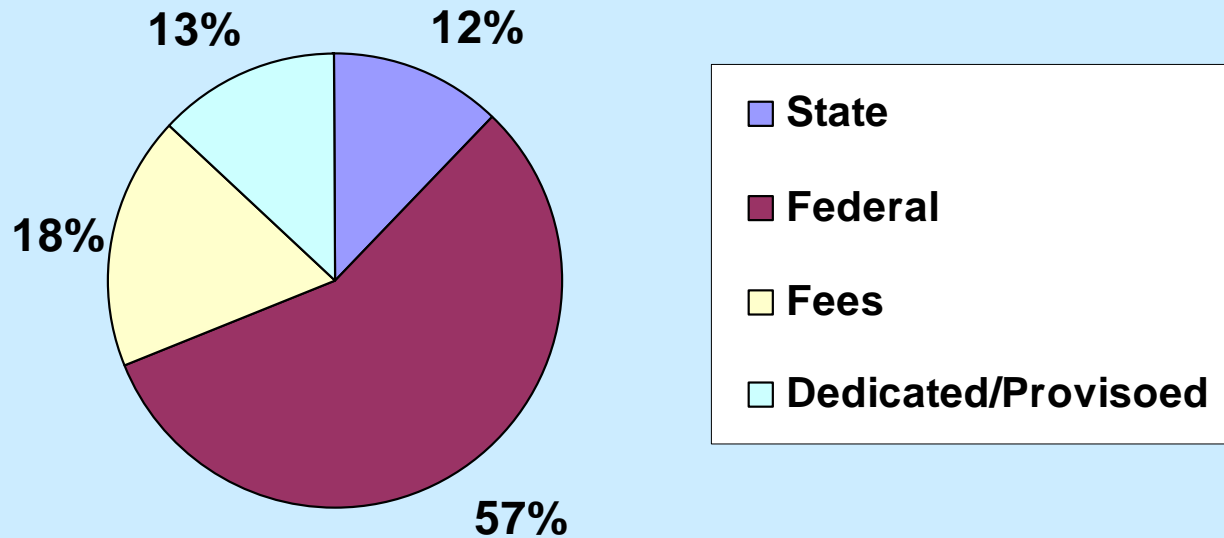
BCA = Bilateral Compliance Agreement

SSNC = State Significant Non-Complier



2007-09 Drinking Water Funding

1.2 million/year in OP Fees (8%)



Staffing the Operating Permit Process

- 💧 **Operating Permit – part of five FTEs 3 in regional offices and 2 at HQ...also IT time**
- 💧 **Adequacy – part of three FTEs in regional offices**
- 💧 **Compliance Program – 3 FTEs in regional offices and part of 4 FTEs in HQ**

Questions?



PUBLIC HEALTH
ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON