Fact Sheet



Online pre-adequacy water system information

Before local governments approve a building permit application, they must confirm the **adequacy** of the water system that provides drinking water to the proposed property. Local governments can get information to help them make adequacy determinations from a *Pre-Adequacy Data Summary* on the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) website.

The *Pre-Adequacy Data Summary* (see sample on page 2) provides data on key factors that affect a water system's ability to provide safe, reliable drinking water. These factors include water quality, engineering design, capacity, water system plan requirements, and the presence of a certified waterworks operator.

You can view the summary on Sentry Internet at https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/Intro.aspx Click on "Downloads/Reports," then "Pre-Adequacy Data Summary Report," and then type in the water system name or system ID.

The importance of water system adequacy

We use a color-coded annual operating permit system to show compliance with drinking water rules. As shown in the table below, the color tells consumers, lenders and others whether the system is adequate to meet current needs or future growth. This adequacy determination is important for two reasons:

- 1. It lets the water system and its consumers know about possible health risks related to the drinking water system.
- 2. The system's ability to provide safe, reliable drinking water to new and existing customers affects a community's growth and economic development. For example, "red" means the system is inadequate for current or future uses. If a system has a red operating permit, the local government may not issue building, food service or on-site sewage disposal permits.

Operating	Adequacy Response		System Compliance Status
Permit Color	Growth	Existing Uses	System Comphance Status
Green	Yes *	Yes	Substantially in compliance as long as it doesn't exceed the approved number of connections.
Yellow	Yes **	Yes	Substantially in compliance. However, system notified to submit a water system plan and hasn't satisfied the requirement; and/or it is under a compliance agreement for a state significant non-complier violation.
Blue	No	Yes	Substantially in compliance. However, system doesn't meet design approval or it has exceeded the approved number of connections.
Red	No	No	Substantial non-compliance. It is inadequate for existing or future uses.

- * Up to the approved number of connections
- ** Up to the approved number of connections unless otherwise limited by a compliance agreement



Issuing permits and loan approvals

Although we provide information on water system adequacy and operating permit color, local governments decide whether to issue permits and lending institutions approve or reject loan applications.

Operating a water system

Operating a safe and reliable drinking water system depends on success in several areas. Public drinking water system requirements depend on the number of customers and their water source. To ensure systems meet requirements, we track their compliance and issue enforcement documents, as needed.

ODW requires:

- All systems to conduct chemical and biological testing.
- Most Group A systems to have a certified operator to perform daily operational activities.
- Many Group A systems to submit a water system plan.
- All Group A systems to apply for an operating permit each year.

More information

For complete details on a water system's operating permit, visit Sentry Internet at

https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/portal/odw/si/Intro.aspx

We are always looking for ways to improve. Please send suggestions or report inaccurate information by calling 360-236-4357 or email ehats@doh.wa.gov.

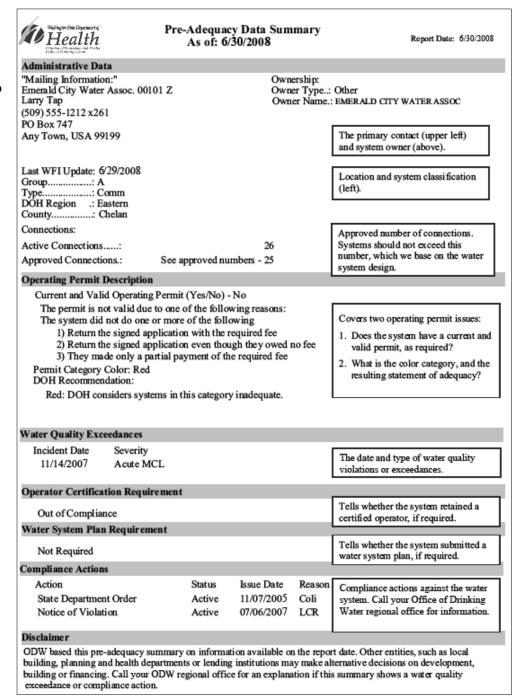
Call your ODW regional office for information on operating permits or water system adequacy:

Eastern Region: Spokane Valley 509-329-2100

Northwest Region: Kent 253-395-6750

Southwest Region

Tumwater 360-236-3030



For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).