



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
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February 21, 2025

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders, Partners, and Professionals:

SUBJECT: Invitation for Collaboration – Proposed Legislation on Public Water System Definition for 2026 Legislative Session

In accordance with chapter [RCW 43.376](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we invite you to attend an upcoming listening session regarding potential 2026 Agency Request Legislation to revise statutory and regulatory definitions of “public water system” to ensure it is no less stringent than the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations.

The agency intends to propose this legislation for the 2026 Washington State Legislative Session. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests Washington State revise language to its state statute and regulatory code to:

- Remove the exclusion of, “a system with four or fewer connections all of which serve residences on the same farm”, in the definition of “public water system”.
- Ensure all water systems that meet the threshold of 15 service connections or regularly serve an average of at least twenty-five individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year are regulated as public water systems, without exception.

Meeting Type	Date and Time	Zoom Information
Listening Session	Wednesday March 19, 2025, 3:30 – 5:00	Meeting ID: 835 5626 9921

For additional information, please contact: Office of Drinking Water Director, Holly Myers, at holly.myers@doh.wa.gov or 564-200-2493, or Office of Tribal Public Health and Relations (OTPHR), Candice Wilson – Quatz'tenaut, Executive Director, at candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov or 360-819-7626.

Sincerely,

Lauren Jenks
Assistant Secretary, Environmental Public Health

cc: Jessica Todorovich, Interim Secretary of Health, WA-DOH
Wendy Endress, Acting Chief of Staff, WA-DOH
Kristin Peterson, Chief, Office of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, WA-DOH
Atousa Salehi, Chief Science Officer, WA-DOH
Candice Wilson–Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Executive Director, OTPHR, WA-DOH