

The Legislation that changed the Group B Program

In the tight fiscal climate of 2009, the Legislature ended all state funding to the Group B Program and revised the enabling legislation. It excluded a requirement for the Group B Rule to address ongoing requirements, such as water sampling. It also directed the Board to adopt the following

- The rule must address at least the initial design and construction of a Group B water system.
- LHJs can establish a local ordinance that's at least as stringent as the state rule.
- The state rule may eliminate some or all regulatory requirements for Group B systems that serve fewer than five connections.

We worked with the Board and stakeholders to develop a fee-supported rule that meets the Legislature's direction and protects public health. The Board unanimously approved the new rule in October 2012. Founded on three principles, the new rule went into effect January 1, 2014.

1. Strong design standards using low risk sources to ensure safe, long-lasting facilities.
2. Provide a local option for Group B public water system oversight.
3. Educate and empower owners, consumers and designers to follow best public health practices without force of rule.

Group B Resources

We developed a several online tools to help Group B water systems. You can access them at doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/WaterSystemAssistance/GroupB.

- **Emergency Response:** Resources to support Group B water systems during drinking water emergencies or when developing emergency response plans, including emergency contact numbers and actions recommended to protect water system customers.
- **Group B system design and planning:** Provides information on Group B system requirements, guidance to assist with system expansion, design guidelines, forms, templates, and other resources.
- **Group B system Operations and Maintenance:** Guidance to help owners and operators maintain and operate Group B water systems.
- **Information for consumers, operators and owners:** General information on Group B water systems and links to resources you can use to keep yourself and your household healthy.

For more information

Call our regional office.

Eastern Region: Spokane Valley (509) 329-2100

Northwest Region: Kent (253) 395-6750

Southwest Region: Tumwater (360) 236-3030

Our publications are online at fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/publications/publications.cfm.



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).