



## Fact Sheet

May 2017  
DOH 331-090  
Updated

# 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 Permit Color	Adequacy Response		System Compliance Status
	Growth	Existing Uses	
<b>Green</b>	Yes *	Yes	Substantially in compliance as long as it doesn’t exceed the approved number of connections.
<b>Yellow</b>	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.
<b>Blue</b>	No	Yes	Substantially in compliance. However, system doesn’t meet design approval or it has exceeded the approved number of connections.
<b>Red</b>	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



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

## 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](mailto: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).

 <b>Pre-Adequacy Data Summary</b> As of: 6/30/2008		Report Date: 6/30/2008		
<b>Administrative Data</b>				
"Mailing Information:" Emerald City Water Assoc. 00101 Z Larry Tap (509) 555-1212 x261 PO Box 747 Any Town, USA 99199		Ownership: Owner Type.: Other Owner Name.: EMERALD CITY WATER ASSOC		
		The primary contact (upper left) and system owner (above).		
Last WFI Update: 6/29/2008 Group.....: A Type.....: Comm DOH Region : Eastern County.....: Chelan		Location and system classification (left).		
Connections: Active Connections.....: 26 Approved Connections.: See approved numbers - 25		Approved number of connections. Systems should not exceed this number, which we base on the water system design.		
<b>Operating Permit Description</b>				
Current and Valid Operating Permit (Yes/No) - No The permit is not valid due to one of the following reasons: The system did not do one or more of the following 1) Return the signed application with the required fee 2) Return the signed application even though they owed no fee 3) They made only a partial payment of the required fee Permit Category Color: Red DOH Recommendation: Red: DOH considers systems in this category inadequate.		Covers two operating permit issues: 1. Does the system have a current and valid permit, as required? 2. What is the color category, and the resulting statement of adequacy?		
<b>Water Quality Exceedances</b>				
Incident Date	Severity	The date and type of water quality violations or exceedances.		
11/14/2007	Acute MCL			
<b>Operator Certification Requirement</b>				
Out of Compliance		Tells whether the system retained a certified operator, if required.		
<b>Water System Plan Requirement</b>				
Not Required		Tells whether the system submitted a water system plan, if required.		
<b>Compliance Actions</b>				
Action	Status	Issue Date	Reason	Compliance actions against the water system. Call your Office of Drinking Water regional office for information.
State Department Order	Active	11/07/2005	Coli	
Notice of Violation	Active	07/06/2007	LCR	
<b>Disclaimer</b>				
ODW based this pre-adequacy summary on information available on the report date. Other entities, such as local building, planning and health departments or lending institutions may make alternative decisions on development, building or financing. Call your ODW regional office for an explanation if this summary shows a water quality exceedance or compliance action.				