

Getting Started: Water Supply Systems

A water supply system exists wherever a well or surface water intake serves more than a single family owner occupied home, or where there are shared works between multiple homes or businesses. Water supply systems range from two homes on a shared well or intake, or with shared system infrastructure, to small businesses where the public may access the water, such as community halls or restaurants, to large municipal systems.

Operation of a water supply system requires compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation (DWPA/DWPR). Compliance is based on obtaining source approval, a construction permit or construction permit waiver, and an operating permit. In addition, water supply systems must meet operational requirements on an ongoing basis, including operator training, water quality sampling, reporting to water users, and following treatment standards and other industry best practices and the direction of the local Drinking Water Officer (DWO).

The DWO is responsible for facilitating compliance with the DWPA/ DWPR within an assigned geographic area through inspection, education, and where necessary, enforcement. Generally, the DWO is the local Environmental Health Officer (EHO) who also inspects food facilities and pools in the area. However, if your water system will serve a food facility or a public pool/whirlpool, it too will require an operating permit and must go through a separate approval process.

Requirements for creation and operation of a water supply system are explored more fully in this package, which is intended to provide a foundation for individuals proceeding towards operation of an approved water supply system.

Package Contents:

- Water System Approval Process
- What is a Water Supplier Required to Do?
- Legislation Related to the Protection of Drinking Water
- Drinking Water System Application Form
- New (and Existing Unapproved) Water Supply Submission Requirements
- Guidelines for the Approval of Water Supply Systems
- Submission Requirements for a Construction Permit Water Request (*small systems only*)
- Construction Permit Waiver Request Form (*small systems only*)
- Emergency Response Planning for small waterworks systems
- Emergency Response Plan template (*small systems only*)
- Screening Tool
- Annual Report Template (*small systems only*)

Further Information:

- The Drinking Water Protection Act and Regulation are available online at http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_01009_01 (Act)
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/200_2003 (Regulation)
- Additional resources are available upon request (see the water approval process for listing).
- The EOCP (Environmental Operators Certification Program) will classify the system, which will indicate the required level of operator training (<http://www.eocp.ca/facilities/facility-classification/>)
- Resources on the water supply system inspection and bacteriological sampling, including access to bacteriological sample results and inspection reports for existing water systems within VIHA, are available online at <http://www.viha.ca/mho/water/>

To speak with a DWO, select the location closest to your proposed water system:

Victoria	1-(250)-519-3401	Port Alberni	1-(250)-731-1315
Duncan	1-(250)-737-2010	Campbell River	1-(250)- 850-2110
Nanaimo	1-(250)-755-6215	Courtenay	1-(250)- 331-8518
Parksville	1-(250)-947-8222	Port Hardy	1-(250)- 902-6072