STEVENS COUNTY LAND SERVICES BUILDING DIVISION

GUIDE TO POTABLE WATER REQUIREMENTS

General

Water, regardless of the source, must be deemed both safe and reliable before it can be put to potable use. Washington State Law (RCW 19.27.097) requires that each applicant of a building permit for a building necessitating potable water shall provide evidence of an adequate water supply for the intended use of the building. Stevens County requires this evidence be provided prior to issuance of a building permit, typically through the Stevens County Land Services Potable Water Certification process (see below) or by submission of a letter from the administrator of an approved public water system authorizing connection.

Domestic Water Supply vs. Public Water System

A domestic water supply is a water supply used for domestic use (as defined by WAC 173-518-030), typically a domestic exempt well (exempt from permitting under RCW 90-44-050), that is also exempt from Washington State Department of Health's public water system requirements. All wells must be developed in accordance with requirements identified in WAC Chapter 173-160: Minimum Standards for Construction and Maintenance of Wells. Surface waters or springs may be accepted as adequate domestic water supplies, but are often prone to a variety of contaminants and may not be acceptable without treatment. The use and/or development of a surface water or spring typically requires water right permitting from the Washington State Department of Ecology.

**for the County's most current response to Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6091 (related to "Hirst" decision regarding new domestic withdrawal), please visit our website at: www.co.stevens.wa.us/landservices*

A public water system (as defined by WAC 173-518-030) is any system that provides water for human consumption or municipal purposes through pipes or other constructed conveyances. This includes both systems that meet the definition of municipal water supplier in RCW 90.03.015(3) and Group B systems as classified by the Washington Department of Health.

Stevens County Land Services Potable Water Certification Process (3-Part)

1 DEMONSTRATION OF QUANTITY

To be deemed adequate, a domestic water supply must produce a minimum of 800 gallons per day (approximately .56 gallons per minute) for a single connection and 1600 gallons per day (approximately 1.11 gallons per minute) for two connections. Production levels must hold over a 4-hour duration. These are minimum quantities for indoor domestic use and do not include water needed for fire protection, irrigation or other uses. For daily domestic withdrawal limits, see RCW 90.44.052 and also Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6091.

Documentation that demonstrates water quantity typically includes one of the following:

- copy of the well log (often obtained from Washington State Department of Ecology or your well driller)
- pump test results (as performed by a licensed well driller or licensed pump professional)
- *Stevens County Pump Testing Procedures for Domestic Potable Water Sources* signature form and pump test results (if performed by the property owner)

NOTE: if a water right permit has been obtained from the Washington State Department of Ecology showing that the source is approved for* ***domestic use**, this permit would stand as documentation that the water source meets the requirement for adequate water quantity. Demonstration of water quality will still be required.*

2 DEMONSTRATION OF QUALITY

Based on recommendations by the Northeast Tri County Health District (NETCHD) in 2014 for water quality testing requirements related to RCW 19.27.97, Stevens County Land Services requires domestic water supplies be tested for the following contaminates, levels not to exceed the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) listed:

TOTAL COLIFORM	NONE PRESENT
NITRATE	LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO (≤) **10 mg/L** (10 ppm)
ARSENIC	LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO (≤) **.01 mg/L** (10 ppb)
LEAD	LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO (≤) **.015 mg/L** (15 ppb)
URANIUM	LESS THAN OR EQUAL TO (≤) **30 µg/L** (30 ppb)

Water quality test results must be less than two years old and must be performed by a laboratory certified by the Washington State Department of Health.

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3 POTABLE WATER CERTIFICATION

A completed *Stevens County Potable Water Certification* form must accompany the documentation demonstrating quantity and quality requirements have been met.

**if your water source is located on a property/legal description other than that of the proposed project (even if under same ownership)*, a copy of the RECORDED shared water source easement/agreement must accompany the potable water certification. This document shall include verbiage specifically addressing the following:

- effective date of easement/agreement
- full legal description of the well site, easements and all parcels sharing the well
- description of the maintenance easement surrounding the well site and pump house for access, maintenance, replacement and repairs, including location, width and purpose
- description of the water line easement, including location, width and purpose

Below Standard Domestic Water Supplies

Domestic water supplies that do not comply with minimum quantity requirements (see item #1 above) may still be deemed adequate if a well water containment system is approved by the Land Services Director. *A written proposal must be submitted to the Director for approval and shall include the following*:

- Stevens County Planning Division approval for storage tank locations (Site Analysis)
- storage tank specifications from the tank manufacturer, including storage capacity
- detailed documentation demonstrating how the water will be supplied to the storage tank(s) from the well and to the building from the storage tank(s)

Domestic water supplies that do not comply with minimum quality standards (see item #2 above) require treatment before they may be deemed adequate. If the supply tests high in Nitrate, Arsenic, Lead and/or Uranium, a point-of-use treatment system is required on all kitchen water faucets. If the supply tests unsatisfactory in Total Coliform, a whole-house treatment system is required. A water treatment proposal prepared by a water treatment professional, specifying a system that will reduce contaminant levels to at-or-below the maximum contaminant levels, must be submitted prior to issuance of a building permit. A *Statement of Water Treatment System for Potability* affidavit will be prepared by the Building Division, to be signed by all property owners and recorded with the Stevens County Auditor. Recording fees are the responsibility of the property owner/applicant.

Alternative Domestic Water Supplies

A haul water proposal may be submitted to the Stevens County Land Services Director for approval in instances such that: *connection to a public water system is not available, development of a well is not possible and water rights to surface water cannot be obtained*. *Applicants must submit (in writing) a proposal that includes the following*:

- documentation of unsuccessful attempts to drill a well that will produce water
- Stevens County Planning Division approval for location of storage tank(s) (Site Analysis)
- storage tank specifications from the tank manufacturer including storage capacity
  **tanks must have a minimum storage capacity of 5600 gallons (7 days @ 800 gallons/day minimum)*
- documentation demonstrating how the water will be supplied from the storage tank(s) to the structure requiring potable water
- a written haul agreement with a water supply company that uses Washington State Department of Health standards for hauling potable water, including water quality test results less than two years old

Helpful Contacts

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
(*well drilling, well logs, surface water right permits*)
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 329-3400

NETCHD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
(*smaller Group-B public water systems*)
240 E. Dominion Ave.
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-2262

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(*public water systems, list of certified water quality testing labs*)
Eastern Regional Office
16201 E. Indiana Ave., Suite 1500
Spokane Valley, WA 99216
(509) 329-2100

ANATEK LABS
(*one regional lab providing all required water quality testing*)
504 E. Sprague Ave. #D
Spokane, WA 99202
(509) 838-3999

TESTAMERICA SPOKANE
(one regional lab providing all required water quality testing)
11922 East 1st Ave
Spokane, WA 99206
(509) 924-9200