

PUBLIC NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS

If a Public Water System is not in compliance with drinking water regulations, the Drinking Water Bureau will issue a violation to the system. The system is required to inform its customers of the violation via Public Notice. Time frames for the Public Notice vary according to the severity of the violation:

- Tier 1 Public Notice is required for any drinking water regulation violation with the potential to have serious adverse effects on human health as a result of short-term exposure. The notification is required no later than 24 hours after the water system learns of the violation. The Drinking Water Bureau may also issue a press release.
- Tier 2 Public Notice is required for any drinking water regulation violation with the potential to have serious adverse effects on human health as a result of long-term exposure. It must be issued within 30 days of the water system learning of the violation.
- Tier 3 Public Notice is required for all other drinking water regulation violations not included in Tier 1 or 2. It must be issued within one year of the water system learning of the violation.

A copy of the Public Notice must be sent to the Drinking Water Bureau, along with a certification including the date and method of distribution. The Public Water System has 10 days to provide this information to the Drinking Water Bureau.

THE NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT DRINKING WATER BUREAU AND YOUR WATER SYSTEM

The New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau ensures that Public Water Systems in New Mexico meet federal and state drinking water regulations (New Mexico Administrative Code 20.7.10, incorporating 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 141).

Each Public Water System is assigned to a Water System Specialist at the Drinking Water Bureau, who monitors its compliance with regulations.

Contact your Water System Specialist with any questions about the responsibilities of Public Water Systems. If you don't know who your Water System Specialist is, call the Drinking Water Bureau toll-free at 1-877-654-8720.

More information on Public Water System responsibilities is also available on the Drinking Water Bureau's web site at: www.nmenv.state.nm.us/dwb/



Basic Responsibilities of Public Water Systems

New Mexico Environment Department
Drinking Water Bureau

This brochure describes some of the basic responsibilities of Public Water Systems under federal and state drinking water regulations. It does not substitute for the regulations, nor is it itself a regulation.



Basic Responsibilities of Public Water Systems

CERTIFIED OPERATOR

Public Water Systems¹ must be operated by or under the supervision of a State-Certified Operator, who meets or exceeds the appropriate level of certification to operate the system.

WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

- Public Water Systems must collect Total Coliform samples in accordance with their sample schedules and Total Coliform Sampling Plans. Sampling frequency is based on system population. Total Coliform Sampling Plans specify locations for sample collection and must be approved by the Drinking Water Bureau.
- Public Water Systems must also collect chemical samples from the distribution system, including Asbestos, Disinfection Byproducts (e.g. TTHM, HAA5), Chlorine Residuals, and Lead and Copper samples.
- The Drinking Water Bureau collects chemical samples that are representative of the system's water source(s). However, Public Water Systems are ultimately responsible for ensuring that all required samples are collected at their systems.
- All samples must be collected by a Certified Operator or a Certified Sampler and submitted with proper documentation to a drinking water lab certified by the State of New Mexico.
- The Drinking Water Sample Collection Application is an online tool provided by the Drinking Water Bureau to assist in filling out the lab Chain of Custody form for proper sample submission. The application is available at: eidea.nmenv.state.nm.us/sep/login-form

¹ A Public Water System is any water system with at least 15 service connections or that regularly serves an average of 25 individuals at least 60 days out of the year.

SANITARY SURVEYS

- The Drinking Water Bureau's Water System Specialists conduct Sanitary Surveys, or water system inspections, of Community Water Systems² every three years. Sanitary Surveys of Non-Community Water Systems³ are conducted every five years.
- A Sanitary Survey includes an evaluation of the water source(s), treatment, facilities, management, operation, maintenance, records, and compliance with drinking water regulations.
- Deficiencies are issued at the time of the Sanitary Survey if the Water System Specialist discovers a significant problem. If a minor issue is found, the Water System Specialist will offer recommendations to correct the problem.
- A written plan to address any deficiency identified in the Sanitary Survey must be submitted to the Drinking Water Bureau within 30 days (groundwater system) or 45 days (surface water system) of the date of the Sanitary Survey.
- Groundwater systems have 120 days from the date of the Sanitary Survey to correct the deficiency. Documentation of compliance must be submitted to the Drinking Water Bureau (e.g. photographs, completed records). An extension may be granted, upon request, if the deficiency cannot be corrected within 120 days.
- A violation will be issued if the water system neglects to respond and/or correct the deficiency. If the violation is not resolved, the water system is subject to escalated enforcement (i.e. an Administrative Order which may include penalties).

² A Community Water System is a Public Water System that has at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or that regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.

³ A Non-Community Water System is a Public Water System that is not a Community Water System.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS

- Community Water Systems are required to distribute a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), or water quality report, to water consumers on or before July 1st each year. It must include information on the system's water source(s), any detected contaminants, and any violations of drinking water regulations.
- A copy of the CCR must be submitted to the Drinking Water Bureau on or before July 1st of every year.
- A CCR certification of distribution to customers must be submitted to the Drinking Water Bureau on or before October 1st of every year.

RECORD KEEPING

Public Water Systems must maintain the following records:

- Microbiological and turbidity sample results – 5 years
- Chemical sample results – 10 years
- Lead and Copper sample results – 12 years
- Sanitary Survey Reports and correspondence relating to the survey – 10 years
- Public Notices – 3 years
- Records of actions taken to correct violations – 3 years
- Consumer Confidence Reports – 3 years
- Variances granted to the system – 5 years following the expiration of the variance

Note that sample results for all Public Water Systems are available on the Drinking Water Watch web site at: eidea.nmenv.state.nm.us/SDWIS

However, Public Water Systems must maintain hard copies of sample results in their own records.

