

Noncommunity Water Supply Owners Guide

In 1974, out of concern for the quality of the water that we drink, congress passed the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Act gave the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) responsibility for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards nationwide. The Michigan Safe Drinking Water Act (Act 399) was enacted in 1976 and enables the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to maintain primacy (state authority) over the drinking water program in our state. Local health departments (LHDs) are under contract with the DEQ to maintain local noncommunity programs for the water supplies of Michigan. This brochure focuses on noncommunity water supplies.

Definitions

“Noncommunity supply” means a supply that is not a community supply, which has 15 service connections or serves at least 25 individuals on an average daily basis for not less than 60 days per year.

A noncommunity water supply system (NCWS) may be further broken down into two categories, dependent on the use of the supplies.

Transient: A transient NCWS is a supply that serves 25 or more DIFFERENT people a day at least 60 days of the year (or 15 or more service connections). Examples would include:

- ✓ Motels
- ✓ Churches
- ✓ Restaurants
- ✓ Parks
- ✓ Highway Rest Areas

Nontransient: A nontransient NCWS is a supply that serves the SAME 25 or more people at least 180 days of the year. Examples would include:

- ✓ Schools
- ✓ Industries
- ✓ Child Care Centers
- ✓ Office Buildings



Responsibilities of a NCWS owner

- Maintain and operate water supplies in a safe and sanitary condition.
- Collect water samples to assess compliance with drinking water standards.
- Notify the public in cases of noncompliance with standards or sampling requirements.
- Obtain permits for construction or alteration of water well supplies.
- Maintain records for NCWSs including sample results and correspondence with LHDs.

Sanitary Survey

A comprehensive inspection of the well and water distribution system is required every five years. A sanitary survey is a thorough review of the water source, facilities, equipment operation, and maintenance of public water systems for the purpose of ensuring that safe drinking water is provided. Sanitary surveys also provide an opportunity to educate owners and operators about proper monitoring and sampling procedures, provide technical assistance, and answer questions pertaining to their drinking water supply.

Routine sampling requirements

Transient Supply:

- Coliform bacteria – One sample required every three months unless reduced to once yearly, based on satisfactory survey and sampling history.
- Nitrate – One sample per year.

Nontransient Supply:

- Coliform bacteria – One sample every three months unless reduced to once a year based on a satisfactory survey and sampling history.
- Nitrate – One sample per year.
- Chemical – (Metals, Volatile Organic Chemicals, Synthetic Organic Chemicals, Cyanide, and Lead and Copper) - Sample frequencies vary. Contact your LHD for your chemical sampling frequency.



Permits

A construction permit is required prior to drilling or altering a noncommunity well. The permit is intended to assure adequate well location with respect to isolation distance from sources of contamination, proper construction methods and materials, and design criteria. Contact your LHD for more information on obtaining a permit application.

Record keeping

NCWSs are identified by a seven digit water supply serial number (WSSN). To insure proper identification, this number must be used with all correspondence and sample data submitted to the LHD and laboratories.

Annual fee invoice

An annual fee is assessed to all NCWSs. The public water supply fee provides funding for State of Michigan and LHD staff to oversee the proper operation of your water supply, as required by Act 399 and to help ensure that any water served by your supply to the public is safe to drink or use. This fee is unrelated to sampling fee charges, as the money is not for laboratory services.

The fee is assessed on October 1st for the next fiscal year and is not associated with sampling fees. This fee is adjusted every year by applying the percentage adjustment using the Detroit consumer price index. In addition to the Consumer Price Index adjustment, at the end of the fiscal year, 75% of any unspent fee revenue from previous annual fee payment is applied as a credit adjustment on a pro-rated basis to the fee the following year in accordance with Act 399. The noncommunity supply must pay the annual fee by November 30th each year. If it is not paid by then, a penalty fee is applied to the balance each month or portion of a month after that for which the payment is delinquent.

How does this benefit my facility

- The fees allow the DEQ to maintain a state run program as opposed to direct federal administration.
- It allows more flexibility, including significant reductions in sampling that would not be available in a federal program.
- It results in a program that better serves public water supply owners and the people of Michigan.

For more Information

The environmental health staff at the county/district health departments provides direct service to water supply owners in their jurisdictions. Questions regarding owner responsibilities should be directed to your LHD.