

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

A Noncommunity Water Supply (NCWS) is defined as “a system that serves any nonresidential facility that provides water for drinking or domestic purposes to 25 OR MORE PERSONS at least 60 days out of the year, or HAS 15 OR MORE SERVICE CONNECTIONS.

A 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. This assesses the potential for contamination to enter the water supply. Appropriate sampling frequencies are assigned. Water supply deficiencies may increase the likelihood of contamination and are required to be fixed. Water supplies with a satisfactory inspection and sampling history can be assigned minimum sampling.

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. Applications are obtained from your LHD.

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.

Remember your WSSN!

The WSSN assigned to our facility is:

WSSN _____ well # _____

WSSN _____ well # _____

Annual Fee \$\$

Annual fees are charged to owners of all NCWSs. These funds are collected by the DEQ and distributed to LHDs in order to support services provided to NCWSs.

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 provide direct service to water supply owners in their jurisdictions. Questions regarding owner's responsibilities should be directed to your LHD.

State of Michigan noncommunity program staff may be reached at the Water Bureau, in Lansing, at 517-241-1370. Upper Peninsula inquiries may be directed to  906-346-8530. The Type II Noncommunity Water Supply website address is:

<http://www.michigan.gov/deqnoncommunitywatersupply>

Water Bureau
Drinking Water & Environmental Health Section
Noncommunity Unit
Phone: 517-241-1370 Fax: 517-241-1328

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State of Michigan
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NONCOMMUNITY WATER SUPPLIES



NONCOMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY OWNERS GUIDE



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WATER BUREAU