

Teton Health District

**Rules and Regulations for the
Protection of Public Water Systems**

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[insert logo: Teton County Wyoming Board of Health]

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Teton Health District Rules and Regulations for Public Water Systems

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Chapter 1

GOALS

Public water systems operating in Teton County shall provide a reliable and secure source of clean and safe drinking water to their customers by addressing increasing nitrate concentrations at the earliest possible time before levels reach 10 mg/L thereby triggering intervention by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Chapter 2

PURPOSE OF REGULATIONS

The purpose of these regulations is to enhance protection for public water systems operating in Teton County to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the consumers of the water those systems provide.

Chapter 3

DEFINITIONS

The following terms used in these definitions shall be defined as follows:

“MG/L” means milligram per liter.

“PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM” means a public water system permitted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and operating in Teton County, Wyoming.

Chapter 4

REGISTRATION OF PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

1. Every public water system must, within 30 days of publication of this rule with the county clerk’s office, register with the Teton County Health Department. Registration of such systems shall be accomplished in a manner prescribed by the public health department and shall at a minimum include the information the public water system provides to the U.S. EPA.

Chapter 5

PUBLIC DATABASE

1. The public health department shall maintain a public database containing the registration information provided by the public water system.

Chapter 6

REPORTING

1. Any public water system detecting nitrate concentrations in a public water supply reaching or exceeding 3 mg/L shall within 24 hours of discovery notify the county health department. Test results and other information requested by the county health department shall be provided promptly, and in no case exceeding 24 hours from the time of the request.

Chapter 7

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. Upon receipt of information from the public water system indicating nitrate levels at or above 3 mg/L, the county health department shall within 24 hours of such receipt publish or cause to be published in a local newspaper of general circulation notice of such information.
2. The notice shall, at a minimum, include: a) a summary of known and suspected health risks from the ingestion of nitrate; and, b) a statement indicating that levels of 3 mg/L or above generally indicate contamination including the possible presence of septic system leachate in the drinking water provide by the public water system.
3. Written notice in a form requiring acknowledgement of receipt shall be provided directly to consumers of the water supplied by the public water system, if known, and posted in a conspicuous location at the place or establishment where the water is provided.
4. Written notice shall be provided to owners of private wells located within a 3-mile radius of the public water system. In addition to the information required above, the notice shall recommend well tests for nitrates, which shall be provided free of charge.
5. Well test data collected pursuant to Chapter 7, Section 4, above, shall be retained in a publicly accessible database maintained by the Health Department.

Chapter 8

INVESTIGATION

1. Two consecutive monthly readings of nitrate concentrations, or three readings in any calendar year, exceeding 3 mg/L shall cause a prompt investigation by the health department and other departments of Teton County, as appropriate, of the public water system. The investigation shall at a minimum include a physical examination of the system including the wellhead(s), and the land area proximate to the system encompassing groundwater Zone 1 and Zone 2, as delineated by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. Items to be inspected include, at a minimum, all obvious and known sources of nitrate pollution including but not limited to confined animal feeding areas, lawn and landscaping activities, and septic systems.
2. No later than 30 days after the conclusion of the investigation, all relevant details of the investigation, including findings and recommendations, shall be documented and made publicly available.

Chapter 9

REMEDIAL ACTION

1. Based on the findings and conclusions of the investigation, the public health officer shall undertake or cause to be undertaken remedial action which shall be directed at reducing nitrate levels in groundwater supplying the public water system. Such action may include ordering the inspection, repair, replacement or decommissioning of septic systems believed to be causing or contributing to the presence of nitrate in the groundwater utilized by the public water system.

Chapter 10

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLANS

1. Not later than 12 months after the effective date of this rule, each public water system serving customers within Teton County shall develop and implement a wellhead protection plan, source water assessment, and source water protection plan. Such plans shall bear the stamp of a professional geologist or engineer and be approved by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality. Source water assessments and source water protection plans shall be made available to the public in accordance with the Wyoming Public Records Act, except that specific wellhead location information may be exempt from disclosure in order to protect wellhead security.