

DHEC'S GOAL

DHEC's Drinking Water Protection Division places a high priority on assisting public water systems to remain in compliance and meet all state and federal regulations. We provide regulatory information, education and on-site technical assistance. Call your regional DHEC office, listed on the back of this brochure, or DHEC's central office in Columbia at (803) 898-4300 with any questions concerning the operation and maintenance of your system, or during any emergency situations. Through a cooperative effort between DHEC and public drinking water systems, we can help provide the citizens of South Carolina with a safe public drinking water supply.



DHEC REGIONAL OFFICES

UPSTATE

Greenwood, Abbeville, Laurens, Saluda, Edgefield and McCormick (864) 223-0333	Greenville and Pickens (864) 241-1090
Anderson and Oconee (864) 260-5569	Cherokee, Spartanburg and Union (864) 596-3800

MIDLANDS

Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry and Richland (803) 896-0620	Sumter, Kershaw, Lee and Clarendon (803) 778-6548
Lancaster, York and Chester (803) 285-7461	Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg (803) 641-7670

COASTAL & PEE DEE

Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion and Marlboro (843) 661-4825	Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester (843) 953-0150
Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg (843) 238-4378	Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper (843) 846-1030



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

www.scdhec.gov

*We promote and protect the health
of the public and the environment.*



Public Drinking Water System **GUIDELINES**

**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR PROVIDING SAFE
DRINKING WATER**



WWW.SCDHEC.GOV

CONSTRUCTION PERMIT

Prior to construction of new or modifications to any type of existing public supply wells, plans must be submitted to DHEC for approval. Please mail plans to: Water Facilities Permitting Division, DHEC, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, S.C. 29201. Shallow bored wells are not permitted as public wells. For more information on permitting see www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/dwpermit.htm.

OPERATING PERMIT

Public drinking water systems are issued an operating permit once the approved construction is completed and inspected.

CERTIFIED OPERATOR

Depending on the size and the type of water system, and whether the water is treated, a certain level of certified distribution and/or treatment operator might be required. For more information see www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/dwoperator.htm.

WATER QUALITY

The water supplied to the public by your water system must meet federal drinking water standards (Safe Drinking Water Act) and the state Primary Drinking Water Regulation (R.61-58). For information on federal drinking water protection see <http://water.epa.gov/drink/index.cfm>. For information on which contaminants must be monitored for in your system see www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/dwcm/index.htm.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

If a water quality problem is identified at your facility or in your distribution system, you will be required to take any necessary actions, such as repairs, well disinfections, or treatment. The water system owner is responsible for the costs of these actions.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

If your water system is not meeting a drinking water standard, you must inform all water users. Also, a boil water advisory or notice might be necessary (www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/dwcm/docs/tier1.doc). Public notice requirements can be found at www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/dwcm/publicNot.htm. For water-related emergencies, call your regional DHEC office for guidance. For what to do if you are a food service facility see www.scdhec.gov/administration/library/CR-005149.pdf.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

All community water systems (at least 15 service connections regularly serving at least 25 year-round residents) must provide their customers with a Consumer Confidence Report, summarizing information such as sources used, any detected contaminants, compliance and educational information by July 1 each year. For more information see www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/dwcm/ccReport.htm.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

A properly run public drinking water system includes cross connection control, valve and hydrant maintenance, storage tank maintenance, a flushing program, a leak detection and repair program, adequate pressure, a flow measuring device, and source and storage security. Call your regional DHEC office with any questions related to these items. A helpful handbook for small water systems can be found at www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/docs/swpref.pdf.

RECORD KEEPING

Records must be kept describing preventive maintenance procedures, schedules for equipment inspection and maintenance, water quality monitoring, a current system map, a sample site plan, valve and hydrant maintenance, a distribution system flushing program, disinfection requirements for the repair of wells, tanks, and water lines, a cross-connection control program, a leak detection and repair program, and an emergency operation plan. Call your regional DHEC office for assistance with any of these items.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

All public water systems must take steps to protect their water source(s). This includes making sure that potential sources of contamination are located appropriate distances from a well, and should include a wellhead protection plan. Locking well enclosures and fences are other important protection measures. For more protective actions see www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/srcewtr.htm.

DHEC'S ROLE

DHEC works with public drinking water systems to ensure compliance with state and federal drinking water regulations. The fees paid by public drinking water systems (amount determined by the number of people served by the water system as well as the number of water sources) helps pay for the services listed below.

SANITARY SURVEYS

DHEC routinely conducts inspections called "sanitary surveys" at all public drinking water systems. These sanitary surveys will identify problems, help you stay in compliance and prevent water quality issues. The frequency of sanitary surveys is determined by the size of the drinking water system. For information on how a sanitary survey is conducted, see www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/docs/dwGWSSM09.doc.

WATER SAMPLING

Water systems are monitored for bacteria as well as a number of other possible contaminants. Larger systems will collect their own bacteria samples. DHEC collects bacteria samples for some of the small systems along with many other required samples. For information on required sampling under the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations see <http://water.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index.cfm>.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

DHEC is available to help you prevent and resolve problems with your water system. Our staff is willing to visit your system at any time to identify potential problems and offer assistance with operations and maintenance issues. Do not hesitate to call with any questions or concerns. For more information on compliance see www.dhec.sc.gov/environment/water/dwcompliance.htm.