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# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

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## Operational Responsibilities of a Transient, Non-Community Public Water System

This document provides an overview of significant compliance activities for managing and operating a transient, non-community public water system (NCWS). An NCWS is defined as a water system that serves at least 25 people, for at least 60 days per year. Examples include systems serving restaurants, campgrounds, motels, recreational areas, convenience stores, and medical offices.

It is ultimately the responsibility of the water system's owner to ensure that the water system meets all of the requirements. This is true even if the property served by the water system is leased or rented to another party. The following summarizes some of the responsibilities of the water system owner.

### Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitoring is the single most important aspect of ensuring that the system is supplying safe water to consumers. Routinely check your sampling schedule to ensure that your monitoring is up to date.

### Bacterial Monitoring

Monitoring for bacteria in the water system is done frequently. A few disease-causing organisms in a single glass of water can cause illness. NCWSs typically sample for bacteria four times a year or once a quarter for each quarter the system is open. The number of samples required to be taken each quarter is based on the population served and the system configuration.

<b>Transient, Non-Community Public Water System Sampling Requirements</b>	
<b>Test</b>	<b>Sampling Frequency</b>
Bacterial	Monthly or Quarterly
Nitrates	Annually
Nitrites	Every Three Years
Be sure to use NHELAP-accredited laboratories for all compliance sampling**	

\*\*A list of NHELAP-accredited laboratories offering drinking water testing services can be found at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/nhelap/index.htm>.

### **Chemical Monitoring**

Water quality testing for chemical contaminants is much less frequent than it is for bacteria. Sampling is generally limited to the acute contaminants that may impact public health when the maximum contaminant levels are exceeded. Nitrate sampling is required once a year and nitrite sampling needs to be done once every three years.

### **Field Inspections**

A DES inspector visits all NCWSs every five years. The inspector inspects all aspects of the system.

### **Design Approval of Changes to the Existing System**

Design review approval is needed for **all changes** to a public water system. This includes, but is not limited to, expansion of the system to new customers, adding or changing treatment equipment or chemicals, and adding new wells.

### **Administrative Record-Keeping System**

It is important for the owner to notify DES of address changes and other significant changes affecting the water system. Also, documentation of the system's sampling requirements (sites and schedules), water quality information, compliance information and improvements and expansions must be maintained. Detailed record-keeping requirements can be found in fact sheet WD-DWGB-7-1, "[Water System Records Retention](#)."

### **For Additional Information**

Please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at (603) 271-2513 or [dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov) or [visit us online](#). The bureau's [fact sheets](#) are available online. Additional public water information is also available at the [DES One Stop Data Retrieval Site](#).

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of June 2011. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.