



# INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Office of Water Quality

### Drinking Water Branch

[www.idem.IN.gov](http://www.idem.IN.gov)

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#### **What is Drinking Water:**

- Drinking water is any water supplied for the purpose of human consumption or domestic use, which comes from several sources, including; ground water from private and municipal wells, and surface water from rivers and lakes.
- Drinking water quality varies from place to place, depending on the condition of the source water from which it is drawn and the treatment it receives.

#### **Drinking Water Standards:**

- The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets national drinking water standards to limit the level of contaminants in the nation's public drinking water systems. There are two (2) categories of drinking water standards:
  - The National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR or primary standard) is a legally enforceable standard that applies to public water systems. Primary standards protect drinking water quality by limiting the levels of specific contaminants that can adversely affect public health and are known or anticipated to occur in water.
  - The National Secondary Drinking Water Regulation (NSDWR or secondary standard) is a non-enforceable guideline regarding contaminants that may cause cosmetic effects (such as skin or tooth discoloration) or aesthetic effects (such as taste, odor or color) in drinking water. USEPA recommends secondary standards for water systems, but does not require systems to comply. However, states may choose to adopt them as enforceable standards. Indiana has not adopted secondary standards.

#### **Types of Regulated Public Water Systems:**

- Community systems – This is a public drinking water system that serves at least fifteen (15) service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) year-round residents, such as municipal water suppliers, subdivisions and mobile home parks.
- Non-transient non-community systems – This is a public drinking water system that is not a community system that regularly serves the same twenty-five (25) or more persons for at least six (6) months out of the year, such as schools, daycare centers and factories.
- Transient non-community systems – This is a system that does not regularly serve twenty-five (25) of the same people more than six (6) months out of the year, such as churches, restaurants, grocery stores and campgrounds.
- Private systems – This is a system that doesn't qualify as one (1) of the systems referenced above. The most common example is an individual well serving a single property.

#### **IDEM's Role:**

- The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Office of Water Quality regulates, monitors, permits and licenses drinking water facilities and operators.

- IDEM's Drinking Water branch serves the consumers of Indiana's water supplies by efforts to achieve and maintain safe and adequate supplies of drinking water by providing accurate information, support and guidance in a timely manner.

#### **IDEM's Drinking Water Branch:**

IDEM's Office of Water Quality's Drinking Water branch is divided into four (4) sections:

- **Compliance** – The compliance section is responsible for public water supply data collection and analysis, sampling result compilation and evaluation, compliance determination, compliance assistance, and waivers.
- **Permit, Certification and Capacity** – The permit, certification and capacity section is construction permits, operator certifications and capacity development assistance. The Permit Program is responsible for construction plan review and approval, construction permits, construction inspections and technical assistance. The Operator Certification Program is responsible for certification, operator testing, and tracking of continuing education units. The Capacity Development Program is responsible for technical, managerial and financial assistance to public water suppliers to promote compliance with drinking water regulations and evaluation of Public Water Supply Management Plans.
- **Field Inspection** – The field inspection section is responsible for technical assistance, well site surveys, emergency assistance, remediation recommendations, filtration evaluations, vulnerability assessments, ground water under the influence of surface water determinations, sanitary surveys (inspections) and new system identification.
- **Ground Water** – The ground water section is responsible for wellhead and source water protection, ground water quality standards, ground water monitoring, investigation of private well complaints and, ground water education.

#### **More Information:**

For more information, please contact the Outreach Work Group of IDEM's Drinking Water branch at (317) 232-8670 or (800) 451-6027 (ext. 2-8670).