

## FACT SHEET



### INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

## Are You A Public Water System? Office of Water Quality

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### **Introduction:**

Public Water Systems that supply drinking water must follow certain federal and state safe drinking water regulations. Drinking water is any water supplied for the purpose of human consumption or domestic use. The source of the water can be ground water from wells or surface water from rivers and lakes. The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide the definition of a Public Water System (PWS) and information about different types of Public Water Systems.

<b><i>What is a Public Water System?</i></b>	<i>"A Public Water System is a public water supply for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, if such system has at least fifteen (15) service connections or regularly serves an average of at least twenty-five (25) individuals daily at least sixty (60) days out of the year."</i>
<b><i>What does a Public Water System include?</i></b>	<i>"A Public Water System includes any collection, treatment, storage, and distribution facilities under control of such system, including the operator or administrator of such system, and is used primarily in connection with such system and any collection or pretreatment storage facilities not under such control which are used primarily in connection with such system."</i>
<b><i>Are there different types of Public Water Systems?</i></b>	<i>Yes, there are two types: Community Water Systems and Noncommunity Water Systems.</i>  <i>Noncommunity Water Systems are broken down further into two types: Nontransient and Transient systems.</i>
<b><i>What do you mean by Community Water System and Noncommunity Water System?</i></b>	<i>A Community Water System is a 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.</i>  <i>A Noncommunity Water System is a system that has at least fifteen (15) service connections used by nonresidents or regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) or more nonresidents individuals daily for at least sixty (60) days per year.</i>
<b><i>Can you explain the two types of Noncommunity Water Systems (Nontransient and Transient)?</i></b>	<i>A Nontransient Noncommunity Water System (NTNCWS) is a system that is not a Community Water System and regularly serves the same twenty-five (25) or more persons at least six (6) months per year.</i>  <i>A Transient Noncommunity Water System (TWS) is a system that is not a Community Water System and does not regularly serve at least twenty-five (25) of the same persons over six (6) months per year.</i>

**What are some examples of Public Water Systems?**

*Community Water Systems include municipal water supplies, subdivisions providing their own water, and mobile home parks.*

*Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems include such locations as schools, daycare centers and factories.*

*Transient Noncommunity Water Systems include churches, restaurants, grocery stores, and campgrounds that have water accessible to the public.*

**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. The Drinking Water Branch in IDEM's Office of Water Quality regulates, monitors, permits, and licenses drinking water facilities and operators. IDEM's Drinking Water Branch provides free compliance and technical assistance to owners and operators, upon request.

**Public Water System's Role:**

Public Water Systems must understand and comply with regulations for monitoring, treating and reporting. Public Water Systems should contact IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at (317) 234-7430 for to request free compliance and technical assistance.

**Rule citation:** 327 IAC 8-2-1

**Citizen's Role:**

Citizens can find drinking water quality information by visiting IDEM's Drinking Water Viewer website at <https://indwv.gecsws.com/> and contacting their local Community Water Supply for the latest Consumer Confidence Report. Citizens can find information about source water protection at <https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/information-about/groundwater-monitoring-and-source-water-protection/>.

**Additional Information:**

- Compliance information for Indiana Public Water Systems is provided on IDEM's Drinking Water Compliance Section Web page at <https://www.in.gov/idem/cleanwater/drinking-water/drinking-water-compliance-section/>.
- The Indiana General Assembly posts Indiana's rule for Public Water Supplies (327 IAC 8) on its website at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/T03270/A00080.PDF>.
- Federal Safe Drinking Water Act guidance documents are provided on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's website at <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-regulations>. Federal Guidance on Public Water System Definition is posted at <http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/sdwa/pws-definition.cfm>.
- In addition to IDEM's Office of Water Quality Drinking Water Branch at (317) 234-7430, U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline, at 1-800-426-4791, offers assistance to Public Water System owners and operators and the public.

*This fact sheet is intended solely as guidance and does not have the effect of law or represent formal Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) decisions or final actions. This fact sheet shall be used in conjunction with applicable rules and statutes. It does not replace applicable rules and statutes, and if it conflicts with these rules and statutes, the rules and statutes shall control.*



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