



STRATEGIES, TOOLS AND PROCEDURES HEALTH AUTHORITIES MAY USE TO FIND AND REGULATE SMALL SYSTEMS

1. Purpose

The Document outlines strategies that health authorities may use find small water systems that have not been permitted as required by the [Drinking Water Protection Act](#).

2. Background

There are likely many (possibly thousands) systems that meet the definition of a Water Supply System under the *Drinking Water Protection Act* that are unknown to the health authorities. Many of the operators of these systems either do not know that they are subject to the *Drinking Water Protection Act*, or would prefer not to be regulated.

Should health authorities have the resources to systematically find systems that have not been permitted, there are tools such as databases held by the Ministry of Environment Climate Change Strategy that health authorities could utilize. This document identifies these tools and provides basic procedures on how they may be used. The document also outlines other strategies that may assist in preventing new systems from falling outside of the regulatory process.

3. Strategies to Find Un-permitted Systems

3.1. Use the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's Water Licence Information System , to find licences for water extraction.

All surface water intakes should have a licence from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, and information on such systems is found under the Water License Information System (WLIS). Health Authorities can use this database to search for systems that hold licences.

Example procedure to find water supply systems that were issued water works licences since the beginning of 2009:

- a) Go to http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/wtrwhse/water_licences.input
- b) Under **Purpose**, from the dropdown menu choose **Waterworks - other**.
- c) Under New Licences or Applications from this date forward; enter the January 1, 2009 date like this: 20090101
- d) Click the **Submit** button

This will produce a list of the new applications and licences for this purpose.

This procedure can be done for other **purposes** or **dates**, and/or refined to include only specific geographical areas by selecting the **watershed** or **water district** drop down boxes.

For a list of purposes involving water distribution systems for human consumption, see the **Water Use Purpose Definitions** as listed on the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's website:

http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/water-rights/water_use_purpose_defns.pdf.

3.2. Use the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy's "WELLS Database, Report 6" to search for groundwater drinking water supply systems.

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has a well database that contains information submitted on a voluntary basis by well drillers. Health Authorities can use this database to search for systems that have been registered.

Example Procedure to find wells that were drilled as drinking water supply systems in a given year:

- a) Go to <http://a100.gov.bc.ca/pub/wells/public/common/wellsreport6.jsp>
- b) Select any fields you wish to be displayed, i.e., **Well Use, Street Name, Area, Water Supply System Name, Water Utility** (to see if it is a large system) by checking the box next to that field
- c) Under "**Well Use**", choose "**drinking water supply system**",
- d) Under **Date Started**, input a general date range. By entering "**%2009%**" the system will return all records that show 2009 under the Date Started field,
- e) Click the "Search" button

This will produce a list of those wells drilled in a given year that are a drinking water supply system, and allows the user to then pull up the well construction report for each well.

This procedure can be repeated for other dates or for other well uses such as "domestic", "community water supply", "Municipal", or "water utility", and can be further refined by land district if desired.

Please note: The WELLS database does not distinguish between large or small drinking water supply systems. The best way to determine if it is a large system is to select the water utility field – this will at least tell you if you are dealing with a water utility.

- Until recently, groundwater reports on WELLS were submitted to this database on a voluntary basis, and it does not represent all wells that may exist.
- The WELLS database may have gaps in owner contact information.