

Title:	Public Community Water System Jurisdiction with Fewer than 15 Service Connections
Serial Number:	2005-03
Original Issue Date:	Jan 25, 2002
WSR Reference	21-2
Supersedes:	N/A

**Determining Public Community Water System Jurisdiction
When A Water System Has, or Will Have, Fewer Than 15 Service Connections**

This Practice is intended to provide a reliable measure of public health protection and ensure appropriate compliance with State and Federal drinking water regulations when a water system has fewer than 15 service connections, but which regularly serves a population of 25 or more year-round residents. The State and Federal definition of a Public Community water system means "a Public water system which serves at least fifteen (15) service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents."

Because a population of year-round residents living in a fixed number of service connections will fluctuate over time (i.e. change in occupancy due to births, deaths, family evolution, ownership, or use), the strict counting of people as a regulatory mechanism is not reasonable. Relying on counting individuals living in private homes presents several problems. For example; the residents may not recognize when they collectively pass the jurisdictional threshold to become regulated or unregulated; project developers will likely not adequately anticipate and incorporate regulatory requirements into the project; no technical fix may exist to gain compliance with the regulations once the threshold is crossed if a water system is not developed according to state and federal public community drinking water requirements. Attempting to count individuals places an unreasonable regulatory burden on both the water system and residents for compliance, and on the regulatory agency for adequate oversight.

Therefore the Water Supply Division has used a statistical approach to provide a reasonable rationale to meet both the public health intent of the regulations, and to allow a reasonable use of state resources in the regulatory oversight. The 2000 U.S. Census Bureau data was used. Nationally the average household size is 2.62 people. This means that a water system serving 10 service connections is expected to regularly serve an average of 25 or more people over time. For subject populations, developers, and regulators, this rationale serves the intent of public health protection while clearly identifying the threshold at which a water system will be under State and Federal regulations. Using the same rationale, residential water systems which have fewer than 10 service connections are not expected to regularly serve 25 or more people.

Residential water systems which serve, or are proposed to serve, 10 through 14 service connections shall be constructed and regulated as Public Community Water Systems under State and Federal regulations.

Exceptions may be made for water systems serving elderly housing or similarly restricted residency housing or water systems serving greater than an average of 4 bedrooms per service connection. Living units which are all under the control of a single entity may be evaluated on a case by case situation, including an evaluation of the number of living units, total number of bedrooms, historical occupancy records, and permit conditions, to assist in determining the appropriate water system status, either Community, Non-Community, or Non-Public.

