
Connections, Population, and PWS Classification

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DRINKING WATER SERVICES
Public Health Division

Definitions

- “Community (C) water system” means a public water system that has 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents, **or** that regularly serves 25 or more year-round residents.
- Cities, mobile home parks, rural subdivisions and developments

Definitions

- “Non-Transient, Non-Community (NTNC) water system” means a public water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.
- Typically places of employment, schools

Definitions

- “Transient Non-Community (TNC) water system” means a public water system that serves a transient population of 25 or more persons.
- Restaurants, campgrounds, RV parks, rest areas, state parks, etc.
- **There must be at least 25 people per day for a minimum of 60 days per year.**

Definitions

- “Oregon Very Small (OVS) water system” means a public water system, which serves 4 to 14 service connections or that serves commercial or public premises which are used by 10 to 24 people at least 60 days per year.
- **There must be at least 10 people per day for a minimum of 60 days per year.**

Service Connections

- “Service Connection” means the piping connection through which water is conveyed from a public water system to a user's premises.
- “Premises” means real estate and the structures on it.
- A standpipe at a campground or RV Park is not a “premise”, so all standpipes should be lumped together as one connection.

Service Connections

- OAR 333-061-0010(4) clarifies: “For the purpose of determining water system classification, service connection includes any piping connection that provides a residence or a public or commercial premises water from a water system.”
- Only year-round residences should be counted as connections at RV parks, campgrounds, etc.

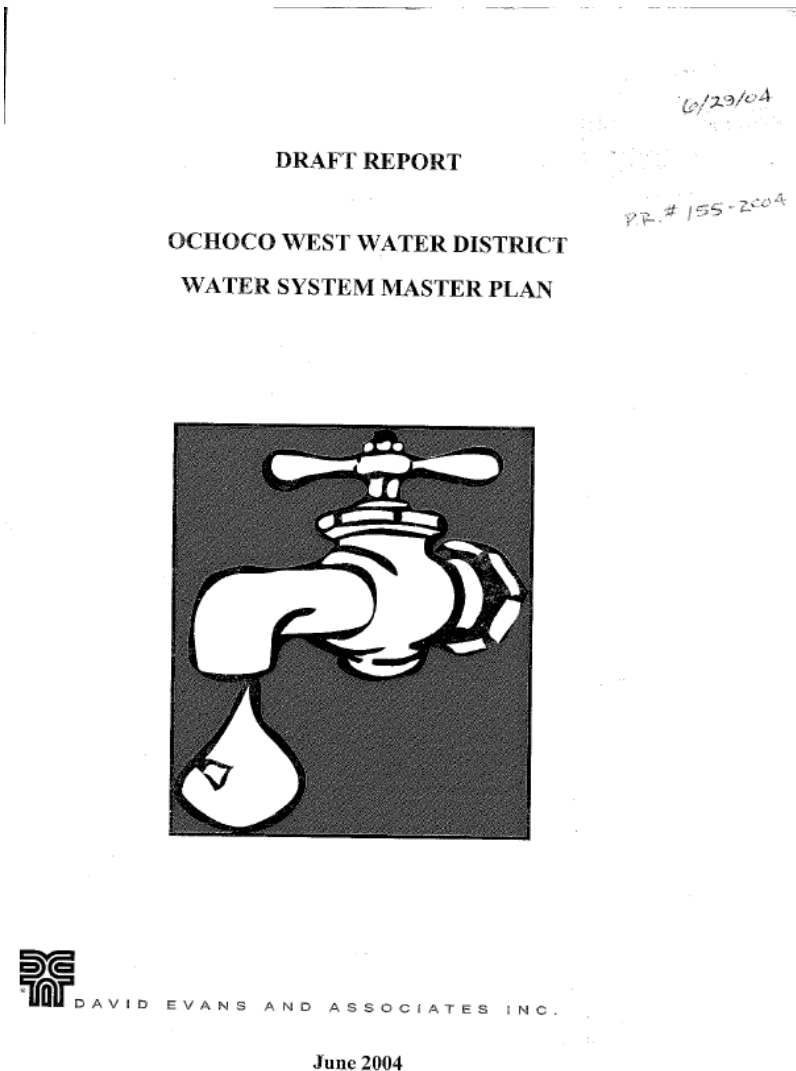
Service Connections



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Service Connections

- Community systems with 300 or more service connections are required to have a Water System Master Plan.

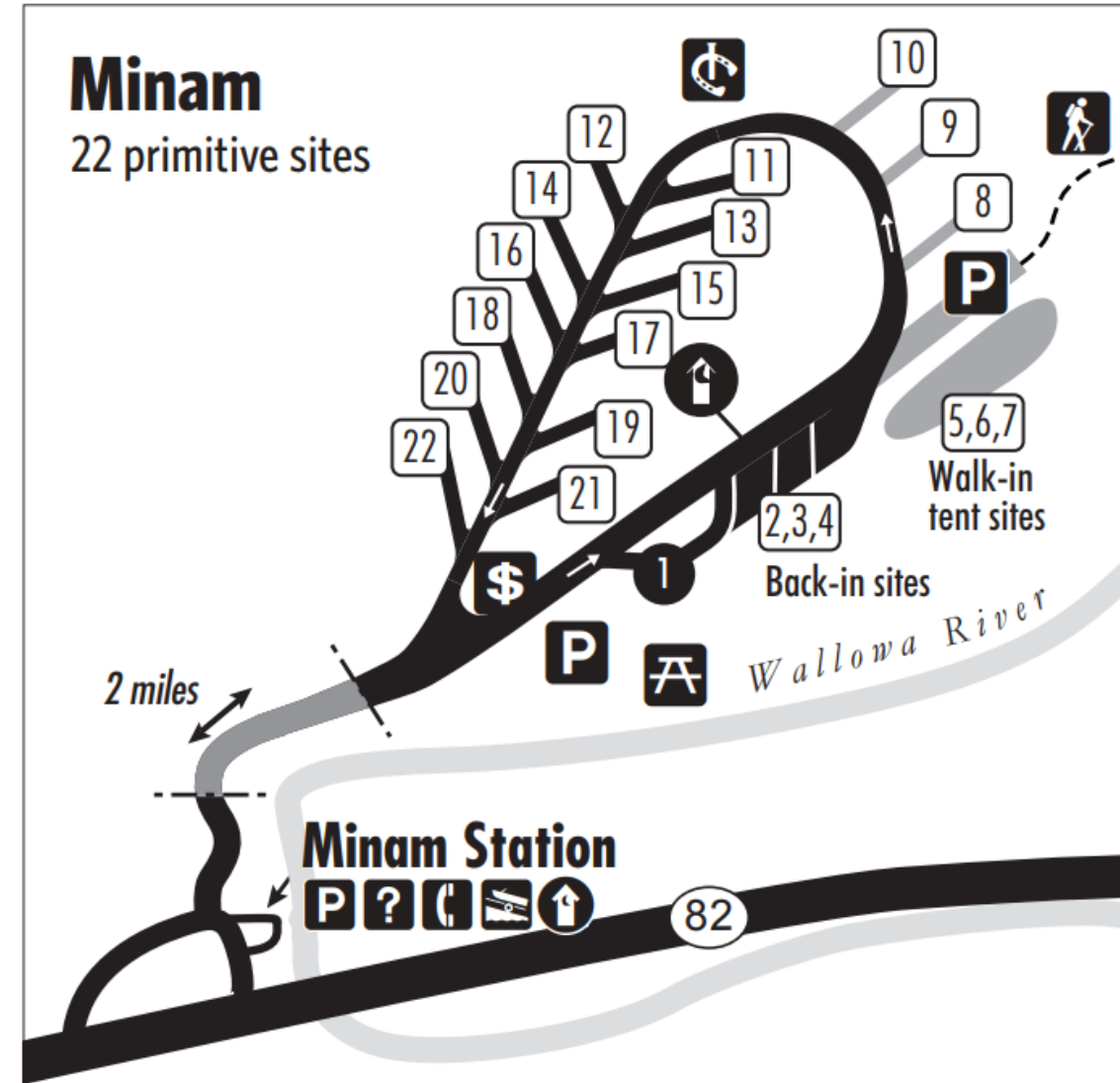


State Park Example

- A state park has 5 rental cabins, 20 RV sites with hookups, 5 standpipes in the tent camping area, three bathrooms with flush toilets, and one house where the ranger resides. It should be shown as having **two connections**, one for the ranger's residence, and one for all the other taps lumped together.

State Park Example

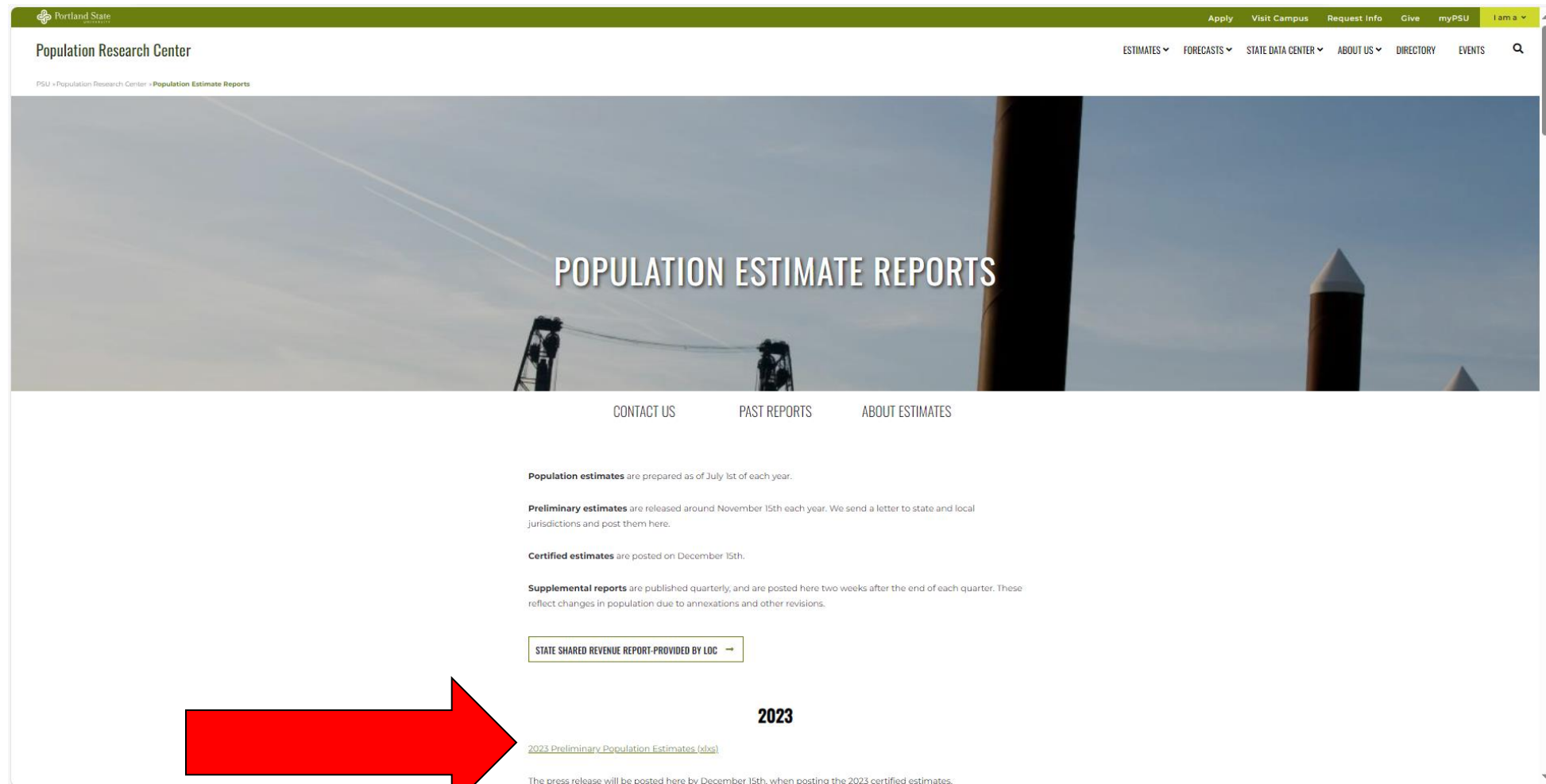
- The numbers of cabins, camp sites, standpipes, bathrooms, etc. should be described in the narrative section on the Inventory page of the survey form.



Population

- For municipal water systems, use the most recent population from Portland State University's Population Research Center.
- <https://www.pdx.edu/population-research/population-estimate-reports>

Population Research Center



Population for Cities

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2023 Preliminary population estimates - Protected View • Saved to this PC

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Population

One incorporated city in Oregon is not a PWS



Grants Pass	39,436	39,507	0.2%
Grass Valley	154	155	0.6%
Greenhorn	3	3	0.0%
Gresham	114,768	117,107	2.0%
Haines	382	383	0.3%
Helfrey	250	250	0.0%

Population

- For TNC & OVS systems, **the population determines the classification**, not the number of connections.
- Ask the owner or operator what the average population is over the busiest 60 days.

Population at TNC & OVS Systems

- A population attending an infrequent event that draws a large number of people, such as a concert, is not considered “regular”.
- If it is a consistently recurring event year after year, that population could be averaged in. Use professional judgement.

RV Park Example

- During a survey a 62-space RV Park classified as a TNC, it appeared to have many RVs that were there long-term.
- The manager complied when asked to provide information on the number of occupants and the length of time they had been there

**30 spaces
had a total of
49 year-
round
residents.**

**A Community
PWS.**

[illegible]

RV Park Example

- Ask if the RV Park has a policy on how long people can stay.
- Explain the possible consequences of allowing people to live there year-round and being reclassified as a Community water system.

Large Event Example

- A large annual event located outside city limits draws 40,000-50,000 people.
- Drinking water is supplied by wells on the property and hauled water from a municipal source.
- The event only lasts for three days, so it is **not a public water system**.

Large Event Example

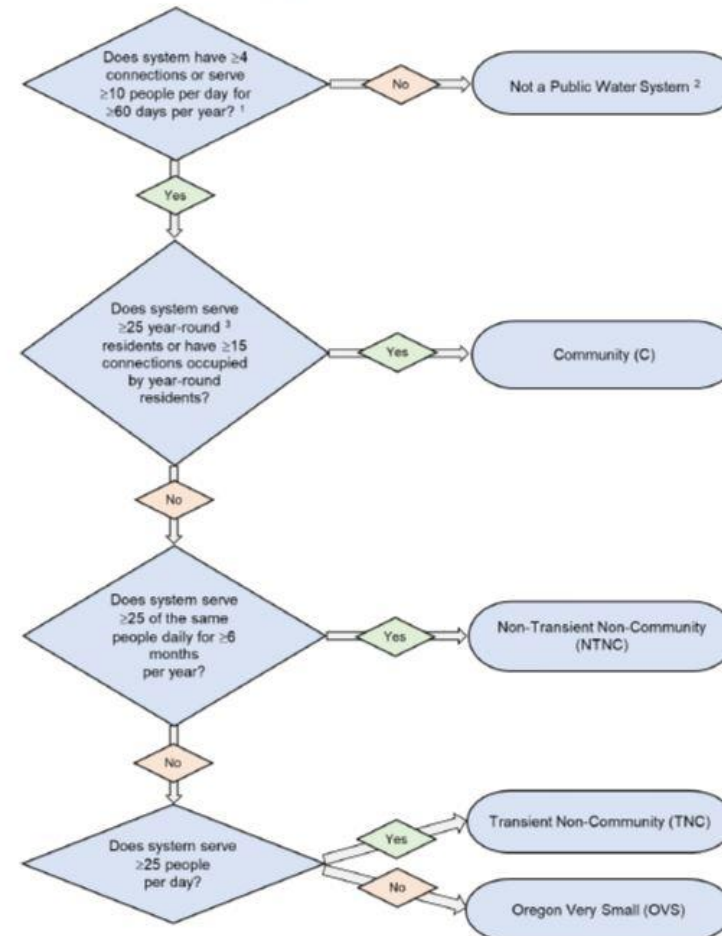
However, the drinking water is tested under the mass gathering and food service rules.



Reformatted PWS Classification Flowchart

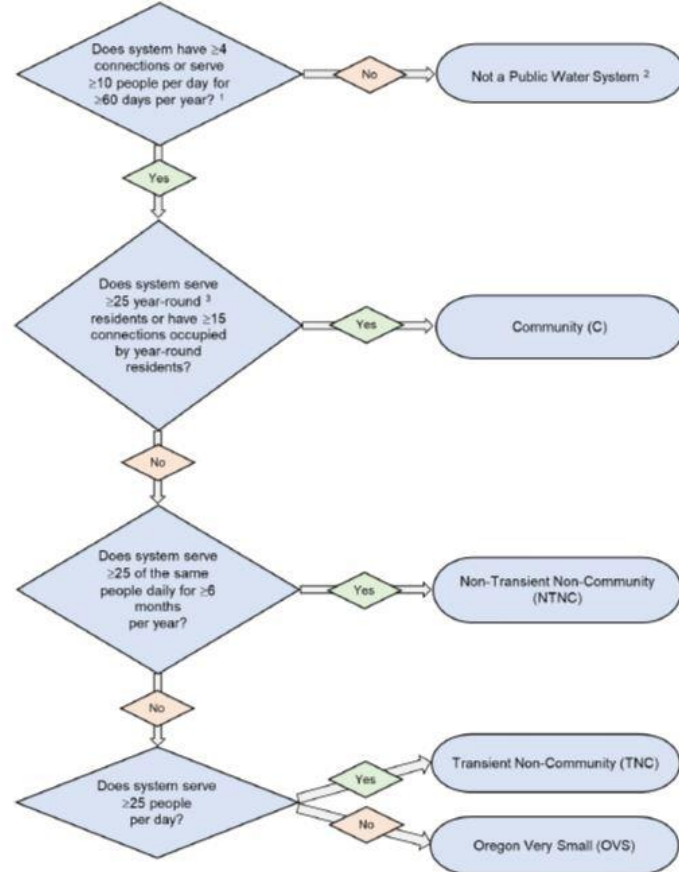
Criteria is
unchanged

Public Water System Classification Guide



¹ For the purpose of determining classification, a connection consists of any piping that provides water to a residence or public or commercial premises.
² Some licensed facilities not meeting the definition of a public water system may have to comply with drinking water regulations in other rules, such as food & lodging, daycare, schools, and mass gatherings.
³ A year-round residence is a primary residence that is not necessarily occupied every day of the year.

Public Water System Classification Guide



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Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services • 800 NE Oregon St. • Portland, OR 97232
 Phone 971-673-0405 • www.healthoregon.org/dws • rev 11-2023

Fact Sheets & Best Management Practices

[Drinking Water Services](#)

[Water System Operations](#)

[Surface Water Treatment](#)

[Capacity Development](#)

[Public Notice Templates and Resources](#)

[Fact Sheets & Best Management Practices](#)

[Water System Surveys & Outstanding Performance](#)

[Circuit Rider Program](#)

[ePipeline Newsletter](#)

[Emerging Contaminants in Drinking Water](#)

[Per - and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\)](#)

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Seasonal Groundwater Systems

- [Start-up Tips for Seasonal Systems](#)
 - [Start-up Check list](#)
 - [Start-up Tips - Disinfection](#)
 - [Start-up Tips - To-do List](#)
- [Shutdown Tips for Seasonal Systems](#)

Shock Chlorination

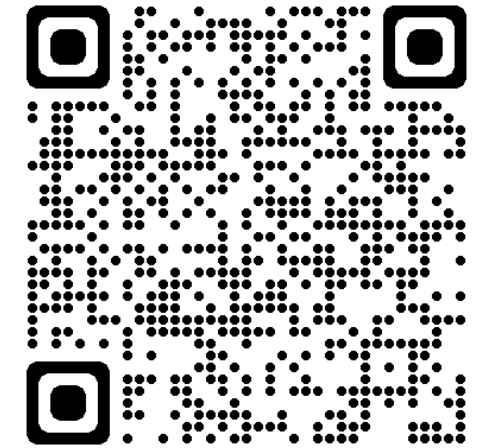
- [Shock Chlorination for Storage Tank, Well, and Distribution System - Procedure and Volume Calculation](#)

Documenting Water System Operations

- [Creating a Water System Operations Manual \(pdf\)](#)
- [Written Protocol for Operators: MS Word -or- PDF](#)
- [Standard Operating Procedures Needed at Surface Water Treatment Plants - PDF](#)
- [From the Basics for Small Water Systems in Oregon course manual - Fact Sheet 3.2 - Developing and Maintaining an Operations & Maintenance Manual](#)

Other Fact Sheets and Resources

- [Guidance for Reopening Building Water Systems After Prolonged Shut Down](#)
- [Water System Surveys and Inspections \(including Outstanding Performance\)](#)
- [Water System Type Flow Chart - For determining your water system type](#)
- [Search for drinking water treatment chemicals that are certified by National Sanitation Foundation \(NSF\) International](#)
- [Calibrating Liquid Feed Pumps \(NESC Tech Brief\)](#)
- [Guidelines for Hauling Drinking Water](#)
- [Pandemic Influenza and Water System Operations Guide](#)
- [Biologically Contaminated Water Supply Serving Licensed Food Service Facilities: Emergency Response Fact Sheet for Licensed Facilities](#)



<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/OPERATIONS/Pages/management.aspx>

PWS Classification

- A revised procedure describing how to determine the number of connections, population, and system classification with additional examples will be made available.

Subject:	PWS Classification Procedure	Orig Date:	03/07/23
Unit:	Technical Services & Partners – zg, dh, wg, cl	Revised date:	12/6/23
Purpose & Scope: This is a general procedure for collecting the necessary information to accurately determine the correct Public Water System (PWS) classification of a new or existing supplier of water to the public.			

Key definitions used in this document:

- “Public water system” (PWS) means a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, if such system has more than three service connections, or supplies water to a public or commercial establishment that operates a total of at least 60 days per year, and that is used by 10 or more individuals per day. Public water system also means a system for the provision to the public of water through constructed conveyances other than pipes to at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days of the year.
- “Community (C) water system” means a public water system that has 15 or more service connections used by year-round residents, or that regularly serves 25 or more year-round residents.
- “Non-Transient, Non-Community (NTNC) water system” means a public water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year.
- “Transient Non-Community (TNC) water system” means a public water system that serves a transient population of 25 or more persons.
- “Oregon Very Small (OVS) water system” means a public water system, which serves 4 to 14 service connections or that serves commercial or public premises which are used by 10 to 24 people at least 60 days per year.
- “Human Consumption” means water used for drinking, personal hygiene, bathing, showering, cooking, dishwashing, and maintaining oral hygiene.
- “Service Connection” means the piping connection through which water is conveyed from a public water system to a user's premises.

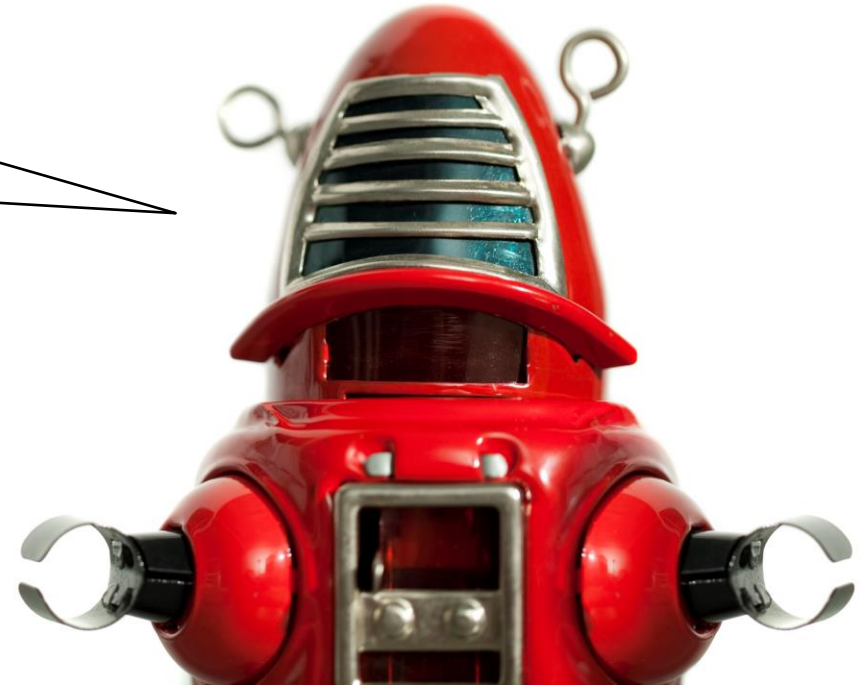
PWS Classification

- If there is ever a question about how to classify a PWS, consult with your local DWS staff person. There are a variety of borderline situations or gray areas.

PWS Classification

- If/when you contact an OVS system, try to verify the current population and number of connections. It is not uncommon to discover OVS systems to have grown into Community systems in the years since they were last contacted.

Questions?



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