



2026 Water System Survey Revisions

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Drinking Water Services

Water System Surveys

- Occur every 3 or 5 years.
 - 3 years for Community water systems (CWS), unless determined to meet “Outstanding Performer” criteria.
 - 5 years for Non-Community systems (NTNC and TNC), and “Outstanding Performer” Community water systems.
 - No surveys are conducted for Oregon Very Small Systems.
- Water system survey: on-site review of a water system’s sources, treatment, storage facilities, distribution system, operations and maintenance, monitoring, and management to evaluate a system’s capability of providing safe drinking water.
- Surveys are sometimes the only time we see or hear from water system staff.
 - Good way to get a better understanding of what issues the system has been facing
 - Changes in staff, operations, infrastructure, etc.

Goals for Survey Revisions

- Implement new 2026 significant deficiencies and unmet rule requirements.
- To help assess a system's needs for responding to emergencies and overall resiliency.
 - Share pertinent information with Oregon Dept. of Emergency Management and other state agencies who assist with emergency response.
 - Critical or sensitive PWS information is not being collected during the survey.
 - Any analysis of data that is considered sensitive will be protected from public record.
- DWS can tailor technical assistance (AWOP site visits, water quality testing, operations, communications) for the water system.
- May become a part of capacity assessment in the future.

Survey Cover Letter Changes

Survey Form Changes

Implementation

- Begin using the new 2026 forms starting January 2026
 - Links for survey forms, letters, and reference manual will be update:
<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/ph/healthyenvironments/drinkingwater/partners/pages/surveys.aspx>
- List significant deficiencies (• closed-dot) and unmet rule requirements (○ open-dot) in the new 2026 survey cover letter separately.
- Send survey cover letter, survey form, and PWS service area boundary info, and other important info (monitoring schedule changes, etc.) to Compliance.DW@dhsoha.state.or.us.
- Operators must respond to the survey letter with a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) explaining **how and when** significant deficiencies and unmet rule requirements will be corrected.

Implementation

- Significant deficiencies and unmet rule requirements can be viewed under “Water System Surveys” or “Last Survey Date” in Data Online.
 - Significant deficiencies will be **bolded** with CAP due date.
 - Unmet rule requirements will be un-bolded with CAP due date.
- Regulators will still receive an email from DWS about upcoming CAP due dates.
 - Regulators should check in with their systems about the upcoming due dates.
- DMCE will issue 5-point violations if a system has one or more significant deficiencies uncorrected by the approved CAP due date.
- No violations for not correcting unmet rule requirements.

Significant deficiency corrections were due by 04/18/2025 at SCOFIELD MOBILE HOME COURT (water system ID# 01025). Please verify the corrections were completed and submit the date of correction or submit an approved correction action plan to Compliance.DW@odhsoha.oregon.gov. If corrections were not completed and an action plan is not appropriate, notify Drinking Water Services and enforcement will be initiated if appropriate.

See <https://yourwater.oregon.gov/sitevisits.php?pwsno=01025> for deficiency details.

Recap

- Survey form changes are needed to:
 - Implement new significant deficiencies and unmet rule requirements.
 - Assess a system's ability to respond to emergencies.
 - Help tailor technical assistance information given to the water system.
- Begin using the new forms and letter templates in January 2026.

Thank you!

Questions, concerns, or suggestions?

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