

Constructing something new?

Be sure plans are approved first!

Plan review approval through Drinking Water Services (DWS) is required before construction begins on major additions or major modifications of water systems.

Major additions may include, but are not limited to, new wells, reservoirs, water lines, continuous chlorination, pump stations, and chemical treatment. Major modifications may include expanding existing pump station capacity or expanding (or changing) existing chemical treatment processes. [Guidance](#) on documentation needed for these projects is on our [plan review page](#).

Waterlines:

Expanding water main lines or adding additional water lines to an existing distribution system is considered a major modification. Water line replacement within the same trench with the same size pipe is not considered a major modification. Remember that if your water system has a current approved master plan and an engineer on staff (or under contract), your system may be able to apply for plan review exemption for water main extensions. See DWS' [plan review exemption](#) section on our website for details.

Wells:

Deepening an existing well may or may not be considered a major modification that requires plan review — generally, if the casing seal will be replaced or the well will tap into a different aquifer, plan review is required. In these cases, it's best to reach out to a DWS engineer for confirmation that the project requires plan review. Replacement of an existing well with a new well is considered a major modification.

Pumps:

Replacing a pump within a pump station is considered routine maintenance; expanding the pumping capacity of the pump station may be considered a major modification. Completely replacing an existing pump station is considered a major modification that requires plan review. Installation of a new pump station is considered a major addition.

Chemical addition or treatment:

Adding a new chemical treatment process is considered a major addition. Altering an existing chemical process, such as changing from liquid chlorine to chlorine gas, is a major modification and requires plan review.

Contact us!

When in doubt, call or email your DWS engineer or contact us at dws.planreview@odhsoha.oregon.gov.

Plan review submittal is now electronic! You can submit plans at dws.planreview@odhsoha.oregon.gov. If the file size is too large, you may need to provide a link to a file sharing site. Payments can be made online or a check can be mailed – see payment submittal information [here](#).