

# Should Your Facility be a Regulated Public Water System?



## What is a public water system?

If you have your own source(s) of water with at least fifteen (15) connections or that serves an average of twenty-five (25) individuals daily at least sixty (60) days out of the year, you are a regulated public water system. Water use includes, but not limited to, water through sinks, drinking fountains, restroom facilities, post-mix soda dispensers, coffee machines, etc.

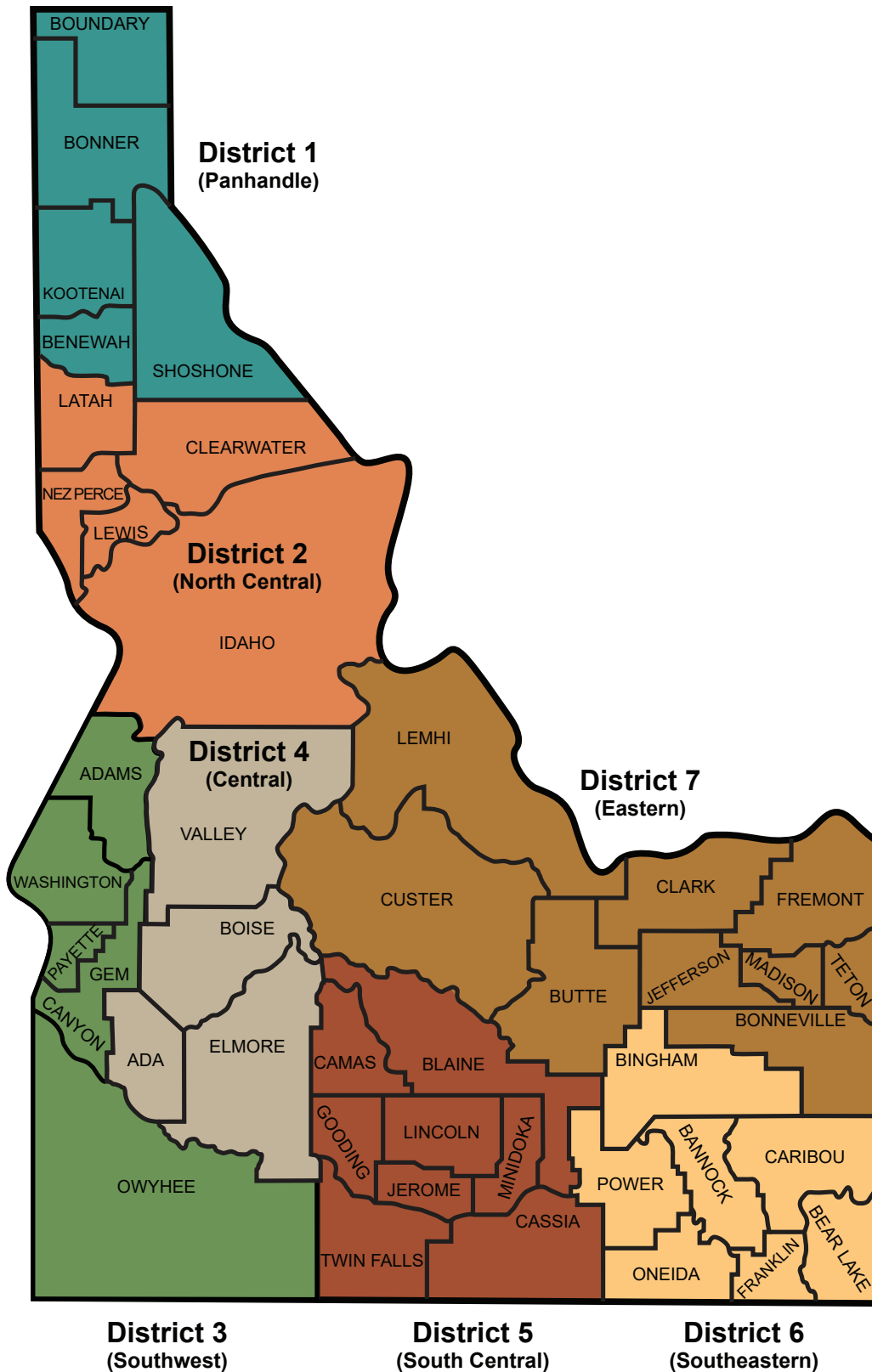
## Public Drinking Water System types based on population characteristics:

- a) **Community water system** - A public water system which serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents.
- b) **Noncommunity water system** - A public water system that is not a community water system. A noncommunity water system is one of two types:
  - i) **Nontransient noncommunity water system** - A noncommunity water system that regularly serves at least 25 of the same persons over six (6) months per year.
  - ii) **Transient noncommunity public water system** - A noncommunity water system which does not regularly serve at least 25 of the same persons over 6 months per year. (Restaurants, public parks, hotels, churches)

## So the facility is a public water system. What now?

- **Engineering Review.** Your system will be required to provide drawings of the public water system components, such as the well and distribution piping, to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ will determine compliance with the current rules and engineering standards of care. You will need to contract with an Idaho licensed professional engineer to prepare and submit the drawings.
- **Initial Monitoring.**  
For initial monitoring your system will be required to collect drinking water samples for a variety of contaminants. Exact sampling requirements will be determined during the engineering review.
- **Routine Monitoring.**  
You will be required to collect routine drinking water samples as determined in the engineering review. At a minimum, all public water system types collect samples to test for total coliform, nitrate, and nitrite.
- **Designated Operator.**  
All community, nontransient noncommunity, and surface water systems must be under the direct supervision of a properly licensed operator. Licensure requirements are dependent on the public water system population served and if your system provides water treatment.

If you believe your facility currently meets the definition or will meet the definition of a public water system, please contact your local Health Department and request to speak with an Environmental Health representative.



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**Web Resources**

<http://www.deq.idaho.gov/water-quality/drinking-water/pws-switchboard.aspx>



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