

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
GUIDANCE FROM HOTLINE COMPENDIUM

WSG H23

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SUBJECT: Public Notification Requirements

SOURCE: Carl Reeverts

Title 40 CFR Section 141.32 sets forth public notification requirements for public water systems operating under exemptions or variances. While this section defines specific notification requirements concerning time schedules and notification channels, it does not address the public notification requirements for consecutive public water systems.

In the case of a consecutive system receiving water from a supplier operating under an exemption, who is responsible for informing the customers of the consecutive system that the supplier has an exemption from the SDWA requirements, the primary water system or the consecutive system?

Response:

A consecutive system is a public water system and must meet all the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations (NPDWRs) that the supplier must meet. In the circumstance where the supplier has an exemption but the consecutive system does not, the consecutive system is responsible for notifying its customers after receiving notice of the exemption from the primary supplier.

In the preamble of the final Public Notification Rule (related to the special lead public notice), the water supplier which supplies or sells water to another community or non-community water system is expected to provide notice to the receiving system. In turn, the receiving system is expected to provide its customers with a public notice (52 FR 41544).