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This Assistance Bulletin only applies to property within unincorporated Snohomish County and does not apply to property within incorporated city limits.

Single Family Residence Water Service Referral Process

Assistance Bulletin

#98

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The purpose of this bulletin is to highlight the key elements of the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) that may affect small-scale home builders. This is done through a question and answer format for brevity. The plan itself should be reviewed for detailed information. This is available on the county website @ www.snohomishcountywa.gov/documentcenter/view/8619.

Q: What is the CWSP “referral” process?

A: The North Snohomish County Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP) established a “referral” process administered by Snohomish County. A flow chart of the process is shown on page 33 of the CWSP document (Figure V-1). This process is triggered by the receipt of a development proposal (e.g., building permit or subdivision application) by PDS. **The county should refer a proponent to the corresponding utility within a designated service area to negotiate a water service agreement.**

Q: How does the referral process affect proponents applying for building permits for individual/single family residences?

A: When the proposed single family home is within a designated service area, PDS or Snohomish County Health Department will refer the project proponent to the utility to consider use of public water service. **Acceptance of service is totally optional to the building permit applicant,** even if the utility is willing to provide service. **The purpose of the referral is to assure that the applicant has considered the merits of public water service as opposed to a private supply.**

Q: Must a single family home builder accept the terms of service of the designated water utility?

A: No, the CWSP provides that service must be provided in a timely and reasonable manner. **If the single family home builder and utility disagree on the conditions of service, the single family home builder has the option of drilling a well.** The Snohomish County Health Department should be contacted regarding any request for private water supply.

Q: Would you be provided service by water purveyors extending water lines?

A: Not necessarily. **Extension of existing water lines is generally preferable.** However, if the proposed single family residence is distant from the current facilities, a “remote” system may be developed. This could be a well system that is separate from the primary system but may be interconnected at a future date.

NOTE: If this concerns more than a single family residence or subdividing, please see Assistance [Bulletin #97](#).

This bulletin is intended only as an information guide. The information may not be complete and is subject to change. For complete information, refer to the current North Snohomish County Coordinated Water System Plan.