

Guidance for Individual Well Applications and Permit Life for Water Adequacy

Code references: Environmental Health Code, Chapter 2, Section 6; and Chapter 3, Section 5. A.

Chapter 3, Section 5. A.

Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department may establish guidance documents and/or templates that provide the criteria for the approval, operation and maintenance of public water systems and wells, and wells serving a single residence (individual wells). All applications subject to this Chapter shall expire 3 years from date of submittal.

Residential property development applications that require Health Department review and approval of onsite septic systems can often exceed the 3-year period for well site applications. In order to align site development requirements with onsite applications applicants must satisfy the water adequacy requirements outlined in Chapters 2 and 3 of the Environmental Health Code.

Use the following scenarios to determine what steps you need to take:

Well application expires prior to drilling a well (3 years after application date).

- To renew: Submit a new application, fee, updated critical area review stamps, and get a site visit.

Well was drilled under original application, but application expired before finalizing permit (samples not submitted, water quality issues, etc.).

- To renew/finalize original permit: Submit renewal application and fee with required documentation to finalize the well permit.

Well was drilled and finalized under the original application (stand-alone individual well application).

- Approval is valid for 3 years after the final approval date for water adequacy purposes, but not to exceed a total of 5 years from original application date.
- For example, individual well received final approval on Jan. 1, 2010, and applicant submits remodel application on Jan. 1, 2012 for addition of a garage. Water approval is still valid, and you don't need an additional review. However, if you submit the application on Jan. 2, 2013, current application requirements and fees apply for review.

Well was drilled and finalized under the original application (submitted with onsite design application at same time).

- This approval is valid to demonstrate water adequacy requirements for the life of the onsite application (which can be renewed for a total of 5 years from the original application date). Approval should not exceed 5 years from original application date. If a new onsite application is received (not a renewal), then we require new well site inspection and testing.

Questions? Contact us at (253) 649-1420 or ehdrinkingwater@tpchd.org.