



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF DRINKING WATER

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June 29, 2023

Greetings Honorable Tribal Leaders and Tribal Partners:

SUBJECT: Transfer of public water systems within boundaries of tribal lands from Washington State Department of Health to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Water Division under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In accordance with chapter [43.376 RCW](#), the [Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989](#), and [DOH Consultation and Collaboration Procedure](#), we are writing to inform you the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) at the Washington State Department of Health is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 (EPA) Water Division to initiate the transfer of oversight of public water systems (list enclosed) located entirely within tribal reservation boundaries.

EPA has sole authority for oversight of these water systems under the Safe Drinking Water Act. ODW and EPA developed a phased implementation process. In April 2023, two water systems were transferred to EPA within the Yakama Nation Tribal boundary. The next steps will include small batches of public water systems to accomplish the transfer of all public water systems within the boundaries of tribal lands within Washington State. The ongoing transfer of public water systems entirely within the boundaries of tribal lands will take multiple years to complete.

ODW will continue to communicate ahead of each phase of this transfer. We will send letters including detailed lists of water systems to each impacted tribe and the water system owners/operators based on the locational and contact information we have. These letters will be sent a minimum of 30 days before the transfer and will be copied to EPA. Such letters will provide additional information and consultation opportunities to the tribes impacted by each phase of this effort.

For more information, please contact ODW Office Director, Holly Myers at (564) 200-2493 or holly.myers@doh.wa.gov. Please contact Candice Wilson, our agency's Tribal Relations contact by email at: candice.wilson@doh.wa.gov if you have tribal affairs related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly Myers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Holly" being more prominent than the last name "Myers".

Holly Myers

Director, Office of Drinking Water
Washington State Department of Health

cc: Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Secretary of Health, Department of Health
Candice Wilson, Quatz'tenaut (Lummi), Tribal Policy Director, Department of Health
Jessica Todorovich, Chief of Staff, Department of Health
Kristin Peterson, Chief of Policy, Planning & Evaluation, Department of Health
Elizabeth Perez, Chief of Public Affairs and Equity, Department of Health
Kristopher Holiday, Chief of Strategic Partnerships, Department of Health
Lacy Fehrenbach, Chief of Prevention, Safety and Health, Department of Health
Lauren Jenks, Assistant Secretary of Environmental Public Health Division, Department of Health