



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY
PO Box 47824 Olympia, Washington 98504-7825

October 3, 2024

RE: TEMPORARY WORKER HOUSING (TWH) SITES CONNECTED TO A PRIVATE WELL

Dear TWH operators, growers, agents and grower representatives,

Operators of temporary agricultural worker housing sites must provide housing with an adequate and convenient water supply approved by the appropriate health authority for drinking, cooking, bathing, and laundry purposes per [29 CFR 1910.142\(c\)\(1\)](#). Additionally, [WAC 296-307-16130\(1\)](#) and [WAC 246-358-055\(1\)](#) require all operators of TWH for agricultural workers to provide safe and reliable drinking water for their employees from an approved Group A or Group B public water system (PWS).

If you received this notice, it indicates our records show your TWH site(s) is connected to a private well, which is not in compliance as an approved water supply. If our water supply information is inaccurate, please email a copy of your PWS approval letter or permit from your local health jurisdiction (LHJ) or Washington Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (ODW) with the PWS identification number and PWS name to housing@doh.wa.gov.

What if our TWH is on a private water supply?

A TWH site(s) connected to a private well will need to obtain water supply approval from your LHJ or ODW.

Can we still get a TWH license?

To continue renewing your DOH-TWH license or to submit a new TWH application for your site(s), you must complete the following steps until the TWH meets the [WAC 296-307-16130\(1\)](#) and [WAC 246-358-055\(1\)](#) requirement:

1. Submit a variance application to Washington Department of Labor & Industries (LNI) for each site. The variance application(s) must include:

- a. Recent satisfactory water sample results from an accredited testing laboratory for coliform and nitrate levels.
- b. Evidence of submission of PWS application to your LHJ or ODW.

2. Submit satisfactory water sample results for nitrates and coliform to housing@doh.wa.gov.

The variance application must be approved by LNI before renewing your TWH license or submitting a new TWH license application for your site(s). TWH renewals or applications will not be processed until the above steps are completed. If you already submitted your LNI variance application and it was approved, please email the LNI variance approval letter to housing@doh.wa.gov.

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The TWH program will continue to renew your annual TWH license if the TWH operator or owner provides proof, documentation, or correspondence indicating there is ongoing effort to obtain your PWS approval from your LHJ or ODW jurisdiction. Such effort may include but is not limited to updates from your LHJ or ODW concerning your Group A or Group B PWS application status; or emails indicating review status from contracted engineers or other parties. Failure to provide updates, or progress may delay or deny the DOH-TWH license renewal for the following season(s).

What if we have questions:

If you have questions regarding your water system, who has jurisdiction, and/or how to apply for approval as a Group A or Group B PWS, please contact your LHJ or ODW. [See enclosure for list and links to all LHJs and ODW contacts.](#)

If you have questions regarding the LNI variance application or review process, please email Doug Hartfield at douglas.hartfield@lni.wa.gov or call 360-770-5724. [See enclosure for links to the LNI variance application and LNI variance website.](#)

If you have questions regarding your TWH license, review status or [Chapter 246-358 WAC](#) requirements with DOH, please email housing@doh.wa.gov or call 360-236-3393.

Sincerely,

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

Gerald Caird
Lodging Program Supervisor

Enclosure