

Drinking Water and Wastewater Projects Plans and Specifications Review

The Division of Municipal Facilities is responsible for approval, prior to construction, of drinking water and wastewater projects in North Dakota for new public water systems (PWSs) and any additions/modifications to the facilities of existing PWSs. ([NDAC 33.1-17-01-17](#) and [NDAC 33.1-03-08](#))

A PWS is a water system which has at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year. This includes any publicly- or privately-owned system that serves or may serve this number of people. Systems serving less than 25 people must still comply with applicable local and other state requirements.

However, systems that meet the above criteria AND all the following criteria do not have to register as a public water system ([NDAC 33.1-17-01-03](#)):

- Consists only of distribution and storage facilities and does not have any collection and treatment facilities;
- Obtains all of its water from, but is not owned or operated by, a public water system to which these regulations apply;
- Does not sell water to any person; and
- Is not a carrier which conveys passengers in interstate commerce.

These facilities must still have plans and specifications reviewed by the Division of Municipal Facilities.

Drinking water projects

The following drinking water projects require plans and specifications review:

- Surface water intakes
- Groundwater wells
- Raw and finished water transmission pipelines
- New watermains
- Replacing existing watermains
- Watermain extensions
- Fire hydrants
- Pump stations

- Booster pumps
- Water storage tanks, including rehabilitation
- Water treatment plants, including rehabilitation
- A change or addition of a water treatment process

The following drinking water projects do not require plans and specifications review:

- Installation of a service line* running directly to an existing watermain
- Pipeline leak repair
- Routine repair of a system component or replacement with the same material, type, size, and rated capacity in accordance with the approved original construction specifications (fire hydrants, valves, fittings, pressure regulators, meters, backflow prevention assemblies, and booster pumps)

Wastewater projects

The following wastewater projects require plans and specifications review:

- New sanitary sewer mains
- Replacing existing sanitary sewer mains
- Lining existing sanitary sewer mains
- Sanitary sewer main extensions
- Lift stations
- Treatment facilities
- A change or addition of a wastewater treatment process
- Onsite wastewater treatment systems (commonly known as septic systems) with wastewater flows of 2,500 gallons per day or greater.

The following wastewater projects do not require plans and specifications review:

- Installation of an individual service line* running directly from a single structure to an existing sanitary sewer main.
- Repairing a broken pipe by replacing a portion of the pipe
- Routine repair of a system component or replacement with the same type, size, and rated capacity in accordance with the approved original construction specifications (manholes, pumps, screens, aeration diffusers, blowers, valves, actuators, filter media, lamp bulbs, ballasts, switches, fittings, elements, electrical panels, control panels, and motors).

* A service line connects a single structure to the watermain/sanitary sewer main.