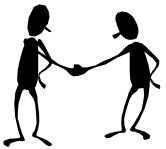




1. Sounds like red tape... What is the benefit of a Construction Permit?

- **Benefits for Water System Owner/Operator**

- **FREE** review by Professional Engineer for human health risk assessment and compliance with provincial legislation and *Northern Health* policies
 - peace of mind
 - reduced risk of adverse results
 - reduced liability exposure
- no cost to water system
- hazard rating of facility not raised.



- **Benefits for Northern Health**

- legal obligation to protect public as administrator and statutory decision-maker under *Drinking Water Protection Act*
- our public health mission: *to protect the health of Northern communities through education and inspection strategies designed to reduce health risks to the public*
- promote compliance with legislation and policies
- consistency across Northern BC.



2. Where does it say that I have to have a Construction Permit?

- It's the law.
 - *Drinking Water Protection Act s7(2)(a); Drinking Water Protection Regulation s6*
- www.bclaws.ca → Laws or Statutes and Regulations → click on **D**



7 (2) A person

(a) must not undertake activities in relation to the **construction, installation, alteration or extension** of a water supply system, or works, facilities or equipment that are intended to be part of a water supply system. unless a **construction permit** for this has been issued, and

(b) must not undertake those activities except

(i) in accordance with the plans approved, and

(ii) in accordance with the terms and conditions of the construction permit.

(3) In addition to any other requirements established by the regulations, a person applying for a construction permit must submit, the results of any water quality analyses required by the issuing official or **drinking water officer**.

3. What happens if I choose not to follow the legislation?

- Northern Health's Progressive Enforcement Policy
- <http://iportal.northernhealth.ca/CorporateResources/policies/Pages/PolicyandProcedures.aspx>
- Public Health Protection → Progressive Enforcement – Environmental Health PHP 130
 - Verbal notice → Advice Letter / Warning Letter → Written Order / Ticket → Prosecution
 - Inspection and discussion with owner/operator after each step
 - Inspection Reports publicly posted to www.healthspace.ca/nha.



4. Where is all this really coming from?

- Walkerton, Ontario, May 2000 – 65 people hospitalised, 27 cases of HUS, 7 deaths
 - See *Safe Drinking Water: Lessons from Recent Outbreaks in Affluent Nations*, (Hrudey & Hrudey, 2004) for **69** other cases
 - Recurring Theme #4: *Trouble is preceded by change*
- O'Connor Inquiry findings:
 - poor well site and construction; no disinfection
 - operator negligence
 - **failure of regulatory oversight**
 - ➔ BC *Drinking Water Protection Act* (2001)
 - ➔ BC *Drinking Water Protection Regulation* (2003) !!

