TCEQ REGULATORY GUIDANCE
Program Support and Environmental Assistance Division
RG-501 • Revised March 2026

Managing Small Public Water Systems: Introduction

Introduction

This publication is an overview of a five-part guidance series titled Managing Small Public Water Systems[1] (RG-501). The information in this series is not a substitute for the rules, which can be found in Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (30 TAC).[2]

How can I use this series?

This guidance series is meant to help you understand and follow the rules, and develop tools to manage and operate public water systems (PWSs). You will also find worksheets and tables to help you with recordkeeping at your PWS.

Any person involved in the management or operation of a small PWS can benefit from using this series, including:

- board members
- owners
- council members
- system managers
- system operators

How is this series organized?

This series is divided into five separate modules.

Part A. Asset Management (RG-501a)

Includes worksheets and instructions to help you conduct an inventory of the water system's resources. Creating an inventory will help you prioritize repairs and replacements, plan for future needs, and develop a budget.

1. www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/managing-small-public-water-systems-rg-501
2. www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/view-30tac

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Part B. Source Assessment and Planning (RG-501b)

Explains how to identify your PWS's source and develop best management practices for sustaining it. Part B also discusses how to find options for alternative sources and plan for the future.

Part C. Operation and Maintenance (RG-501c)

Provides worksheets to help you create your own operation and maintenance manual for your PWS, and outlines a program for scheduling and performing preventive and general maintenance.

Part D. Compliance (RG-501d)

Describes how to prepare for an investigation and the enforcement process. There are examples of enforcement scenarios and violations that can lead to enforcement and fines. Part D also provides tables that summarize the requirements for sampling, monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting.

Part E. Resources (RG-501e)

Includes resources that may help you create and implement your asset management plan and conduct everyday operations at your facility.

Where can I go for more help?

For one-on-one compliance assistance, contact the Small Business and Local Government Assistance (SBLGA)[3] program in one of the following ways:

- Find the nearest compliance assistance specialist in your local TCEQ regional office.[4]
- Call the SBLGA toll-free hotline at 800-447-2827.
- Email us at TexasEnviroHelp@tceq.texas.gov.

How can I find TCEQ publications?

TCEQ publications are available to order or download on the Forms and Publications[5] web page.

3. www.texasenvirohelp.org
4. www.tceq.texas.gov/downloads/publications/m/areas-regions-watermasters-m-70.pdf
5. www.tceq.texas.gov/publications