

Is POE/POU For You?

Points to Consider

- Your water systems needs and liability.
- Costs of POE/POU (capital and operational) versus centralized treatment.
- Equipment performance and NSF certification. Have the units been tested and validated by an accredited third party?
- Physical characteristics of the equipment.
- Space and access requirements.
- Installation, operational and maintenance costs and requirements for multiple units.
- Waste water disposal requirements for the units. How will you handle the wastes?
- Sampling requirements and costs. 100% of units must be regularly sampled.

What Water System Issues May Benefit from POE/POU?

- High irrigation usage but low domestic water demand.
- Fewer than 40 service connections with cost estimates POE/POU significantly cheaper than centralized treatment.
- Chronically elevated chemical parameters (such as arsenic).
- Space and land issues limiting the options of centralized treatment.

For more information, please contact your local health unit or visit:

www.interiorhealth.ca

or contact

Engineering Direct: 1 (855) 743-3550
or EngineeringDirect@interiorhealth.ca

Other resources to help you plan:

- “Guide Book: Planning and Implementation of Point-of-Entry and Point-of-Use Water Treatment Systems in British Columbia” at www.WaterBC.ca
- Water equipment suppliers and engineers



823533 Mar 20-12

Point-of-Entry & Point-of-Use ‘POE/POU’

Treatment Options for Small Water Systems



What Criteria Do You Need to Meet?



What Is POE/POU?

Point-of-Entry Treatment (POE)

A treatment device located at the point where drinking water enters the premises. POE ensures that all of the water entering the building is treated, providing increased health protection to users at every tap.

Point-of-Use Treatment (POU)

A treatment device located immediately before the point where drinking water is drawn for consumption, such as a kitchen tap. POU is not considered adequate treatment for bacteriological protection in residential applications.

Legislative Requirements

Small water systems (SWS) must deliver safe drinking water free of contaminants to their users. Options for improving water quality include centralized treatment, changing your source, POE or POU, or a combination of POE/POU and centralized treatment.

An exemption under the Drinking Water Protection Regulation (Section 3.1) allows installation of POE/POU provided every customer on the water system (100%) participates. Note: POE/POU is not acceptable for all water systems; consult with your drinking water officer prior to your application.

Exemption Guidance Criteria

It is the responsibility of the water supplier to show that they meet the exemption requirements to install POE or POU. The main criteria include:

1. Service and Access Agreements:

- Provide signed service and access agreements with 100% of the users agreeing to the installation and continuous use of the treatment units. Agreements must identify ownership and that users agree to grant access to the units for the purposes of maintenance, operations, and validation of continuous use. Agreements must show the water system as responsible for the provision of safe water.

2. Provide Safe Drinking Water:

- Collect and provide detailed information about your source water characteristics and the capability and design of the proposed treatment devices to provide safe drinking water.

3. Good Governance:

- Identify your governance structure. Ensure you have the oversight, decision making, financing, and enforcement ability in place to provide maintenance and validate all units are working properly.

Application Information

Your application for POE/POU must follow Interior Health's construction permit application process (available through Engineering Direct).

REMEMBER: You must apply for a construction permit and have approval from Interior Health BEFORE purchasing and installing any equipment or water works.

Information to include in your application:

1. Your proposal. Outline a short- and a long-term plan to provide potable water.
2. Source water and water system specifics. Include sampling data, a source-to-tap assessment, and a map of your water system.
3. Treatment device details. Include design specifications and certification information. (e.g. Is there NSF certification?)
4. Governance structure and oversight.
5. Copies of service and access agreements showing 100% participation.
6. An up-to-date Emergency Response Plan that includes appropriate responses for the proposed system changes.
7. Water system operator and training info.
8. A sampling and monitoring/validation plan. Outline how you will validate and monitor all units are working, and kept on with no bypasses once installed?