

HO-CHUNK NATION - UTILITIES DIVISION

QUALITY DRINKING WATER

FIRE PROTECTION

CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

Utility Division

Mission Statement

The Ho-Chunk Nation Utility Division provides safe and reliable drinking water to customers, programs and enterprises served by public water systems. We strive to accomplish this goal with a minimum number of service interruptions and customer complaints.

TITLE 3 – HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

SECTION 7 – WATER UTILITY ORDINANCE

**Water Utility Ordinance (3 HCC sec 7): enacted by
Legislature on December 7, 2005. (Supercedes Utilities
Ordinance of 11-3-98)**

**Provides for proper authority, jurisdiction and
guidance for the operation of all Ho-Chunk Nation
owned Public Water Systems.**

**Includes policies for water billing and enforcement,
water fluoridation, Cross Connection Control and other
important programs.**

REGULATORY AGENCIES

WI DNR:

Monitors and regulates HCG–WI Dells and Neenk Chunk Gra Headstart water systems. Due to source water wells being located on non–trust property.

US EPA:

Monitors and regulates all other water systems. Due to source water wells being located on Tribal Trust Property.

SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

▶ Congress enacted in 1974

Authorizes EPA to establish minimum standards to protect drinking water.

- ❖ Has been amended several times since inception to expand the number of regulated contaminants in drinking water.
- ❖ States can be approved to implement these rules for EPA, and can attain secondary standards also. (Wisconsin Administrative Codes)
- ❖ Extensive act, includes many laws covering all aspects of public drinking water supply, including:
 - ❑ Source Water Protection
 - ❑ Capacity Development
 - ❑ Operator Certification
 - ❑ Consumer Awareness/Public Notification
- ❑ Regulatory Program (drinking water contaminant standards/regulations)
 - ❑ Grant Funding Programs (based on capacity and sanitary needs)

Water Service Application

▶ Residential Accounts

Customer must submit a Water Service Application with the HPW Utilities Division.

- ❖ One time \$25 connection fee required with application.
- ❖ Applies to any residential account with public water service, including HHEDA or Rental Management rentals, HOP recipients, fee simple homeowners, etc.. .
- ❖ Must agree to terms and collection enforcement policies.
- ❖ Not required to be enrolled Ho-Chunk tribal member.
- ❖ Per Cap Agreement is encouraged but not mandatory.
- ❖ Current charge is \$25 per month, flat rate.
- ❖ Meters one-inch or smaller get tested every ten years.

Program and Commercial Billing Accounts

- Utility desires as much advance notice as possible for new construction accounts so that water supply can be estimated and accounted for. Service application still required.
- Program accounts are charged \$25 per month, to reduce their operating costs.
- Commercial accounts are billed a rate of use charge based on amount of water used, in addition to a minimum base charge.
- Any water meters larger than one-inch in size must be purchased by the program or enterprise.
- Water meters two-inch or larger in size require more frequent testing, some as often as every two years. (This includes well monitoring meters.)

Cross Connection Control Program

Purpose: To reduce the risk of contamination or pollution of a public water system.

- ❖ Mandated in the Safe Drinking Water Act and Wisconsin Administrative Codes.
- ❖ Water Utility is responsible for monitoring and enforcing, policy is written into the Water Utility Ordinance.
- ❖ Residential program is mostly public education, WI DNR requires all residences to be inspected every ten years.
- ❖ Commercial or industrial buildings require complete inspections every two years.
- ❖ Many “backflow prevention valves” in commercial buildings require state registration and annual testing. Utility responsible for monitoring and keeping test records.

Fire Protection

- * Residents can contact Utility for information on hydrants and fire protection.
- * Living in a community with public water system capable of fire protection will lower homeowner's insurance premiums slightly.
 - * Currently Mission/Sandpillow, Cex' Ha Ci and Ho-Chunk Casino water systems are capable of fire protection.
- * In the future Ho-Chunk Village may be connected to HC Casino water supply for fire protection.
 - * Utility responsible for testing fire flows from hydrants.
- * Information is regularly provided to the Nation's liability insurance company, state auditors at gaming facilities, and other agencies upon request.

WATER SYSTEM POPULATION NUMBERS

System	Residents	Employees/Patrons	Total Population
Mission/Sandpillow	620	2,300	2,930
Cex' Ha Ci	91	1,400	1,491
WTC Tomah		1,069	1,069
Neenk Chunk Gra		25	25
Indian Heights	126		126
Ho-Chunk Che Nunk	102	8	110
Ho-Chunk Village	196	125	321
Ho-Chunk Casino		4,500	4,500
Combined Total	1,135	9,427	10,562

INFRASTRUCTURE STATISTICS – COMPARABLE

Infrastructure	Ho-Chunk Utilities	Black River Falls Utility
Water Systems	9	1
Groundwater Wells	18	4
Water Treatment Plants	8	2
Filter or Softening Plants	3	1
Water Towers or Tanks	8	3
Fire Hydrants	217	260
Main Sectional Valves	825	1500
Miles of Water Mains	20	22
Population	10,562	3,622 (2015)

Staff and Points of Contact

- ▶ Kevin Gunderson: Environmental Services Manager
- ▶ Steve Christopherson: Utility Coordinator, WI DNR Certified Operator in Charge
 - ▶ Cell: 608-387-9708
 - ▶ Office: 715-284-9851 ext. 35091

Aaron Strandberg: WI DNR Certified Operator

- ▶ David Gjerseth: WI DNR Certified Operator
- ▶ David Forsting: WI DNR Certified Operator