

Water Service Lines: 2026 Plan Review Changes

In 2025, the Minnesota Legislature amended Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.43, to authorize the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) to delegate plan review and inspection responsibilities to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for work performed by a well contractor or limited well/boring contractor, as defined under Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.46, subdivision 6. This delegation is scheduled to take effect by January 1, 2026. In the interim, plans for water service lines for public water systems must be submitted to both agencies.

Summary of Current Requirements

- Licensed well contractors are in the business of designing and installing water service lines, also referred to as the “building supply” in the Minnesota Plumbing Code.
- Plans for plumbing systems that serve the public, including water service lines, must be submitted to and approved by DLI for compliance with the Minnesota Plumbing Code. DLI also requires an inspection.
- Under Minnesota Statutes, section 326.02, subdivision 5 and section 326B.46, subdivision 6), DLI accepts water service line plans designed by licensed well contractors.
- MDH has authority to require and review plans for systems of water supply for public use.
- Minnesota law currently requires that plans for water service lines for public water systems must be submitted to and reviewed by both DLI and MDH.

Authority for water service lines

DLI Authority

The Minnesota Plumbing Code comprises the Uniform Plumbing Code, incorporated by reference at Minnesota Rules, part 4714.0050, and Minnesota-specific amendments codified in Minnesota Rules, chapter 4714. A water service line is also known as the “building supply,” and is defined at Minnesota Rules, part 4714.0204 as “the pipe carrying potable water from the municipal water supply or source of water supply to a building water meter, pressure tank, or other point of use or distribution on the lot.”

The term “building supply” is included in the definition of a plumbing system at Minnesota Rules, part 4714.0218. The Minnesota Plumbing Code includes material and installation requirements for building supplies, primarily in Minnesota Plumbing Code Chapter 6 Water Supply and Distribution.

DLI has authority to review plans of plumbing systems in the Building Code for any plumbing system that serves the public or any considerable number of persons, or that affects the public health in any manner, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.43 and Minnesota Rules, part 1300.0215. Under Minnesota Rules, part 1300.0215, DLI also has authority to inspect new

plumbing systems or existing plumbing systems that have been altered, extended, or repaired, and plumbing systems may not be covered until they have been inspected.

MDH Authority

MDH has authority to require and review plans for systems of water supply for public use under Minnesota Statutes, section 144.383 and Minnesota Rules, part 4720.0010. This authority includes the review of water service lines based on the definition of “public water system” in the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (40 CFR Section 141.2).

MDH also regulates the construction of wells. The Minnesota Well Code (Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103I and Minnesota Rules, chapter 4725) includes construction and material requirements for water service lines (Minnesota Rules, parts 4725.5150 and 4725.5250).

Co-authority for water service line plan review

The authorities in Minnesota Rules for plan review of water service lines are similar for MDH and DLI. However, while DLI reviews plans for any plumbing system that serves the public, MDH only reviews plans for facilities that meet the definition of a “public water system.”

Given the existing requirements under Minnesota law, and until the recently required delegation to MDH is in place (by January 1, 2026), both agencies must currently review plans for water service lines for public water systems. DLI also requires inspection of the water service line before it is covered.

For More Information

For information on DLI plan review and inspections, contact DLI Plumbing Plan Review and Inspections at 651-284-5063 or ims.bldplb.dli@state.mn.us, or visit [Plumbing | Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry](https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/plumbing) (<https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/get-licenses-and-permits/plumbing>)

For information on MDH plan review, contact the MDH Drinking Water Protection Noncommunity Public Water Supply Unit at Health.NoncommunityPlanreview@state.mn.us or visit [Plan Review for Noncommunity Water Systems - MN Dept. of Health \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/planreview/noncommunity.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/planreview/noncommunity.html>)

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-4600.