

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DRINKING WATER SECTION**

Guidance on the Activation of an Inactive Source of Supply

Effective Date: January 3, 2011

Purpose: This document is intended to clarify and outline the requirements of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) relative to the activation of an inactive public water system (PWS) source of supply. The document consolidates definitions from various regulations for active, active emergency and inactive sources. It also outline the requirements and procedures for the use of an inactive source of supply on an emergency basis.

Applicable Regulation: RCSA Section 19-13-B102(e)(7)(D)(ii); RCSA Section 19-13-B39; RCSA Section 25-32d;

Authority: The RCSA Section 19-13-B102(e)(7)(D)(ii) requires that samples for organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals, pesticides, herbicides and PCBs be collected after treatment, if any, at every entry point to the distribution system which is representative of each active source of supply. If a source is not active, it shall be tested when activated and subject to approval by the Department prior to being put into service.

In addition, the RCSA Section 19-13-B39 states that no water supply shall be used or rendered available for drinking and for other personal or domestic purposes unless such supply is of safe sanitary quality approved by the State Department of Public Health.

Definitions:

"Active source of supply", per the RCSA Section 19-13-B102(a)(2), means all springs, streams, watercourses, brooks, rivers, lakes, ponds, wells, or underground water from which water is taken on a regular or periodic basis for water supply purposes. Further, the RCSA Section 25-32d-1a(a)(2) defines an "Active source of supply" as an approved source of supply which meets state and federal water quality standards, with adequate Department approved treatment facilities as needed, or for which compliance schedules are in place. An active source is one that is permanently connected to the system and may include, but need not be limited to, a seasonal or standby source of supply that may be used intermittently or on a partial year basis.

"Emergency source," per the RCSA Section 25-32d-1a(a)(17), means a source of supply identified by the water company within its water supply emergency contingency plan for possible use at various stages of an emergency. An emergency source is not an active source and is not considered part of available water. An emergency source may be prohibited from use as a source of supply due to contractual limitations, lack of water quality monitoring, known or suspected water quality limitations, the need for additional treatment prior to use, or the absence of any required state and local approval.

"Inactive source of supply" means a source of supply that is not used or maintained as an active source of supply and the required water quality monitoring tests have not been taken during the time the well was out of operation. This does not include wells that are used intermittently or seasonally and have maintained compliance with the water quality monitoring and reporting requirements within the RCSA Section 19-13-B102. An Emergency source is also considered an inactive source of supply.

"Seasonal source of supply" means an active source of supply that is not used year round. It is activated during certain periods of high water demand. Regular water quality testing as prescribed in RCSA Section 19-13-B102 must be conducted for any partial or complete monitoring period that the source is active in order for the source to be considered seasonal.

Guidelines: Prior to activating any inactive source of supply a PWS should contact the Drinking Water Section (DWS) to obtain approval to operate the source of supply within applicable regulatory requirements. This guideline applies only to sources of supply that are registered on the DWS PWS inventory of facilities. All other

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sources must proceed through the Well Site Suitability Certification, Well Water Quality and Quantity and Well Use approval processes. A PWS with intentions of activating an inactive source of supply must submit the following information to the DWS for review and approval:

- General Application Form
- Sample results for organic chemicals, inorganic chemicals, pesticides, herbicides and PCBs (Transient Non-Community PWSs are only required to submit nitrate, nitrite and organic chemical sample results.)
- Yield and production data including the most recent well yield test, well pump capacity or an up-to-date safe yield analysis for a surface water source of supply. Yield test and safe yield analysis information must be current within a five year period.

The DWS will evaluate the preceding information relative to compliance with the RCSA Section 19-13-B102, Section 19-13-B51 and Section 19-13-B32. The source of supply should have been included in the most recent sanitary survey and evaluated based on these regulatory sections as well as, included in the PWS most recent Water Supply Plan, where applicable. However, if the source of supply was not included in the most recent survey, the DWS must complete an evaluation of the source of supply for compliance status with these regulatory sections. Surface water sources of supply must also have a current watershed inspection survey completed per the RCSA Section 19-13-B102(b) and be current within a two year period.

The DWS will provide documentation, in writing, to the PWS as to the results of the review. The PWS is required to gain Department approval prior to activating the source of supply.

Emergency Situations: A PWS is still required, per the RCSA Section 19-13-B102(e)(7)(D)(ii), to gain the Department's approval prior to activating an inactive source of supply in an emergency situation. An inactive source of supply can be activated with satisfactory raw water total coliform, physical, nitrate and nitrite water quality results. The remaining water quality sample results must be pending at the time of activation, meaning that samples have been collected, submitted to a certified laboratory and the sample analysis is being completed. The Department should be notified immediately of the emergency to seek approval for the activation of the well. The Department will provide documentation, in writing, to the PWS with the approval to operate and the conditions in which the source of supply shall be operated.

However, if the source of supply is not in compliance with the water quality standards and treatment requirements within RCSA Section 19-13-B102 or the source water protection provisions within the RCSA Section 19-13-B102(b), Section 19-13-B51 or Section 19-13-B32 additional provisions must be implemented to protect public health. These additional provisions shall be based on the [Interim Measures Standard Operating Procedure](#) but more than likely will require a boil water notice to all consumers. Similar measures will also be required for a source of supply that is not approved by the Department under RCSA Section 19-13-B51 or the RCSA Section 19-13-B37. In these cases, an emergency declaration issued by the Commissioner of the Department under the Connecticut General Statutes Section 25-32b is required to legally operate the source of supply. Such an emergency declaration would be coupled with an order outlining the conditions in which a source of supply may be utilized.

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