

Connecticut H₂O Operator

A Newsletter for Certified Operators

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section

Volume 3 Issue 3

October 2007

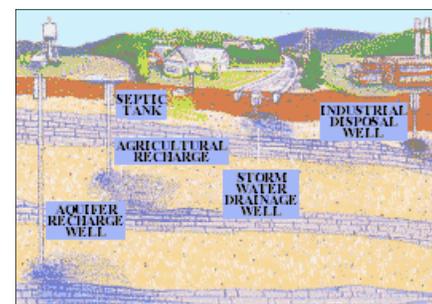
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Are Your Drinking Water Sources Ready for the Ground Water Rule?

By Jennifer Pagach, Environmental Analyst 2, Source Water Protection/Planning Unit

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed the Ground Water Rule (GWR) to provide for increased protection against microbial pathogens in public water systems (PWS) that use groundwater sources. Instead of requiring disinfection, the GWR establishes a risk-targeted approach for ground water systems that are susceptible to fecal contamination and requires systems that are at risk of fecal contamination to take corrective action to reduce potential cases of illness and death from exposure to waterborne microbial pathogens. The compliance date for all PWS for rule requirements is December 1, 2009.



While all the details of the GWR are not finalized, there are many steps that systems with groundwater sources should take to start getting their sources ready for the rule. The Source Water Protection/Planning Unit suggests operators work with system owners on the following key source issues now to plan for compliance:

- **Keep informed by regularly checking the web:** The EPA has a website, <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/disinfection/gwr/regulation.html>, where you can find links to the Rule and fact sheets. The Drinking Water Section (DWS) has started a GWR section on their webpage where new information will be updated as necessary.
- **Perform a GWR compliance survey:** Does each groundwater source have a raw sampling tap? Are their current water quality issues and if so where are the contaminants entering? Are there point source or non-point source concerns? These are some of the system and compliance issues to look at now. AWWA has developed a survey document to help utilities assess compliance located at <http://www.awwa.org/Resources/Content.cfm?ItemNumber=29834&navItemNumber=29432>. EPA has developed a compliance help page, and specifically released “Complying with the Ground Water Rule: Small Entity Compliance Guide” at the following link: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/gwr/compliancehelp.html>
- **Check the source:** Does the system have ownership and control of the wellhead area? Are there any possible fecal contaminants in the vicinity now, and could there be in the future? If the system needed a new source, is there room on the existing property? Now is the time to look into land acquisition or sanitary easements to protect the system source.
- **Don’t be afraid to ask:** Please contact the Source Water Protection/Planning Unit if you have questions or concerns about how GWR might affect your system(s) sources. The DWS is here to assist you in protecting public health.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Keeping Connecticut Healthy
www.dph.state.ct.us
Governor M. Jodi Rell
Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H.

To Report a Water-Related Emergency...

CALL (860) 509-7333

(M-F 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.)

OR...

CALL (860) 509-8000

(After Hours)





COMING SOON: The Connecticut Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CtWARN)

By: Rachel Nowek, Health Program Associate, Programs Unit

The Connecticut Section of the American Water Works Association has been developing a Connecticut Water/ Wastewater Agency Response Network (CtWARN). The CtWARN is a network comprised of utilities providing assistance to one another in the form of personnel and resources during emergencies by means of a pre-drafted mutual aid agreement. As a result, the CtWARN will provide for increased planning, coordination and enhanced access to specialized resources to enable rapid, short-term deployment of emergency services to restore critical operations of the affected utility. The Connecticut Department of Public Health has participated through its Drinking Water Section (DWS) with Connecticut's Drinking Water Industry in this initiative. Other members of the CtWARN Steering Committee include Aquarion Water Company of CT, Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Association, Birmingham Utilities, Capitol Region Council of Governments, Connecticut Water Company, CT Dept. of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, CT Dept. of Environmental Protection, CT Dept. of Public Utility Control, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation, Middletown Water Department, New England Water Environment Association, Portland Water Company, South Central CT Regional Water Authority, Southington Water Department and the Metropolitan District.

The CtWARN's mission is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual assistance matters for public and private water and wastewater utilities. Through this Mutual Aid and Assistance Program, members coordinate response activities and share resources during emergency events. The Agreement sets forth the procedures and standards for the administration of the Connecticut Intrastate Mutual Aid and Assistance Program.

The CtWARN supports a major National Water Sector-Specific Plan (SSP) goal of maintaining a resilient infrastructure. The development of this water and wastewater mutual aid program will further enhance security and resiliency of the Water Sector, which has been designated as one of the national critical infrastructures and a key resource.

The CtWARN website, www.ctwarn.org, will be up and running very soon. Visit the website to get more information on the CtWARN and find out how your public water system can become a member.

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) Statute Changes

By: Sara Ramsbottom, P.E., Sanitary Engineer 2, Capacity Review & Standards Unit

Are you involved in the construction of a new public water system (PWS) or expansion of an existing PWS? During the 2007 legislative session, changes and additions were made to Connecticut General Statute (CGS) Section 16-262m regarding the construction and expansion of PWS's in the State of Connecticut. These changes became effective on October 1, 2007. The most significant change is that there is now language specific to non-residential systems. The following is a summary of the major changes.

- o Municipalities are no longer exempted from evaluating feasible interconnections with existing water systems and duplicating water service in their towns/cities.
- o New language incorporates the Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) statutes.
- o For residential projects, new language requires an ownership agreement between the applicant and Exclusive Service Area (ESA) provider to be submitted in the initial Phase I-A application.
- o DPH will be the only State agency reviewing non-residential system projects.
- o Authorizes DPH to adopt regulations specifically for the design and construction of non-residential systems.
- o Removes the \$100 application fee for non-residential projects.

In general, the information that must be submitted for the review of non-residential CPCN projects will remain the same. Applicants should continue to use the available forms for the submittal of projects. Updated versions of the Non-Community (non-residential) CPCN application forms to reflect the new law will be available soon on the Drinking Water Section's website, <http://www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp>. We will also be working with the Department of Public Utility Control in making necessary updates to the Community (residential) CPCN application forms. If you have any questions, please contact Sara Ramsbottom at 860-509-7333.

Operator Workforce Development

By: Robert W. Rivard, P.E., Supervising Sanitary Engineer, Operator Certification Program

This article is to make operators aware of the need to develop the future operator workforce and the efforts that are being undertaken by the Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section (DWS) in this area. Certified operators are the front line in maintaining the purity and adequacy of the state's public drinking water. A well-trained, committed and ethical operator workforce, working to assure regulatory compliance, is essential for the continuity of operation, security, and safety of our public drinking water systems.

The nation is facing a major shortage in the workforce due to the large number of workers that are approaching retirement age. Estimates show that 40% of the water and wastewater utility workforce will be eligible to retire in the next five years. A survey by the American Water Works Association (AWWA) indicates that this shortage is being compounded by the increasing demands of new rules and technologies and a lack of new workers in the water industry.

As a step to address this shortage, the DWS partnered with the CT Section - AWWA to host a free forum on May 8, 2007. The forum provided an introduction to career opportunities within the drinking water field to high school guidance counselors, educators, and students. The forum included presentations, an exhibitor area, and an awards presentation. There were approximately 100 attendees. This year, the *Careers in Drinking Water* forum is being held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008 at The Farmington Club in Farmington, CT. Additional information and registration details will be available soon on the DWS webpage.

The DWS is considering several other elements as part of an overall workforce development strategy. These elements include participating on national, regional and state groups involved in workforce development, staffing booths at work fairs, and partnering with technical schools and job training agencies.

If you would like to offer any input or assistance on this issue, please contact Bill Sullivan at (860) 509-7333 or William.Sullivan@ct.gov.



Picture Quiz

Question:

Is this dug well watertight to a depth of 10 feet as required by the Public Health Code?



Answer:
The roots (what looks like hay or spaghetti in the photograph) in the middle of the photo are evidence that it is not. The roots are penetrating the dug well through the joint between the concrete tiles.
In relevant part, Section 19-13-B51f (b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) states:
"The casing or side walls of a dug well shall be constructed of watertight concrete at least four inches thick to a depth of at least ten feet below the ground surface. Below the depth of the watertight casing, loosely laid stone, concrete block, brick or other materials approved by the commissioner of health may be used."
Additional photographs of this dug well also indicate that the side walls are not four inches thick. Dug wells 19-13-B51f (b). rarely meet the criteria specified in RCSA Section

Fluoride Additives Supply Update



By: Carissa Madonna, Sanitary Engineer 2, Monitoring, Reporting, and Enforcement Unit

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the following update on fluoride additives. Many Public Water Systems (PWSs) have experienced fluorosilicic acid (FSA) delivery disruptions. These shortages are regional in nature, but will likely improve later in the year. At this time, the disruptions in the supply of FSA are not expected to have a negative effect on the supplies of sodium fluoride or sodium fluorosilicate. PWSs are advised they may experience supply limitations and unreliable delivery of FSA. A PWS can minimize supply disruptions by:

1. Placing orders early.
2. Checking the inventory of product available within a facility so orders can be placed in a timely fashion.

Regular calibration of the metering pumps ensures that sufficient solution is delivered within the optimal range. PWSs should notify the Drinking Water Section (DWS) if their supply of fluoride will last for 2 weeks or less. The Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 19-13-B102(e)(7)(L) requires PWSs that add fluoride to maintain a monthly average between 0.8 mg/l and 1.2 mg/l. The DWS recommends PWSs that have less than a three-month fluoride supply onsite to reduce their dosage rate. Maintain a minimum daily average of 0.8 mg/l, and maintain a monthly average that minimally exceeds the 0.8 mg/l requirement until their supply has been replenished.

Failure to maintain a fluoride monthly average between 0.8 mg/l and 1.2 mg/l will result in a treatment technique violation. This violation requires a Tier 2 notice. In accordance with RCSA Section 19-13-B102(i), a public notice must be provided to a PWSs customers as soon as practical, but no later than thirty (30) days after the PWS learns of the violation. For more information, click on http://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/fact_sheets/shortages_faq.htm.

Training Registration Information



All training registrations must be completed on the Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN). TRAIN is a training resource for professionals who protect the public's health. Visit the TRAIN web page, <https://ct.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx> to create a free user account and view upcoming certified operator events.

Be sure to check out the DWS's web page, <http://www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp>, for the latest information on:

This newsletter was prepared by the DWS's Operator Certification Unit and Programs Unit. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Vicky Carrier or another OCP staff person listed below.

- Robert Rivard, P.E.- Supervising Sanitary Engineer- Program Supervisor
- William Sullivan - Sanitary Engineer 2- Operator Certification, Cross Connection Control
- Joseph Higgins - Sanitary Engineer 1- Cross Connection Control
- Oluseye Akinkunmi - Environmental Analyst 1- Operator Certification
- Carol Martin - Office Assistant

State of Connecticut
Department of Public Health
Regulatory Services Branch
Drinking Water Section
410 Capitol Avenue- MS #51WAT
P. O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
Phone: 860-509-7333
Emergency After-hours: 860-509-8000
Fax: 860-509-7359
<http://www.ct.gov/dph/site/default.asp>

