

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



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Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2019-07

To: Public Water Systems

From: Lori J. Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section 

Date: March 13, 2019

Subject: Seasonal System Start-up Requirements

The Revised Total Coliform Rule (RTCR) requires seasonal public water systems to complete a start-up procedure prior to serving the public at the beginning of each operating season. A seasonal system is a non-community water system that is not operated as a public water system on a year-round basis and starts up at the beginning and shuts down by depressurizing and dewatering all or a portion of its distribution system at the end of each operating season (i.e. private campgrounds, state parks). The Department has developed guidelines that provide detailed information on the minimum elements that are required in a seasonal system's start-up procedure and on how to conduct an inspection of a seasonal water system. The guidelines are available on the Drinking Water Section's RTCR webpage at: <http://www.portal.ct.gov/DPH/Drinking-Water/DWS/Revised-Total-Coliform-Rule-RTCR>.

After the start-up procedures are complete, seasonal systems must complete and submit the RTCR Seasonal Start-Up Certification to the Department verifying that the start-up procedures were completed. Please send the completed form to DWDcompliance@ct.gov. **The system shall not serve water to the public until the start-up procedure have been completed and the certification has been filed with the Department and all microbiological samples are total coliform-negative and the results for nitrate and nitrite do not exceed the maximum contaminant levels of 10 mg/L and 1 mg/L, respectively.**

The start-up procedure shall include, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- Physical inspection of all sources of supply, pump houses, storage tanks, and completion of necessary repairs;
- Cleaning and disinfection of all storage facilities, including all chlorine contact chambers and storage tanks;
- Shock disinfection of all ground water sources and the distribution system;
- Flushing of the distribution system;
- Sampling and testing of the water for total coliform bacteria and nitrate and nitrite. **Seasonal public water systems shall not serve water to the public until all microbiological samples are total coliform-negative and the results for nitrate and nitrite are not exceeding the maximum contaminant levels of 10 mg/L and 1 mg/L, respectively.**

Please note that an individual mailing including the [Seasonal Start-Up Certification Form](#), [Seasonal Start-Up Guidelines](#) and [Instructions](#) will be sent to seasonal public water systems. If you have any additional questions regarding the Seasonal System Start-up Requirements, please contact Brian Liu at (860) 509-7333.

cc: Local Health Directors
Certified Operators



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