

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
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Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter 2018-11

TO: Community Water Systems Serving More Than 1000 Persons

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section 

DATE: May 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Water Distribution System Requirements

The Department wants to bring to your attention certain regulatory requirements that are intended to ensure that your water distribution system is well serviced, maintained and managed to deliver safe and adequate drinking water to all customers within your service area.

- Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) Section 19-13-B102(q): Essential water supply valves shall be maintained in operating conditions
- RCSA Sec.19-13-B102(p): Pipes shall be maintained to provide flows in excess of the maximum flows experienced in the community water system, and in individual service zones within integrated systems.
- RCSA Sec.19-13-B102(s): A program to reduce the amount of water which cannot be accounted for, shall include a schedule of implementation and consideration of the following elements:
 - Calibration of supply and main line meters, calibration of consumers' meters, pipeline flow measurements, leakage surveys, and inspection of bleeders.
- RCSA Sec.19-13-B102(l)(1)(E): Accurate and up-to-date maps and records showing the location of all mains, valves, hydrants, service connections, and other facilities including pumps, tanks and treatment plants shall be maintained for each community water system.
- RCSA Sec. 19-13-B102(f)(6): An annual distribution system flushing program shall be conducted to maintain the distribution system free from excessive accumulation of sediment, organic growths, products of corrosion and erosion, and other extraneous matter.
- RCSA Sec. 19-13-B102(f)(3): Each public water system which serves water to any of the consumer premises listed in subdivision (2)(a) of this subsection shall have those premises inspected for cross connections by a person who has met the requirements of section 25-32-11(h) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.



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- RCSA Sec. 19-13-B102(f)(1): All service connections shall have a water pressure at the main of at least 25 psi under normal conditions. Where pressure is normally less than 25 psi, special provision as approved by the department, shall be made to furnish adequate service to the consumer
- RCSA Sec. 19-13-B102(f)(5): All atmospheric finished water storage tanks, basins and clearwells shall be inspected at a minimum of once every ten years for sanitary conditions and structural integrity, and shall be adequately protected from contamination.

In light of these regulations, we request that you revisit your practices and programs to ensure the following:

1. Your distribution map is updated to show the location of all mains, valves, hydrants, booster stations, and service connections. In addition, include on the map the location of all health care facilities and other priority customers.
2. The hydraulic model of your system is updated and calibrated and your engineering and operation staffs are familiar with it
3. All your valves are exercised to ensure that they are in good operating conditions and establish a procedure to repair or replace a malfunctioning valve with minimum disruption to the customers. Priority should be given to valves in the area of a critical health care facility such as the hospital.
4. Locate all consumer premises within your service area that own or operate a water storage tank for other than residential use, such as cooling towers, and ensure that adequate backflow prevention devices as required per RCSA Sec. 19-13-B38a are provided and tested.
5. The distribution system (i.e. mains, valves and pumps) are maintained and upgraded as necessary to ensure a minimum water pressure of 25 psi at all service connections.
6. The distribution system mains and pipes are flushed routinely to maintain them free from excessive accumulation of sediment, organic growths, products of corrosion and erosion, and other extraneous matter
7. The finished water tanks are inspected, adequately maintained and operated to prevent water contamination and bacterial regrowth

A report of your efforts or your progress in response to this request should be filed with the Department by June 29, 2018. Please note that studies, modeling, mapping, designing, planning, repairs, replacement, and construction of any part of the water distribution system are eligible costs under DWSRF, and water companies are strongly encouraged to use this low interest loan fund to shore up and improve the distribution system infrastructure.

Any questions about this request can be directed to Michael Hage of this office at:

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Cc: Deputy Commissioner Addo
Local Health Directors