

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
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Lt. Governor

DWS Circular Letter #2015-01

TO: Community Public Water Systems, Related State Agencies, Regional Planning Organizations

FROM: Lori Mathieu, Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section *L. Mathieu*

DATE: January 26, 2015

RE: 2014 Update - Commissioner of Public Health's High Quality Source (HQS) List /Call for New Sources and Improved Geographical Location Data for the 2015 HQS List Update

Connecticut General Statute (CGS) section 25-33q requires that *"the Commissioner of Public Health shall prepare a list designating sources or potential sources of water that require protection so that the highest quality waters are available to provide water for human consumption ... and update the list"*. The legislation's intent and the purpose of the High Quality Source (HQS) List are to designate existing public water supply sources and potential future public water supply sources that require protection to ensure that the highest quality source waters are available for human consumption now and into the future. The 2014 update to the HQS list designates the current status of existing sources, identified potential future sources, current and planned public water system interconnections, associated regulatory permits, and source related drinking water projects. Two new sources; Plant's Dam well for the East Lyme Water Department and Haley Brook diversion at Saffomilla site for Groton Utilities were added to the list http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/excel/High_Quality_Source_List.xls which is available on the Department's website.

The DPH will be compiling and reviewing technical data for the 2015 update to the HQS List. The DPH must consider current and potential future sources listed in individual water supply plans required pursuant to CGS section 25-32d; Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) regional coordinated plans required pursuant to CGS section 25-33h; the state water resource plan required pursuant to CGS section 22a-352 and any other materials deemed relevant.

The DPH recommends that recipients of this letter review the 2014 update to the HQS list to ensure that the public health, safety and welfare needs of their communities that are served by public water systems are met. In addition to providing the locational data and the supporting technical documents for any new sources to be considered for the 2015 update to the HQS List; constituents are strongly urged to submit improved geographical location data for potential future sources already on the HQS List that are general in nature at best (i.e. Shetucket River, etc.). The list helps to preserve the precious and pristine high quality source waters unlike 48



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other states that no longer have that choice. What's more, the state's long afforded and unique public health protection that prohibits sewage and industrial discharges to public drinking water supplies is to a certain extent tied to the accuracy of the DPH's updates to the HQS List. The discharge prohibition minimizes the risk of water supply catastrophes like the recent one in West Virginia owing chiefly to the use of highest quality source waters for human consumption. The legislative mandate to prepare the list and conduct and prepare updates provides the framework required in integrating water supply planning, safe and successful implementation of state stream flow standards, drinking water source protection, and state Conservation & Development Plans.

Steve Messer of my staff compiled the state's inaugural HQS List and the first list update that is provided here. Steve has been assigned as the DWS's new capacity development coordinator. The responsibility for the HQS List and the review process used to prepare the updates for the HQS List will shift to the Source Assessment and Protection Unit supervised by Eric McPhee. Thus, please submit any materials to be considered in the DPH's review process for preparing the 2015 update to the HQS List by March 20th, 2015 to Dph.sourceprotection@ct.gov.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Chief, Regulatory Services Branch; Chief Elected Officials; Local Health Directors; WUCC Advisory Committee; Rivers Alliance of Connecticut; Farmington River Watershed Association; Connecticut Fund for the Environment; Trust for Public Land; Willimantic River Alliance