

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner



Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

DWS Circular Letter # 2013-06

TO: Community Public Water Systems, Regional Planning Organizations, DPH Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC) Chairs Advisory Group

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

DATE: November 6, 2013

SUBJECT: Connecticut General Statute (CGS) 25-33q – High Quality Source (HQS) List

The High Quality Source (HQS) list ensued from legislation drafted by the Department of Public Health (DPH) to ensure that the highest quality sources of water are readily available statewide for use as public water supplies now and in the future. CGS 25-33q requires the Commissioner of Public Health to prepare a list designating sources or potential sources of water that require protection so that the highest quality sources of water are available to provide water for human consumption. The statute requires that the list be updated annually or more frequently as deemed necessary by the commissioner and that individual water supply plans pursuant to CGS 25-32d, WUCC regional coordinated plans pursuant to CGS 25-33h, and the state water resource plan pursuant to CGS 22a-352 be considered in preparing the list. The Office of Policy and Management must also consider the list and related water policies in CGS 22a-380 and 25-33c when preparing state Conservation & Development plans pursuant to companion statute CGS 16-27a.

Please visit http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/drinking_water/excel/High_Quality_Source_List.xls to review the inaugural HQS List. The DPH was pleased to receive a September 11, 2012 Freedom of Information (FOI) determination from the Department of Administrative Services which allowed the list to be made available to the public. Review of technical materials required to prepare and publish the annual update to the state's HQS list is underway. Public water systems and regional planning organizations should review current and potential future sources detailed in the inaugural list to ensure that public water supply needs now and into the future are adequately represented. Requests to the DPH for consideration of additions, revisions, or omissions to the current list must be submitted in writing to Mr. Steve Messer of the DPH Drinking Water Section Statewide Water Supply Planning Unit no later than December 31, 2013.

Recent events like the 2011 pre-winter storms and Hurricane Sandy provided excellent reminders of the importance of protecting drinking water sources. Connecticut's public drinking water supplies are located upstream of sewage treatment plants; thus, in the event of a plant failure the public supply remains well protected for human consumption. Connecticut and Rhode Island are the only states that prohibit the use of surface waters that receive treated wastewater or industrial discharges as public sources. The value of the state discharge prohibition is further borne out by emerging contaminants such as pharmaceutical by-products and personal care products that are now being detected in public supplies elsewhere. Preserving high quality source waters helps the DPH maintain maximum public health protections for consumers.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Regulatory Services Branch Chief; State Agencies; Local Health Directors; Connecticut Fund for the Environment; Rivers Alliance of Connecticut; Chief Elected Officials



Phone: (860) 509-7333 • Fax: (860) 509-7359 • VP: (860) 899-1611
410 Capitol Avenue, MS#51WAT, P.O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308

www.ct.gov/dph

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