

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor
Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

Drinking Water Section

DWS Circular Letter #2016-01

TO: Community Public Water Systems

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

DATE: January 19, 2016

RE: New Regulations regarding Generator and Emergency Contingency and Response Plan Requirements

On November 23, 2015, the Legislative Regulations Review Committee (“LRRC”) approved the Department of Public Health’s (“Department”) amendments to § 19-13-B102 of the Regulations of Connecticut Agencies regarding generator and emergency contingency and response plan requirements (“the Generator Regulations”). The Secretary of the State posted the Generator Regulations on the eRegulations System on December 17, 2015 (“Effective Date”). The Generator Regulations are available at: <http://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA/%7B5552BDFF-788C-4516-8BD1-91B8C5479127%7D>.

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide information to community public water systems (“CWS”) regarding the new requirements in the Generator Regulations.

The Generator Regulations require all CWSs, other than CWSs that are subject to § 16-11-99 through 16-11-99d, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies¹, to have and maintain generators or Department-approved alternative sources of backup power capable of providing sufficient power to supply the power demands of the CWS at each of the CWS’s facility locations². The date by which a CWS is required to have installed and maintained a generator or Department-approved alternative source of backup power is based on the number of people such CWS serves. Specifically, a CWS that serves 100,000 or more people is required to have installed and maintained a generator or Department-approved alternative source of backup power within one year of the Effective Date, a CWS that serves 10,000 to 99,999 people is required to have installed and maintained a generator or Department-approved alternative source of backup power within two years of the Effective Date, and a CWS serving less than

¹ § 16-11-99 through 16-11-99d, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies are applicable only to “every person owning, leasing, maintaining, operating, managing or controlling any pond, lake, reservoir, stream, well or distributing plant or system employed for the purpose of supplying water to fifty or more consumers[, but are not applicable to] homeowners, condominium associations providing water only to their members, homeowners associations providing water to customers at least eighty per cent of whom are members of such associations, a municipal waterworks system established under chapter 102, a district, metropolitan district, municipal district or special services district established under chapter 105, chapter 105a or any other general statute or any public or special act which is authorized to supply water, or any other waterworks system owned, leased, maintained, operated, managed or controlled by any unit of local government under any general statute or any public or special act”.

² “Facility locations” are defined in the Generator Regulations to include “sources, pumping stations, treatment plants, and storage tanks at which electric power is required to maintain a continuous supply of potable water at adequate volume and pressures”.



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

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10,000 people is required to have installed and maintained a generator or Department-approved alternative source of backup power within three years of the Effective Date.

With respect to the installation and location of such generators and alternative sources of backup power, the Generator Regulations require the CWSs to meet minimum requirements, including the requirement that such generators and alternative sources of backup power be equipped with an automatic transfer switch system and in compliance with all applicable federal, state and local requirements. The Generator Regulations also include conditions applicable to CWSs that use generators or alternative sources of backup power that are fueled by liquid fuel, such as diesel, gasoline, oil, or kerosene, instead of propane or natural gas.

In addition, the Generator Regulations require that each CWS that is not subject to the requirements in § 25-32d of the Connecticut General Statutes³ prepare an emergency contingency and response plan within 8 months after the Effective Date, and keep such plan up to date and on file at the CWS. The emergency contingency and response plan is required to contain the CWS's preparations for and proposed responses to any disruption of the CWS's supply of water to the CWS's consumers due to a loss of power of the CWS's water supply. The CWS is required to make the plan available to the Department for review upon the request of the Department and at the time of the CWS's sanitary survey.

Finally, the Generator Regulations require each CWS to which the Generator Regulations apply, to submit to the Department in writing in its annual submission required under the provisions of § 25-33 of the Connecticut General Statutes a verification that the CWS has complied with the requirements of the Generator Regulations and that the CWS's generator or generators perform in accordance with the manufacturers specifications to ensure that the generator or generators are capable of providing sufficient power to supply the power demands of the CWS at each of the CWS's facility locations.

Please note that the Department has contracted with RCAP Solutions, Inc., a non-profit organization that provides free technical assistance to rural water and wastewater communities, to provide asset management training in which an emergency contingency and response plan for small CWSs is addressed. Please visit our website at www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater periodically for more information on these trainings as their scheduled.

If you have any questions regarding the Generator Regulations, please contact Michael Hage, Section Supervisor, of the Department's Drinking Water Section at (860) 509-7333.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, DPH
Local Health Directors
RCAP Solutions

³ § 25-32d of the Connecticut General Statutes requires "[e]ach water company, as defined in section 25-32a, and supplying water to one thousand or more persons or two hundred fifty or more consumers and any other water company as defined in said section requested by the Commissioner of Public Health shall submit a water supply plan to the Commissioner of Public Health for approval in accordance with the requirements of this section and with the concurrence of the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection."