

Connecticut H₂O Operator

A Newsletter for Certified Operators

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section

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CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Keeping Connecticut Healthy
www.dph.state.ct.us
Governor M. Jodi Rell
Commissioner J. Robert Galvin, M.D., M.P.H.

To Report a Water-Related Emergency...

CALL (860) 509-7333

(M-F 8:30a.m.-4:30p.m.)

OR...

CALL (860) 509-8000

(After Hours)



Got Total Coliform?

By: David Cooley, P.E., Sanitary Engineer 3, Implementation and Response Unit



Almost everyday Drinking Water Section (DWS) staff receives phone calls from public water systems (PWS) of all shapes and sizes reporting total coliform bacteria maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations. More times than not the question is “What do I do now?” The answer can vary depending on the scenario, especially when dealing with acute (E.coli/ fecal coliform) MCL violations, but here is a quick punch list to consider:

- Report all E.coli/fecal coliform positive samples to the DWS and all affected local health departments by the end of the day in which the positive sample result was received (no later than 96 hours from sample collection).
- Report the MCL violation to the DWS and all affected local health departments, as required.
- Ensure that all routine and repeat water quality monitoring requirements have been met.
- Collect investigative samples from each source, storage tank, entry point and any additional representative sampling points within the distribution system.
- Once all routine, repeat and investigative samples are collected, evaluate the need to emergency disinfect portions of or the entire water system in an attempt to clear the system of the total coliform bacteria. Please refer to the Emergency Disinfection Guidance documents on our web page, <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm>.
- Simultaneously in some cases, the appropriate public notification documents must be drafted, posted, distributed and published as required. Please note, for acute MCL violations the public notification documents are required to be delivered within 24 hours.
- Prepare appropriate messages, consistent with the public notification documents, to be used by system personnel when responding to the questions or concerns of the population served.
- Consult with the DWS regarding any sanitary deficiencies that have been identified at the system while using the results of the investigative samples to troubleshoot the violation. Fill out the PWS Notification form to document the violation and how it was reported to the DWS.

Please use this punch list as general guidance of what is expected of systems in response to a total coliform MCL violation. Remember, every system, violation and response will be different and the PWS should always consult with the DWS. Please contact the DWSs Implementation and Response Unit at (860) 509-7333 if you have any questions.



Tips For Securing A Well Site

By: Jennifer Pagach, Environmental Analyst 2, Source Water Protection Unit

When seeking a well site certification, please keep in mind the following tips:



1. Make sure the well site is accessible by the drill rig;

Section 19-13-B51 (d) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies states the well should be on a relative high point on the property, but if the well drilling rig can not get there it is not a feasible site. Check with your licensed well driller and have them visit the site to ensure they can get the job done.

2. Plan for how much water you need;

It is the applicant's responsibility to indicate on the application the requested yield of the well, which is sited by us for those required separating distances and is not automatically valid for more. If there is a possibility of needing more water in the future, set aside extra space on the property to ensure a viable source.

3. Make sure the well is drilled where it is approved;

You have it mapped and staked, we check it in the field, measure and get the GPS coordinates. All this work goes into making sure it is in the right spot, so make sure that is exactly where it is drilled. The permit is only valid for that approved point in the ground, so make sure it is done right.

4. Call us with any changes to the application, land use or location;

If something unforeseen occurs to cause a change in the location or if there will be new activities around the well, contact us immediately at (860) 509-7333. The more we know, the more we can help you to ensure a protected source that meets the regulatory requirements, and maintain the purity and adequacy of the water you are responsible for supplying.

Sanitary Protection of Atmospheric Tanks

The condition of atmospheric (non-pressurized) storage tanks serves an important role in protecting water quality in the distribution system. Drinking water storage tanks must be approved by the Drinking Water Section (DWS) prior to construction. In addition, the DWS must also approve any significant repairs, such as upgrading tank hatches, prior to the start of work. The DWS has developed new technical guidelines for the design and drinking water storage facilities. They are posted on the DWS webpage at <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm>. If you have any questions regarding storage tank technical guidelines, please contact Tom Chyra at (860) 509-7333.

Fluoride Additives Supply Update



Over the past several years, the fluoride additive supply has been disrupted several times. Most recently, over the past several months, some water systems have had difficulty getting timely deliveries of fluorosilicic acid. The most recent supply disruption is unrelated to previous events, but the combined effect has discouraged some users.

The outlook for the fluoride additives market is improving. A couple of new producers of fluorosilicic acid have recently been NSF-certified, and the largest producer, Mosaic, has recently upgraded recovery equipment at two production locations, increasing its fluorosilicic acid production capacity.

The most recent supply issue, which is now resolved, was related to the quality of raw materials used to make fluorosilicic acid. During January and February 2007, Mosaic decided to switch to higher-grade raw materials used in fluorosilicic acid production. Although this has increased yields, the national supply depots for fluorosilicic acid are exhausted, and it will take several months to replenish stocks at water systems and regional distribution depots. Since summertime tends to be a period of increased demand, local supply and distribution disruptions likely will continue until autumn.

Consumer Confidence Report Requirements

By: Mira Lami, Environmental Analyst 1, Monitoring, Reporting & Enforcement Unit

It is time for all Community Water Systems (CWSs) to start thinking about putting together their 2006 Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). July 1st may be a few months away, but it comes quickly. Community Water Systems are required annually to provide information to their consumers about their annual drinking water quality.



- By **July 1, 2007**, CWSs must distribute the CCR to customers, mail three (3) copies of the report to the Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section (DWS) and mail one (1) copy to the Director of Health of each city, town, borough or district served.
- By **August 9, 2007** CWSs also must submit a signed CCR Certification Form to the DWS, indicating that the information contained within the CCR is correct and consistent with monitoring data previously submitted to us and that the report was delivered to consumers by the July 1 deadline.

In addition, a community water system that sells water to another community water system is required by April 1, (40 CFR 141.153) to deliver the applicable information to the buyer.

More specific information on CCR content, distribution requirements, CCR guidance documents and CCR Certification forms can be found on the Drinking Water Section (DWS) web page, <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm>. If you have any questions regarding your PWS's CCR, please contact Mira Lami at (860) 509-7333.

Picture Quiz

**What's wrong with these two atmospheric tank overflows?
What Public Health Code violation can you identify?**



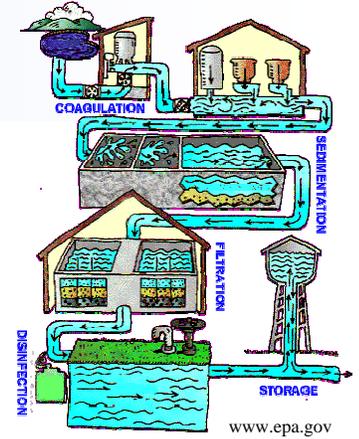
In relevant part, section 19-13-B102(f)(5)(A) of the Regulations of State Agencies (RCSA) states: "... overflows shall be provided and suitably protected and screened to prevent entry of insects, birds or other foreign matter." The smaller mesh screen in the first photo is breached so this overflow would not be considered properly screened. "Overflow pipes shall not be directly connected to sanitary sewers or to storm drainage systems." The overflow in the second photo is connected directly to a sewer which is clearly prohibited.

Answers

Changes in Water Treatment Plant Classification and its Impact on Operator Compliance

By Bill Sullivan, Sanitary Engineer 2, Operator Certification Program

Owners and certified operators must be aware that their facility classification could change if water treatment is added or there is a change in the type of treatment process used. All treatment changes require the prior review and approval of the Drinking Water Section (DWS). In Connecticut, Water Treatment Plants are classified at one of four levels (I, II, III, IV – lowest to highest) based on public water system characteristics and the complexity of treatment. The classification is determined with the use of the Water Treatment Plant Classification Form, which can be viewed on the DWS's web page at <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/water/utility/forms/WTPFORM.pdf>. All operators in direct responsible charge and any operators making process control/system integrity decisions about water quality or quantity, must be certified at the water treatment plant's class or higher. If the current Chief Operator is not appropriately certified, the PWS must either contract/employ an individual who is certified at the appropriate level or have its current operator certified at the appropriate class level. This must occur in advance of any change to the treatment system. In addition, the classification of systems may change if they are required to install disinfection treatment when the Ground Water Rule is put into effect. Please contact the Bill Sullivan at (860) 509-7333 if you have any questions.



Training Registration Information



All training registrations must be completed on the Training Finder Real-time Affiliate Integrated Network (TRAIN). TRAIN is a training resource for professionals who protect the public's health. Visit the TRAIN web page, <https://ct.train.org/DesktopShell.aspx>, to create a free user account and view upcoming certified operator events.

Be sure to check out the DWS's web page, <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm>, for the latest information on:

- ◆ Certified Operator Training
- ◆ What's New
- ◆ Certified Operator Exam Dates
- ◆ Current Topics
- ◆ Upcoming DWS Events
- ◆ DWS Program Pages

This newsletter was prepared by the DWS's Operator Certification Unit and Programs Unit. If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Vicky Carrier or another OCP staff person listed below.

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- William Sullivan - Sanitary Engineer 2- Operator Certification, Cross Connection Control
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