

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT REGULATIONS AND TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING

The Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection hereby gives notice of his intent to adopt regulations and hold a public hearing as part of a rulemaking process. Pursuant to sections 4-168 and 22a-6 of the Connecticut General Statutes, and section 22a-3a-3 of Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies ("RCSA"), the Commissioner hereby gives notice of his intention to adopt RCSA sections 22a-426-1 through 22a-426-9, inclusive, to be known as the Connecticut Water Quality Standards Regulations. These regulations are being proposed under the authority of section 22a-426 of the Connecticut General Statutes, in accordance with Section 9 of Public Act 10-158.

The purpose of these regulations is to codify Connecticut's established Water Quality Standards into regulations. The Water Quality Standards set the overall policy for management of surface water and ground water quality in accordance with the state and federal clean water programs. They designate use goals, define allowable discharges, and identify measures necessary to maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of Connecticut's waters, provide for the protection and propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife, for recreation in and on the water, and to protect public and private drinking water supplies. The Surface Water Quality Standards are required by and consistent with Section 303 of the federal Clean Water Act.

The established Water Quality Standards were adopted in accordance with state statute and federal law, which include a public review process. The most recent revision of the Water Quality Standards was finalized February 25, 2011.

These regulations are being proposed under the authority of section 22a-426 of the Connecticut General Statutes. This section was recently amended to require the adoption of the state's Water Quality Standards as regulations. The proposed regulations codify the existing Standards into a regulatory format in fulfillment of the statute's requirements.

There are no substantive changes to the existing standards proposed as part of this rulemaking exercise.

The proposed regulations include, but are not limited to, provisions regarding: (1) short title; (2) purpose, goals and applicability; (3) definitions; (4) surface waters; (5) biological condition gradient model; (6) lake trophic category; (7) ground waters; (8) anti-degradation standards and anti-degradation implementation procedures; and (9) environmental criteria.

Copies of the proposed regulations, fiscal analysis, small business impact and other related material, are available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Planning and Standards Division, 2nd Floor, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT. A link to the proposed regulations is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.ct.gov/deep/publicnotices>. These documents can also be obtained by contacting Patty Gilmore at the above address, or by phone at (860) 424-3020.

Public Hearing and Comments - All interested parties are invited to express their views on the proposed regulations at a hearing to be held at the following place and time:

May 21, 2013
9:00 a.m. – until all comments have been heard
Phoenix Auditorium, 5th Floor
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut

The hearing officer may close the hearing at that time, adjourn to a later date if needed or hold the record open for the submission of additional written testimony.

Speakers are requested, although not required, to submit a written copy of their comments.

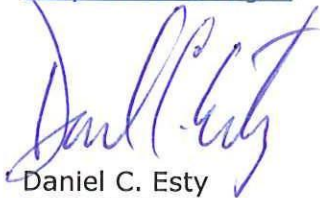
Written comments on the proposed regulations may be submitted to Robert Hust, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Planning & Standards Division, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut, 06106-5127 by May 21, 2013 or at any time prior to the close of the public hearing. All comments must be received by the close of the public hearing and will not be accepted or considered if received after the close of the public hearing.

In addition, the Department provides notice that an informational session will be held:

May 7, 2013
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Phoenix Auditorium, 5th Floor
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut

Interested persons are advised, however, that this informational session is not a substitute for submitting comments in the manner described above in this notice and that the Department will not be receiving public comments during the informational session. Any person seeking to comment on the proposed regulations will need to submit a comment in writing or at the public hearing, even if the same matter is discussed during the informational session.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to the requirements the Americans with Disabilities Act. To request an accommodation, call 860-424-3194 or at deep.hrmed@ct.gov.



Daniel C. Esty
Commissioner