

# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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DWS Circular Letter #2014-12

TO: Community Public Water Systems that produce an Individual Water Supply Plan  
FROM: Lori Mathieu, <sup>JOM</sup> Public Health Section Chief, Drinking Water Section  
DATE: May 29, 2014  
SUBJECT: Reminder to Public Water Systems to Update Their Evaluations of Source Water Protection Measures pursuant to the *Conn. Gen. Statutes* Sections 25-32d(a)

In light of the chemical spill into West Virginia's Elk River ([http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/10/us/one-month-after-toxic-spill-west-virginians-face-crisis-of-confidence.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/02/10/us/one-month-after-toxic-spill-west-virginians-face-crisis-of-confidence.html?_r=0)), public water systems required to submit an individual water supply plan pursuant to *Conn. Gen. Statutes* Section 25-32d are reminded of their responsibility to periodically review and update their evaluations of source water protection measures in order to continue to be prepared to deal with threats to supplies.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials speaking at the National Clean Water Policy Forum on April 9, 2014 have indicated "... that it's not a bad time now to take those [source water assessments] off the shelf and take a look at them to see what has been done and what hasn't been implemented and what's missing." "One of the potential mistakes we could make in response to the Elk River spill is the assumption that the threat we need to be most concerned about everywhere in the country is that above ground chemical tanks do not have secondary containment," adding that other issues that need to be addressed include vulnerabilities of source water to flooding, drought and intense storms, such as Hurricane Sandy that crippled the water and wastewater utilities for days.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, states are required to develop and implement source water assessments, which is a process for evaluating a public water system's source water—whether it is a river, reservoir or aquifer—and assessing its vulnerability to contamination. Connecticut's original assessments were developed in 2003 and may be found on the Drinking Water Section web page ([www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater](http://www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater)) by going to Drinking Water Topics A-Z and then clicking on "Source Water Assessment Program." Water companies are required to revise their water supply plans no less than every six years and no more than every nine years. The plan revision must include the information noted in CGS Section 25-32d(b)(9) "on and after January 1, 2004, an evaluation of source water protection measures for all sources of the water supply, based on the identification of critical lands to be protected and incompatible land use activities with the potential to contaminate a public drinking water source" in the format prescribed by the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies Section 25-32d-(3)(i). In addition, public water systems are encouraged to share the updated information with the appropriate local and state agencies that have oversight over the identified threats.

Public Water Systems supplied by active surface water sources are encouraged to utilize their annual watershed inspections as a means to provide education and outreach to the residences and other facilities that are situated in source water protection areas. In addition, Public Water Systems are encouraged to continue engaging key partners in protecting their sources of supply through groups such as the Connecticut Source Water Collaborative ([www.ct.gov/dph/ctswc](http://www.ct.gov/dph/ctswc)).

Please do not hesitate to call Eric McPhee or Pat Bisacky to discuss any of the above information.

Cc: Ellen Blaschinski, Branch Chief, Regulatory Services Branch, DPH  
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