

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT *of* PUBLIC HEALTH  
DRINKING WATER SECTION

# Safe Drinking Water Primacy Assessment

September 20, 2018  
CT DPH Laboratory  
Rocky Hill, CT

# Agenda

1. Drinking Water Section introduction
2. Public Water System classifications
3. Background and Implementation of PA 17-2 Section 676
4. Public Act 17-2 Section 677
5. Discussion Points
6. Next Steps

# Drinking Water Section (DWS)

The DWS:

- is responsible for the administration of all State and Federal drinking water regulations.
- holds EPA primacy enforcement powers for the Department of Public Health
- provides technical assistance, education and regulatory enforcement relative to both State laws and provisions of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act.
- regulates approximately 2,500 public water systems.

# Public Water System Classifications

Community: serve at least 25 residents throughout the year (apartment or condominium complex)

Non-transient, Non-Community (NTNC): not community systems and serve at least 25 of the same people over six months of the year (schools, factories and office buildings)

Transient Non-Community (TNC): do not meet the definition of a NTNC system, but serve 25 or more people at least 60 days per year (restaurants, parks, gas stations)

# Background & Implementation of Public Act 17-2 Sec. 676

- The DPH conducted a comprehensive fee study in 2016 prior to PA 17-2 passing during the 2017 legislative session
- Allows for fees to be collected, based on public water system classification, to support the DPH's ability to maintain primacy
- Created to fund a monetary gap between State and Federal funds
- Currently, only Community and NTNC systems are being invoiced; however, TNCs will be added in the future

# Public Act 17-2 Sec. 677

On or before January 1, 2019, the commissioner, in **consultation** with the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and representatives of water companies, shall **develop** a methodology for a safe drinking water primacy assessment on community water systems and transient and non-transient non-community public water systems for the purposes of meeting federal requirements for the department to maintain primacy for the enforcement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 USC 300f, et seq., as amended from time to time. The methodology shall **include** calculation of the fee to be assessed and procedures to implement the fee. In developing the methodology, the commissioner may **consider** the frequency and timing of customer billing, delinquency rates for customer payment and the feasibility of assessing a fee based on service connections or customer connections. The commissioner shall provide for a public comment period of thirty days following the development of such methodology. At the conclusion of such public comment period, but not later than February 15, 2019, the commissioner shall **submit** his or her recommendation for legislation necessary to **implement** such methodology to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public health.

# Public Act 17-2 Sec. 677 Requirements

- Consult with the Secretary of OPM and water company representatives.
- Develop a methodology for a safe drinking water primacy assessment, including a calculation of the fee and procedure to implement. DPH may consider the frequency and timing of customer billing, delinquency rates for customer payment and the feasibility of assessing a fee based on service connections or customer connections.
- Submit a recommendation for legislation necessary to implement such methodology.

# Discussion Points

1. How should the DPH address and implement cost increases?
2. How should the fees be calculated?
3. Should all PWSs be required to pay this assessment?
4. What should be included in the DPH's reporting?
5. Should administrative costs be addressed?



# Next Steps

- A second meeting could be held on October 4, 2018.
- 30-day public comment period.
- Consider public comment and submit legislation on or before February 15, 2019.