

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

Careers in Drinking Water Forum a Success!

By: Sandra Downie, Health Program Associate, Capacity Development Unit

The CT Department of Public Health, Drinking Water Section, in conjunction with the CT Section of the American Water Works Association and State agency representatives from the Water Planning Council, hosted a forum to increase the awareness of students, teachers, guidance counselors and other school officials about career opportunities in the drinking water field. Mr. Jack Betkoski, Chairman of the Water Planning Council and Vice-Chairman of the CT Department of Public Utility Control, moderated the event.

The forum, held on April 23, 2008, emphasized the need for increased education directed towards career building within the water industry. Over 200 attendees were made aware of the impending shortage of drinking water industry workers since half of today's water professionals will retire in the next five to seven years.

Various presentations and panel discussions focused on educating high school staff and students about different career choices in the water industry and how to pursue them. The panelists represented various careers in drinking water from operations, engineering, regulatory oversight and finance. There were also exhibitor areas where students learned about water utilities, the type of jobs available and the education needed to enter these fields.

Awards were presented to Harvey Wall of the Metropolitan District for meritorious operator service, and Kate Powell of the Regional Water Authority for her outstanding contribution in educating the children of CT about the drinking water industry. High school seniors from Grasso Southeastern Regional Technical High School, Josh Rezendes and Tyler James, who presented on their internship experiences, were also recognized with awards.

The forum concluded with attendees viewing live demonstrations of the following:

- ◆ Water Main Tapping by Connecticut's All-Star Team
- ◆ Testing of a Backflow Device
- ◆ A Water Testing Demonstration
- ◆ Conservation Measures by "Walter the Water Saver"

The forum was a great success and the Department of Public Health thanks all who participated!

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)



Feasible Interconnections for New Public Water Systems

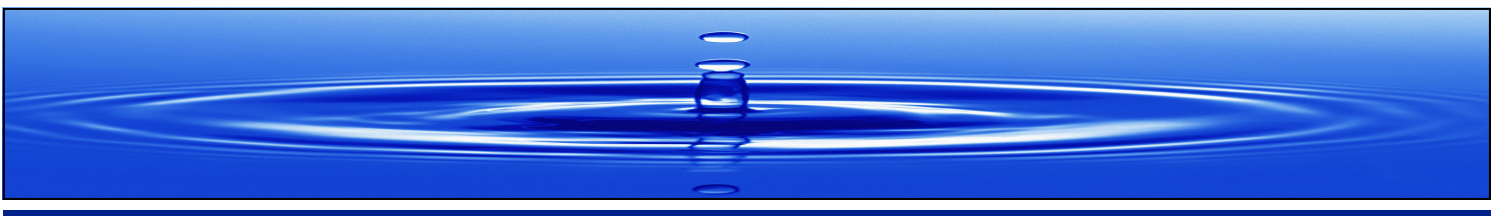
By: Steve Messer, Supervising Sanitary Engineer, Planning Unit

The creation of a new public water system in Connecticut requires an applicant to apply for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN), which is governed by Connecticut General Statute 16-262m. The first step prior to considering the construction of a new public water system is to determine if an interconnection is feasible to an existing regulated community public water system. Determining the feasibility of an interconnection prior to expending funds on engineering fees, site maps, and water system design can save you or your client time, effort, and money. Listed below is the minimum documentation required by the Drinking Water Section (DWS) to determine a feasible interconnection. This information can be submitted to the DWS prior to or with the initial CPCN application at which time an applicant can request a meeting to discuss the project and the possibility of a feasible interconnection.

The following information is minimally required to properly evaluate the feasibility of an interconnection to an existing community public water system:

- An evaluation of the quantity of water necessary to provide an adequate supply at required pressures to existing and projected customers during periods of average and peak demands for at least 15 years after construction.
- A letter from the town where the project is located indicating whether or not fire protection facilities will be required to be part of the design of the water system. If fire protection is to be required, the letter from the town should indicate the number of hydrants required to serve the project, as well as the minimum distance allowed between hydrants.
- Letters from all regulated public service or municipal water utilities or regional water authorities within one linear mile of the applicant's project expressing willingness or unwillingness to serve as water supplier to the applicant's project. If a water utility expressed willingness to serve, the letter submitted shall include the proposed manner of service and cost, via main extension or satellite ownership. The letter shall also include the linear footage, size of pipe, material, and cost of a main extension including number of service connections, if such extension were required to be constructed. It should also indicate whether additional supply, storage and booster facilities, and their related costs, are necessary for providing proper service to the project.
- If the applicant's project is located in an area where there is an adopted coordinated water system plan, in accordance with Sections 25-33c to 25-33j, inclusive, of the General Statutes of Connecticut, the water utility expressing willingness to serve the applicant's project must do so, in conformance with the established plan with full regard to exclusive service areas and satellite ownership and management stipulations. If an exclusive service area (ESA) provider has been established for the area in which the project is located, the applicant is obligated to seek water service from the established ESA provider.

If you have any questions regarding feasible interconnections, please contact Steve Messer at (860) 509-7333.



Select Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Courses Approved for Operator Certificate Renewal



By: William Sullivan, Sanitary Engineer 2, Monitoring, Reporting and Enforcement Unit

The CT DPH has recently approved 34 “on-line” courses offered by FEMA, which can be used by certified operators towards meeting the certificate renewal training hour requirements. These courses provide training in security, emergency response planning and personnel management, which are relevant topics for operators of public water systems. You can find a listing of these courses on the Drinking Water Section web page at www.ct.gov/dph. The continuing education units offered for each course, along with FEMA’s web site address, is provided on this list. Operators are reminded that training course certificates achieved through on-line courses must include the name and signature of the operator’s supervisor when submitted to the CT DPH as part of the operator’s certificate renewal application.

If you have any questions regarding certificate renewal requirements, please contact William Sullivan at (860) 509-7333.

Picture Quiz

By Vicky Carrier, P.E., R.S., M.B.A., Sanitary Engineer 3, Capacity Development Unit

Question:

Is a dumpster a source of pollution?



That all depends on how the dumpster is managed. As in this example above, if the dumpster is leaking, then it would be considered a source of pollution. The Drinking Water Section (DWS) recently released a regulation clarification on this subject. The document states that a dumpster could be considered a source of pollution. As with any source of pollution, it should be located as far away as possible from your well. The dumpster clarification document, as well as a Best Management Practices document, can be found on the DWS website at www.ct.gov/dph.

Answers:

CtWARN Receives EPA Environmental Merit Award

By Rachel Nowek, Health Program Associate, Capacity Development Unit

The New England Office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected the Connecticut Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (CtWARN) to receive an Environmental Merit Award in recognition of its exceptional work and commitment to public health in 2007. EPA's Environmental Merit Award is an annual award that recognizes outstanding environmental advocates who have made significant contributions toward preserving and protecting our public health and natural resources.



The CtWARN is a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network that was developed in 2007 by Connecticut public and private water and wastewater representatives, as well as supported by the Connecticut Departments of Public Health, Environmental Protection, Public Utility Control, and Emergency Management and Homeland Security. The CtWARN is comprised of utilities providing assistance voluntarily to each other in the form of personnel and resources during emergencies by means of a pre-arranged mutual aid agreement. This mutual aid and assistance program provides increased planning, coordination and enhanced access to specialized resources, thus enabling rapid, short-term deployment of emergency services to restore critical operations of the affected utility during an emergency.

The CtWARN now has nine utility members. Visit the CtWARN website, <http://www.ctwarn.org/>, to get more information on the CtWARN and how your utility can become a member. CtWARN is *FREE* and voluntary!

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 site, <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 site, www.ct.gov/dph, for the latest information on trainings, events, and more!

If you have any questions or would like to contribute to the newsletter, please contact Vicky Carrier via email at vicky.carrier@ct.gov.

State of Connecticut
Department of Public Health
Regulatory Services Branch
Drinking Water Section
410 Capitol Avenue- MS #51WAT
P. O. Box 340308
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308
Phone: 860-509-7333
Emergency After-hours: 860-509-8000
Fax: 860-509-7359

