

Connecticut H₂O Operator

A Newsletter for Certified Operators

The Connecticut Department of Public Health Drinking Water Section

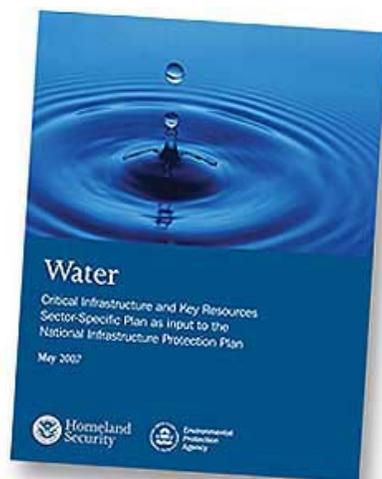
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Water Sector-Specific Plan



By: Rachel Nowek, MPH, CHES, Environmental Analyst 2, Programs Unit

In December 2003, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7 (HSPD-7) established a national policy for Federal departments and agencies to identify and prioritize United States critical infrastructure (CI) and key resources (KR) and to protect them from terrorist attacks. This directive assigns responsibility for each CI/KR sectors to individual Sector-Specific Agencies. Water is one of 17 CI/KR sectors identified in HSPD-7 that requires protective actions to prepare for, or mitigate against, a terrorist attack or other hazards, such as natural disasters. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been designated as the Sector-Specific Agency for drinking water and water treatment systems. Each sector was charged with developing a

Sector-Specific Plan (SSP) that established national priorities, goals, and requirements to protect their unique CI/KR.

The Water SSP was released by the Department of Homeland Security in collaboration with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on May 29, 2007. The Water SSP is a broad-based water sector critical infrastructure protection strategy developed under the Department of Homeland Security's National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and was produced by EPA in coordination with Water Sector security partners, which includes the Water Sector Coordinating Council (SCC) and Government Coordinating Council (GCC). The plan depicts the mission, protective efforts, research priorities, indicators of progress, and necessary activities to improve the protection of our nation's water infrastructure.

The Water SSP outlines four goals and supporting objectives:

- ◆ sustain protection of public health and the environment;
- ◆ recognize and reduce risks;
- ◆ maintain a resilient infrastructure; and
- ◆ increase communication, outreach, and public confidence.

Please visit the Drinking Water Section's webpage at <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm> to view the complete Water SSP. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel Nowek at (860)509-7333.

CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

Keeping Connecticut Healthy

www.dph.state.ct.us

Governor M. Jodi Reil
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)



Vision Statement for the Water Sector

The Water Sector's Security Vision is a secure and resilient drinking water and wastewater infrastructure that provides clean and safe water as an integral part of daily life. This Vision assures the economic vitality of and public confidence in the Nation's drinking water and wastewater through a layered defense of effective preparedness and security practices in the sector.

Water: Critical Infrastructure and Key Resources Sector-Specific Plan as input to the National Infrastructure Protection Plan- May 2007



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Common Reasons for Exam Application Rejections



By: Oluseye Akinkunmi, Environmental Analyst 1, Operator Certification Program

This article highlights the common reasons why applications for operator certification examinations are returned. The Operator Certification Program administers the certification of public water system operators in Connecticut. There are 8 types/class levels of public water system operator certifications available. To become certified, individuals must have a high school diploma or equivalency diploma, a minimum amount of operational experience and pass an examination. Examination applications are available on the Drinking Water Section (DWS) webpage (www.dph.state.ct.us/brs/water/dwd.htm) and must be completed and returned to the DWS prior to the application deadline. This examination application is used by applicants to document meeting the required minimum education and experience requirements. There are many reasons why applications are returned. They include:

1. the application did not include a check made payable to the Association of Boards of Certification or an Examination Fee Waiver Application;
2. the application did not substantiate the required length of experience necessary for the certification;
3. the application was not postmarked by the application deadline;
4. the application did not include a copy of the high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma;
5. the name on the high school diploma is different from the name of the applicant and the application did not include any information to document the change of name;
6. the application did not specify (check off) the certification type/level the applicant is applying for;
7. documentation attached to the application, which describes the type and length of operational experience, is not signed by the applicant's supervisor; and
8. applicant failed to provide a "description of duties" to substantiate the experience necessary for certification.

Please contact Oluseye Akinkunmi at (860) 509-7333 if you have any questions.

Protect Your Sources by Working With Town Land-use Officials



By Jennifer Pagach, Environmental Analyst 2, Source Water Protection (SWP) Unit

Communication between public water system (PWS) owners, operators and town staff is very important when working to protect drinking water sources. The DWS's Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) completed Source Water Assessment reports for all of Connecticut's public water system (PWS) drinking water sources. Public water system operators should be familiar with the SWAP reports for their PWS's sources. The SWAP reports discuss protection of drinking water sources and demonstrate the importance of land use in the source areas so operators can maintain purity and adequacy of supply. The more densely developed an area, the less protection sources have. This could adversely impact drinking water quality. It is also important to be sure that town staff involved in land use decisions are aware of these drinking water sources. Operators should work with PWS owners to control as much of the source area as possible, be aware of the existing land uses surrounding the sources, and communicate with town officials that make land use decisions.

Here are some tips on protecting your drinking water sources:

- Get the SWAP reports for your systems, available on the DWS webpage at : http://www.dph.state.ct.us/brs/water/Source_Protection/Assessments/Assessments.htm
- Check with the town hall to see who makes the land use decisions that may affect your sources. It may be a town planner, planning and zoning, a land use official or a commission.
- Talk to the town planner who reviews current and future drinking water sources so your system sources will be taken into consideration if nearby development is proposed.
- Talk to your local health department about your source and any concerns you may have. They often are involved with project approvals and work to advise town officials on these issues.
- Work with all the involved parties now to prevent any future source issues. Take a proactive approach before an adjacent parcel gets developed.

Please contact Jennifer Pagach at 860-509-7333 if you have any questions.

The Ground Water Rule is Coming!

By: Eric McPhee, Sanitary Engineer 3, Capacity, Review & Standards Unit

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has just finalized the Ground Water Rule (GWR). In December, 2009, all public water systems that utilize groundwater (both community and non-community) will have to comply with the GWR. What does this entail? The GWR includes two main components, triggered monitoring and sanitary surveys.

Triggered Monitoring

Beginning in December, 2009, if a groundwater system (GWS) has a positive Total Coliform Rule (TCR) monitoring result, it will be required to test each groundwater source for a fecal indicator. If this triggered source water monitoring is confirmed positive, the GWS will be required to perform corrective actions.

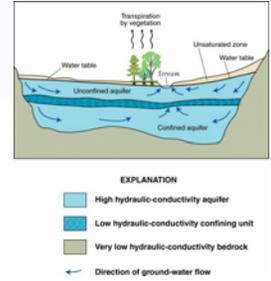
Sanitary Surveys

As a component of the GWR, the Drinking Water Section (DWS) must incorporate a list of 'significant deficiencies' into regulation. These deficiencies are those that are causing, or have the potential to cause, contamination of the water supplied to customers. The DWS is required to establish at least one significant deficiency in regulation for each of the eight required elements of a sanitary survey. Any significant deficiency identified during a survey will require the GWS to perform corrective action.

The corrective actions for the two components above are also outlined in the GWR. They are:

- correct all significant deficiencies,
- eliminate the source of contamination,
- provide an alternate source of water, or provide treatment which reliably achieves 99.99 percent (4-log) inactivation or removal of viruses.

The GWR is very detailed; therefore, the DWS recommends that GWSs start to familiarize themselves with it now. A great resource for more information is EPA's website (<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/disinfection/gwr/index.html>). The site includes the full text of the GWR, as well as helpful guidance for public water systems. Check the DWS website frequently for updates and your opportunity to provide comments, attend training, etc. If you have questions on the GWR, please contact Eric McPhee at (860) 509-7333.



Picture Quiz

What's wrong with this picture of a public well?
What Public Health Code violation can you identify?



Answer
 RCSA Section 19-13-B51j: The well top seal and screened well vent is missing. The recommended corrective action is to install a certified watertight well cap with a screened well vent to prevent contamination of the well. A list of well caps certified to the Water Systems Council PAS-97 standard can be found at the following link:
<http://www.watersystemscouncil.org/standards/listing.cfm?std=PA597>
 There is also additional helpful information on the installation of well caps, pitless adapter units in the brochure at the following link:
<http://www.watersystemscouncil.org/VAWebDocs/WSCDocs/2076317Pitless04PRINTED.pdf>

Monitoring and Reporting Reminders



By: Gary Johnson, Supv. Env. Analyst, Monitoring, Reporting & Enforcement Unit

Please note the following:

1. Lead and Copper tap sampling:

Community and Non-transient Non-community public water systems on reduced monitoring for lead and copper (i.e. annual or once every three years) must conduct tap sampling during the months of June, July, August or September.

2. Disinfection Byproduct Rule sampling:

A public water system that is required to monitor for disinfection byproducts (i.e. Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic acid five (HAA5) and uses only groundwater not under the direct influence of surface water and serves less than 10,000 persons must take one sample per year per treatment plant during the third calendar quarter.

It is important that a public water system sample early in the monitoring period to ensure that sample results are submitted on time. All your testing requirements are available on our website at: <http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/utility/WQ/WQ.htm#Schedules>. If you have any questions please contact the Monitoring/Reporting and Enforcement Unit at (860)509-7333.

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
- ◆ Certified Operator Exam Dates
- ◆ Upcoming DWS Events
- ◆ What's New
- ◆ Current Topics
- ◆ 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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<http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/DWD.htm>

