



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention

An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

Service Connection

THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER
"Working Together for Safe Drinking Water"

The Ground Water Rule is Here!

Lindy Moceus, Compliance Officer

WHEN did The Ground Water Rule go into effect? This new Federal Regulation became effective on December 1, 2009.

WHO does The Ground Water Rule apply to? All public water systems that have ground water sources (drilled and dug wells, springs, driven points).

WHY was a new Rule needed? This new rule protects public health by requiring public water systems to test their ground water sources and to take corrective actions when fecal contamination or a situation that could lead to fecal contamination is found.

WHAT does The Ground Water Rule require? The basic requirements of the Ground Water Rule are the following:

1. Triggered Monitoring to determine if fecal contamination is present in the ground water source.

Whenever a routine compliance sample is reported positive for total coliform bacteria, the public water system must test each well for E. coli bacteria. This means that, in addition to the usual number of total coliform rechecks collected in the distribution system, a raw water sample must also be collected from each well and analyzed for E. coli.

- ◆ If the raw water test(s) show no E. coli, then there is no follow-up action.
- ◆ If the raw water test(s) show E. coli present, then the water system may be required to conduct five additional raw water tests from each well that showed E. coli. If any of the five tests show E. coli, then the water system will be required to:
 - Immediately put a Boil Water Order in place and conduct public notification for acute contamination (even if you presently have a disinfection treatment system, unless it meets the new disinfection requirement for viruses).
 - Correct the fecal contamination problem, which might be fixed by making structural repairs to the problem well, abandoning the problem

well and getting a new water source, or installing disinfection treatment that meets the new requirements for removal of viruses.

2. Sanitary Survey inspections will be conducted by DWP staff and will consist of eight areas that must be reviewed. Deficiencies will be noted and corrective actions with deadlines will be required. Inspections will be conducted:

- ◆ Every three years for "Community" public water systems (town water supplies, housing developments, trailer parks, nursing homes, and other year round residential facilities) or
- ◆ Every five years for "Non-community" public water systems (all that do not fit into the category above).

Are you READY for the Ground Water Rule?

- ◆ Do you have a good raw water tap for each of your well(s)? If not, then you should install them BEFORE you are required to collect any raw water tests. A bad tap can result in a bad test result that will require expensive follow up monitoring.
- ◆ Have you experienced E. coli bacteria in the water supply in the past? If so, then you may need to make some changes. If you have a disinfection treatment system, it may not meet the new disinfection requirements for viruses. Many chlorination systems will need to maintain a higher chlorine residual or a longer contact time. Daily or continuous residual readings will be required, and those reports must be submitted to your compliance officer each month. UV systems will not meet the new disinfection requirements without several UV units in series, which is generally too expensive.

This article summarizes the general requirements of the Ground Water Rule. There are more specific details that could affect you. For more information, contact the Maine Drinking Water Program at 287-2070 or go to our website at www.medwp.com.

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Director's Corner

Recently, the State of Colorado published a report about the Salmonella outbreak that occurred in Alamosa, Colorado in March and April 2008. The public water system in Alamosa was contaminated with Salmonella bacteria and resulted in an estimated 1,300 illnesses and one death. For approximately four weeks, the lives and businesses in this community of 8,700 people were disrupted because of this waterborne disease outbreak.

A complete copy of the report can be found at: <http://www.cdph.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/AlamosaOutbreak.html> or at our website at www.medwp.com.

The need to assess vulnerabilities, minimize these vulnerabilities and plan for emergencies are some of the many lessons that can be learned from Alamosa.

One of the keys to the successful response to the crisis was the Colorado Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (CoWARN), which exists to facilitate mutual aid between utilities. The report states:

Because Colorado has established CoWARN, a mutual aid network for water and wastewater

utilities statewide, Alamosa had nearly immediate access to supplies and human resources to assist with the response. With CoWARN, experienced crews from across the state were working with the city within 24 hours. Within 48 hours, equipment, crews, and supplies began arriving onsite to start work.

If you operate a water or wastewater utility, please consider joining the Maine Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network.

This event is also a powerful reminder of the importance of our work. Safe and reliable drinking water protects public health. We must never lose sight of this mission. There are so many "important" responsibilities we face in our day-to-day business, and it is easy to forget the impact we have on public health.

The Drinking Water Program is grateful for all the men and woman who are committed to and work toward the mission of increased public health protection. We are here to serve and support your efforts.

Yours for safe drinking water,
Roger



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THE DRINKING WATER PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

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New Staff at the Drinking Water Program



Jessica Bishop

Jessica Bishop is the new Board Clerk for the Maine Well Drilling Commission and Licensure of Water Treatment Plant Operators.

Jessica previously worked for

DHHS Regional Operations stationed with Developmental Services. You can contact Jessica at 287-5699 or jessica.bishop@maine.gov.



Erika Bonenfant

Erika Bonenfant joins the Drinking Water Program as the new Education and Outreach Coordinator. Previously, Erika worked as an environmental database

manager at the Department of Environmental Protection. Prior to her work at DEP, Erika worked as a Field Inspector at the Drinking Water Program. You can contact Erika at 287-5681 or erika.bonenfant@maine.gov.



Jennifer Donnell

Jennifer Donnell joins the Drinking Water Program in a new position of Fluoridation and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. As Fluoridation and

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, Jennifer works with the Drinking Water Program staff and water operators of Community Water Systems that fluoridate to enhance current fluoridation and increase quality control and sustainability. Jennifer also works with Drinking Water Emergency Preparedness to enable all water operators to be confident and efficient in their capabilities in the event of an emergency or event that impacts business continuity. You can contact Jennifer at 287-5295 or jennifer.donnell@maine.gov.



Carla McPherson

Carla McPherson joins the Information Management Team. Some of Carla's duties include monitoring and entering water sample data, alerting Field In-

spectors of positive total coliform results, and providing quality control oversight for Points of Contact in the Drinking Water Program's SDWIS database. You can contact Carla at 287-8412 or carla.mcpherson@maine.gov.



Martha Nadeau

Martha Nadeau joins the DWP Information Management Team as an Administrative Support Assistant, hired through NEI-WPCC. She has been with the DWP since July, to help cover

the openings left by retired staff. Martha's duties have included processing and billing AFM payments, sample data entry, legal entity updates, and general clerical support. Her future projects include: converting PWS paper files to electronic files and SDWIS database cleanup. Martha can be reached at 287-5683 or martha.nadeau@maine.gov.



Danielle Obery

Danielle Obery joins the Drinking Water Program as the new Compliance Officer for transient, non-community water supplies. Danielle comes to the Drinking Water Program from the Depart-

ment of Environmental Protection where she was a project manager in the Division of Land Resource Regulation. You can contact Danielle at 287-5545 or danielle.obery@maine.gov.



Jim Willis

Jim Willis joins the Information Management Team where he assists the Program with various support duties, including processing the AFM (Annual Drinking Water) Fees. Jim has worked

within the Department of Health and Human Services for 2 years. You can contact Jim at 287-5694 or james.willis@maine.gov.

Rulemaking Update

Tera Pare, Enforcement & Rulemaking Coordinator



This past summer and fall proved a busy time for rulemaking.

Both the Cross Connection Rules (Chapter 226) and the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules (Chapter 241) were adopted and effective August 1, 2009, after public hearing and subsequent comment periods. The Drinking Water Program and Subsurface Wastewater Program are planning to revisit formal rulemaking in early 2010, to propose additional changes to Chapter 241. These additional changes will provide better organization of the Rules, and will address a number of questions that have emerged since the last revision.

Changes to the Rules Relating to Drinking Water (Chapter 231) were adopted in December. A public hearing was advertised on October 14, 2009, and occurred at the Key Bank Plaza in Augusta on November 4, 2009, with the comment period ending November 16, 2009.

In addition, significant substantive changes resulted in an entire repeal and replace to the Comprehensive and

Limited Environmental Laboratory Certification Rules (Chapter 263). The rulemaking effort was a collaborative process with Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), due to Maine statute (22 M.R.S.A. § 567 (2)), which required that both the Department of Health and Human Services Drinking Water Program and DEP jointly adopt rules governing the certification of environmental testing laboratories. A public hearing, conducted by the Board of Environmental Protection, took place in October 2009. As a result of comments that led to additional rule changes, both departments reopened the comment period to allow for further input on those changes. Adoption is expected in early 2010.

For a copy of any of the adopted rules, the Secretary of State's website should have them available at www.maine.gov/sos (click on "State Agency Rules"). To review proposed rule changes not yet adopted or to request a hard copy, contact Tera Pare at 287-5680.

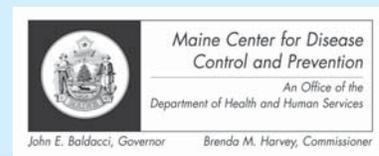


Division of Environmental Health: Who We Are Part 3 of a 4-Part Series Subsurface Wastewater Unit

Because Maine is a predominantly rural state, we rely heavily on decentralized sewage disposal facilities for disposal of human waste, e.g., septic systems. The Subsurface Wastewater Unit (formerly, the Subsurface Wastewater Program) and its predecessors have regulated on-site sewage disposal to varying degrees since 1926.

The Subsurface Wastewater Unit is responsible for promulgating the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules, among others; licensing Site Evaluators to insure proper design of sewage systems; processing and maintaining copies of approximately 40,000 plumbing permits annually; reviewing administration of the Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Rules by municipalities and Local Plumbing Inspectors (LPIs); providing technical assistance to system designers, installers, and LPIs; and most recently, licensing crematoria for the disposal of human remains.

The Subsurface Wastewater Unit consists of Wendy Austin, Office Associate II; Douglas Coombs, State Site Evaluator; Brent Lawson, State Plumbing Inspector; and James Jacobsen, Environmental Specialist IV.



Subsurface Wastewater Oversight Strengthened by Merger with Water Resources Group at Maine CDC

Andy Tolman, Drinking Water Program Assistant Director
Nancy Beardsley, Director, Maine CDC Division of Environmental Health

The State's Subsurface Wastewater Program has merged with the Drinking Water Program's Water Resources group. This alliance makes sense for several reasons, primarily because both groups have been working side by side for decades to protect our ground and surface water resources and prevent contamination from occurring in the first place. Each group will benefit from the technical strengths and experience of the other: the Subsurface Wastewater group will learn from the Drinking Water Program's strong hydrogeologic and water resource experience; and the Drinking Water team will better understand the practical application of the Subsurface Wastewater Rules in the field. Together, staff will use their combined experience to help solve difficult subsurface waste disposal issues often faced by subsurface wastewater staff, Local Plumbing Inspectors and Licensed Site Evaluators. Our initial focus will be to listen and learn from one another and figure out how we can best accomplish the many tasks before us.

Further integrating the Division of Environmental Health's five Programs has been a long-term goal and one which we are steadily achieving. Russ Martin's retirement this summer from state service as the Director of the Subsurface Wastewater Program presented the opportunity to make this long anticipated piece of the integration happen. Necessity also played a role. Revenues from subsurface wastewater and internal plumbing permits have decreased significantly over the past few years. Revenues have not come close to meeting

expenses for several years now. The sole source of funding for the Program is 25% of all permit revenues received by municipalities. It is more critical than ever to work smarter and reduce redundancies and inefficiencies wherever possible.

The Subsurface Wastewater Program's technical staff, Douglas Coombs LSE, PLS, CPE, James Jacobsen, and Brent Lawson LPI, LSE, will function as a technical unit of the Water Resources Team led by Andy Tolman C.G., and supported by David Braley C.G., Terry Trott, Sara Lippert, Erika Bonenfant, Jessica Bishop and Jennifer Donnell. Wendy Austin and Lorraine Martin will continue to provide administrative support to the Subsurface Wastewater Unit. Over the next months we will be working closely with towns and other state agencies whose responsibilities include waste water and the environment, including the State Planning Office, Department of Marine Resources, Department of Environmental Protection, and Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources.

There is a new revision of the Subsurface Rules that recently went into effect, and some of the changes appear to result in some confusion. We are working on identifying these areas and will be providing guidance on interpretation and application of the new provisions very soon. David Braley will be providing coordination and leadership to the Subsurface Wastewater Unit. *

Dates to Remember

2010 Government Closure Dates

Friday, January 15, 2010
Tuesday, February 16, 2010
Friday, March 12, 2010
Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Friday, May 28, 2010
June X, 2010*

Friday, July 2, 2010
Friday, August 6, 2010
Friday, September 3, 2010
Friday, October 8, 2010
November X, 2010*
Thursday, December 23, 2010

*Proposed--dates not finalized

DEP Program Installs New Type of Home Heating Oil Tank

Peter Moulton, Maine Department of Environmental Protection

The DEP Home Heating Oil Tank Replacement Program installed its first required double wall tank on October 8th in a mobile home park in Fairfield to comply with a new law that became effective in July of 2009.

This program has installed many double wall home heating oil tanks in the wellhead protection zones of water districts to safeguard community water system wells. But, this is the first time that the DEP installed a double wall tank to meet the requirements of the new law, An Act to Prevent Contamination of Drinking Water Supplies (see 38 MRSA § 1391). The law requires that new and replacement heating oil tanks in the wellhead protection zone of community drinking water wells be double-walled or have secondary containment.

The mobile home park in Fairfield, with its own well and 37 houses, meets the definition of a community public water system and is regulated by the Maine Drinking Water Program. The double wall tank installed is made of fiberglass, and is the first known tank of its type to be installed in Maine. The community water system was most fortunate that the contents of the previous tank were not discharged when a leg broke and the tank fell on the ground. When the tank fell, the oil filter on this outside tank missed a concrete block by only a few inches. For more information, contact Peter Moulton at Maine DEP at 287-3901.



Newly installed double wall home heating oil tank

Operator Licensing News and Updates

Teresa Trott, Licensing Officer

Renewal time for those licenses with expiration dates of 12/31/2009. For individuals holding licenses in both treatment and distribution disciplines, there is only one \$60 fee per person. Training Contact Hours ("TCH's") are required for the highest license held. There is a grace period until March 2, 2010, after which the license will be inactivated, the system may be out of compliance, and a \$50 late fee is applied.

How operator compliance helps Maine receive federal funding. The Drinking Water Program receives federal funding to assist systems with delivering safe drinking water. Much of this funding for training, grants and loans stems from the State Revolving Fund (SRF). Maine DWP must meet certain requirements to maintain eligibility for these funds. Meeting operator licensing and system staffing requirements assures that 20% of the funding is available.

Ninety seven percent of the 760 public water systems that must have licensed operators in responsible charge are in compliance, which is a great achievement. Licensed operators serve to protect public health by assuring that a water system's protective barriers are maintained. Operators keep watchful eyes out for contamination threats, maintain sanitary practices at their systems, and monitor drinking water to maintain quality.

Winter months are a great time to work on some needed projects. Updates to Standard Operating Procedures, Emergency Response Plans, Safety Programs, Asset Management, Preventive Maintenance Programs and other living documents, will not only help spring tasks go more smoothly but will keep you up to date on any changes in rules, contact information, etc. Watch for training programs on many of these topics and bank your TCH's for renewal time.

Contract Operations. Owners of small water systems and operators of small utility systems often find that assistance from a contract operator is needed. The agreement between owner and operator can, and should be, specialized to the needs of the system's circumstances. There are many itemized lists of the various responsibilities of both parties (see DWP's website). An operator is licensed, and therefore expected, to perform tasks to maintain public health and safety. All quality and quantity decisions are the responsibility of the licensed operator. The operator cannot be expected to perform the tasks necessary to maintain good water quality without proper support from the owner. The owner is expected to provide a safe working environment, budget to maintain the equipment and services, and communicate needs of activities pertinent to the quality and quantity of providing water. Water system owners and decision makers are urged to learn more about the water profession. Contact DWP at 287-2070 for more information and tools to help your system succeed.

2010 Board of Licensure Dates to Remember:

Board meetings:

January 21st- Topsham

May 20th- Augusta

September 16th- Topsham

Exam Application Postmarked Dates:

February 6th

May 1st

September 4th

or

First Saturday of the month before exams

Exam Dates:

March 23rd- Augusta

March 25th- Bangor

June 22nd- Augusta

June 24th- Bangor

October 26th- Augusta

October 28th- Presque Isle



Dawn Abbott	287-6471	Enforcement Specialist	dawn.abbott@maine.gov
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Jessica Bishop	287-5699	Operator Certification/ Well Drillers Board Clerk	jessica.bishop@maine.gov
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Kate Tufts	215-0624	Field Inspector	kate.tufts@maine.gov
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Jim Willis	287-5694	Office Clerk	james.willis@maine.gov

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after hours emergency: (207) 557-4214 • visit us on the web: www.medwp.com

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Department of Health
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