



**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation**

Commissioner's Office

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*Agency of Natural Resources*

August 10, 2016

Dear Licensed Designers of Water Supply and Wastewater Systems:

In the spring of 2016, the Legislature passed Act 156 to transfer the licensing of Class A and Class B/BW water supply and wastewater designers from the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to the Secretary of State's Office of Professional Regulation (OPR). The implementation date for the transfer is January 1, 2017. After that date OPR will handle the administration of new applications, renewals, and provisional licenses.

I encourage you to send in your license renewal applications to DEC early this year so that we can process them before the transfer occurs. We will be sending out the renewal application forms in September to help expedite the process, and will ask that you submit your applications by December 1, 2016.

Even after the transfer, DEC will continue to;

- a) develop and administer exams;
- b) provide continuing education training including soils training;
- c) review, approve and post continuing education credits on our webpages; and
- d) continue to post information on active designers.

OPR manages 46 professional licenses for approximately 58,000 licensees. They currently have an on-line application and renewal process and are going through a new update to this system. They will be contacting you directly to provide you with information on applications and contacting their office. They will be developing rules to administer the program and will let you know of any changes from the current status.

We believe that this partnership will be a positive move for you, DEC and the public at large. OPR will be able to provide a:

- a) High level of professionalism similar to licensed Professional Engineers;
- b) Well-developed process for handling complaints and enforcing licensing policies;
- c) Online application process for licensees; and an
- d) Online database that provides the public with direct access to your licensing information, improving transparency and accessibility.

DEC will work with OPR to create a smooth transition and will keep you updated over the next months. If you have any questions regarding this transfer, please contact DEC's Mary Clark at (802) 585-4890 ([mary.clark@vermont.gov](mailto:mary.clark@vermont.gov)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alyssa B. Schuren".

Alyssa B. Schuren

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation