

MEMORANDUM

Thru: Catherina Narigon, Associate General Counsel, DEC

FROM: Bryan Redmond, Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division Director,
Ben Montross, Drinking Water Program Manager

DATE: August 18, 2023

RE: Vermont Water Supply Rule updates

This round of revisions to the Vermont Water Supply rule reflects updates required by EPA for the State program to retain primacy over public drinking water regulation. These revisions have been considered and discussed at length by the Program, and by relevant groups in the State. Feedback and comments from other programs, other agencies, and water organizations throughout the state were considered and implemented within this revision. These updates will help ensure compliance with EPA standards, and will assist in maintaining high quality drinking water for Vermonters.

The following list summarizes notable changes to the rule:

1. **Definitions:** definitions to assist with EPA mandated updates were added, and previously undefined technical terms were added.
2. **Section 6.6 Revised Total Coliform Rule.** The RTCR was updated per new EPA standards in order to retain primacy. EPA mandated states include certain new regulatory requirements, and these changes reflect those mandatory updates.
3. **Section 6.18 PFAS MCL language update.** Changed to reflect EPA treatment of MCL for these chemicals.
4. **Chapter 21-12 Operator Certification.** This section was overhauled to include better metrics for operator certification, and to allow flexibility for continued education while maintaining high standards. The section also was edited to include clearer rules about revoking operating licenses, and license suspension. The duties and responsibilities of operators were clarified, as well.
5. **Appendix A 3.3.1.2 source isolation zones.** Updated for consistency with other DEC rules, and to ensure proper protection
6. **Appendix A 4.11: granular carbon filtration.** Section updated to reflect changes in industry standards.
7. **Other changes:**

- a. Grammar and formatting: some minor grammatical errors and formatting changes were made to assist in readability and to make the rule more user friendly.
- b. Gendered language and other changes: language that was specifically gendered in the rule was changed to be gender inclusive. Other outdated terms were updated.

Public comment and questions:

Public comment and questions will be received in writing until Noon on Friday, October 6th. Written comments and questions should be directed to Ben, Bryan, or Catherina as listed in the heading of this memorandum. Contact information for these personnel is available on the Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection Division's website.

The Program will hold an in-person meeting at 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Catamount Conference room in Montpelier on Wednesday, September 27th from 5pm-6:30pm. The Program will hold an additional virtual meeting from 10am-12pm on Thursday, September 28th. Links to access both the in-person meeting and the virtual meeting over Microsoft Teams are posted in the public notice on the Secretary of State's website.