Administrative Procedures – Proposed Rule Filing

Instructions:
In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the “Rule on Rulemaking” (CVR 04-000-001) adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms with the Office of the Secretary of State, the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules and a copy with the Chair of the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms requiring a signature shall be original signatures of the appropriate adopting authority or authorized person, and all filings are to be submitted at the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week. The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!

Certification Statement: As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rules

_________________________ , on __________.
(signature) (date)

Printed Name and Title:
Julie S. Moore, Secretary
Agency of Natural Resources

- Coversheet
- Adopting Page
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Environmental Impact Analysis
- Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ICAR Filing Confirmed

REVISED AUG 14, 2018
1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:  
   Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:  
   Agency of Natural Resources

3. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:  
   (A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).  
   Name: Ernest Christianson  
   Agency: Agency of Natural Resources  
   Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Main 2, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3521  
   Telephone: 802 585 - 4884  Fax: 802 828 - 1541  
   E-Mail: ernest.christianson@vermont.gov  
   Web URL (WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED):  
   http://dec.vermont.gov/water/ww-systems

4. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:  
   (A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).  
   Name: Diane Sherman  
   Agency: Agency of Natural Resources  
   Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2, Montpelier, Vermont 05620-3521  
   Telephone: 802 505 - 0125  Fax: -  
   E-Mail: diane.sherman@vermont.gov

5. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:  
   (DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?)  
   No

   IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

   PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

6. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:  
   (THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).  
   10 V.S.A. § 1978
7. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

Section 1978 of Title 10 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated vests the Agency of Natural Resources with the responsibility of adopting rules for regulating and permitting the construction, replacement, modification, operation, and maintenance of wastewater systems and potable water supplies for the protection of human health and the environment. The Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules satisfy this responsibility by establishing a set of technical standards and permitting processes for wastewater systems and potable water supplies that protects human health and the environment while incorporating flexibility where possible.

8. CONCISE SUMMARY (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules were last updated in 2007. This rule amendment incorporates legislative directives adopted subsequent to the last rule update, including but not limited to requirements that permit applicants notify other landowners of pending applications, that groundwater potable water sources be tested for water quality prior to use, and that surface water can be used as a source for potable water supplies serving single-family residences. The amendment also consolidates the standards for potable water supplies into one rule; establishes new water quality sampling requirements; expands the options for the design of wastewater systems to include technologies and practices that have been proven effective in the field; and creates additional permitting exemptions to reduce administrative burdens on the public. The amendment also comprehensively reorganizes and revises the rule to increase clarity and promote understanding.

9. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:

Revisions to the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules ("WWPWS Rules") are necessary to incorporate legislative changes to 10 V.S.A., Chapter 64; to consolidate into one rule and update technical standards for potable water supplies; to update technical standards for wastewater systems to include proven technologies and practices; and to clarify
permitting requirements and technical standards for wastewater systems and potable water supplies.

10. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY:
Extensive work, over the course of multiple years, was completed by Agency of Natural Resources' ("Agency") staff to review and update the technical standards to include proven technologies and practices. The Technical Advisory Committee was regularly engaged in reviewing the technical standards and permitting requirements due to their breadth of scientific and practical expertise. Additionally, the Agency reached out to several other Vermont State agencies for input on the rule amendment, including the Agency of Human Services, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Agency of Transportation.

11. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:
A vast majority of Vermonters will be directly affected by, and may benefit from, this rule amendment. Members of the public, as consumers of drinking water in the State, and prospective home buyers, will be affected by the updated standards for testing the water quality of potable water sources. Individual or entity landowners who seek to construct or modify buildings for living, conducting business, or pursuing recreation will be affected by the updated and clarified technical standards and permitting requirements for potable water supplies and wastewater systems serving the buildings.

12. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):
Members of the public as consumers of drinking water in the State, and prospective home buyers, will benefit from the updated standards for testing the water quality of groundwater potable water sources. Individual and entity landowners who seek to construct or modify buildings for living, conducting business, or pursuing recreation may experience reduced costs from the availability of expanded options for the design of wastewater systems, more predictable permitting requirements, and additional permitting exemptions. New water quality sampling requirements for potable water sources may have minimal costs for landowners. Estimated cost, if a landowner uses the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory to test water
quality, is $180 to $190, based on the Laboratory's existing fees established pursuant to statute.

13. A HEARING IS SCHEDULED.

14. HEARING INFORMATION
(The first hearing shall be no sooner than 30 days following the posting of notices online).

If this form is insufficient to list the information for each hearing please attach a separate sheet to complete the hearing information needed for the notice of rulemaking.

Date: 10/31/2018
Time: 01:00 PM
Street Address: Department of Environmental Conservation, Springfield Regional Office, 100 Mineral Street, Springfield, Vermont
Zip Code: 05156

Date: 11/1/2018
Time: 02:00 PM
Street Address: Department of Environmental Conservation, Rutland Regional Office, 450 Asa Bloomer State Office Building, 88 Merchants Row, Rutland, Vermont
Zip Code: 05701

Date: 11/1/2018
Time: 06:00 PM
Street Address: Rutland Town Office, 181 US 4 Business Route, Rutland, Vermont
Zip Code: 05736

Date: 11/7/2018
Time: 01:00 PM
Street Address: Department of Environmental Conservation, Essex Regional Office, Fish & Wildlife Building, 111 West Street Essex Junction, Vermont
Zip Code: 05452

15. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING): 11/23/2018
16. **KEYWORDS** (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).

- wastewater
- potable water
- surface water
- groundwater
- drinking water
- septic
- leachfield
- sewage
**Additional Public Hearings:**

**Date:** 11/8/18  
**Time:** 1:00 PM  
**Street Address:** Environmental Conservation, St. Johnsbury Regional Office, 374 Emerson Falls Road, St. Johnsbury, Vermont  
**Zip Code:** 05819

**Date:** 11/14/18  
**Time:** 2:00 PM  
**Street Address:** St. Leo’s Hall, 109 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont  
**Zip Code:** 05676

**Date:** 11/14/18  
**Time:** 6:00 PM  
**Street Address:** St. Leo’s Hall, 109 South Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont  
**Zip Code:** 05676
Administrative Procedures – Adopting Page

Instructions:

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:
   Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:
   Agency of Natural Resources

3. TYPE OF FILING (Please choose the type of filing from the dropdown menu based on the definitions provided below):

   - AMENDMENT - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment as long as the rule is replaced with other text.

   - NEW RULE - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.

   - REPEAL - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

   This filing is AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE.

4. LAST ADOPTED (Please provide the SOS Log#, title and effective date of the last adoption for the existing rule):
   Secretary of State Rule Log #07-040, Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, September 29, 2007
Administrative Procedures – Economic Impact Analysis

**Instructions:**
In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn’t appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

   **Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rules**

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

   Agency of Natural Resources

3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

   *LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:*

   Members of the public, as consumers of drinking water in the State, and prospective home buyers, will benefit from the updated standards for testing the water quality of groundwater potable water supplies.

   Individual and entity landowners who seek to construct or modify buildings for living, conducting business, or pursuing recreation may experience reduced costs from
the availability of expanded options for the design of wastewater systems, more predictable technical and permitting requirements, and additional permitting exemptions. New water quality sampling requirements for potable water sources may have minimal costs for landowners. Estimated cost, if a landowner uses the Vermont Department of Health Laboratory to test water quality, is $180 to $190, based on the Laboratory's existing fees established pursuant to statute.

4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:

   INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:

   Schools that are landowners will be impacted similar to other landowners and may experience reduced costs from the availability of expanded options for the design of wastewater systems, more predictable technical and permitting requirement, and additional permitting exemptions. Due to their populations, schools are generally served by public water sources rather than potable water sources and will not be affected by the new water quality sampling requirements.

5. ALTERNATIVES: CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.

   As schools are anticipated to experience a reduction in compliance costs as a result of this rule amendment, alternatives are not necessary.

6. IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:

   INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):

   Small businesses that are landowners will be impacted similar to other landowners and may experience reduced costs from the availability of expanded options for the design of wastewater systems and more predictable technical and permitting requirements. Small businesses may also benefit from additional permitting exemptions, including exemptions for buildings with minimal or seasonal usage. Small businesses with their own on-site
potable water source may experience minimal costs for new water quality sampling requirements.

7. **SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE:** *Explain ways a business can reduce the cost/burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn't appropriate.*

As small businesses are anticipated to experience a reduction in compliance costs as a result of this rule amendment, identifying ways to reduce the cost of compliance from the rule is not necessary.

8. **COMPARISON:**

*Compare the impact of the rule with the economic impact of other alternatives to the rule, including no rule on the subject or a rule having separate requirements for small business.*

While the economic impact of this rule amendment on an specific landowner depends on the conditions that exist on that landowner's property, the overall economic impact of this rule amendment on many landowners is expected to be positive due to the availability of expanded options for the design of wastewater systems, more predictable technical and permitting requirement, and additional permitting exemptions. Not adopting this rule amendment would not yield these positive benefits. Additionally, incorporating changes into rule that are required by legislative directive creates no additional economic impacts in comparison to not incorporating them into rule.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *Explain the sufficiency of this economic impact analysis.*

This economic impact analysis provides the Agency's best assessment of the economic impact of this rule amendment based on the information available.
Instructions:
In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

   Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:
   Agency of Natural Resources

3. GREENHOUSE GAS: explain how the rule impacts the emission of greenhouse gases (e.g. transportation of people or goods; building infrastructure; land use and development, waste generation, etc.):
   None anticipated

4. WATER: explain how the rule impacts water (e.g. discharge / elimination of pollution into Vermont waters, the flow of water in the state, water quality etc.):
   The WWPWS Rules establish technical standards and permitting requirements for the construction, replacement, modification, operation, and maintenance of wastewater systems and potable water supplies for the protection of human health and the environment. The WWPWS Rules include requirements for the treatment of wastewater through soils prior to reaching groundwater or surface water. This rule amendment does not alter the existing protections for groundwater or surface water contained in the WWPWS Rules. It
maintains the required vertical separation between wastewater systems and groundwater and horizontal separation between wastewater systems and surface water. The rule amendment provides clarification that certain wastewater that is high strength requires additional treatment and that wastewater systems cannot be used to dispose of wastes that would adversely affect the biological action within a septic tank or leachfield or wastes prohibited from disposal via an injection well or requiring an injection well permit.

5. LAND: EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):
None anticipated

6. RECREATION: EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT RECREATION IN THE STATE:
This rule amendment retains and adds permitting exemptions that reduce administrative burden on the public for some recreational activities including remote camping and recreation associated with buildings with minimal or seasonal usage.

7. CLIMATE: EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:
None anticipated

8. OTHER: EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT’S ENVIRONMENT:
The WWPWS Rules also protect the environment by establishing technical standards that prohibit and prevent the surfacing of wastewater and potential exposure of wildlife and humans to pathogens and other components of wastewater.

9. SUFFICIENCY: EXPLAIN THE SUFFICIENCY OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS.
This environmental impact analysis provides the Agency's best assessment of the environmental impact of this rule amendment based on the information available.
Administrative Procedures – Public Input

Instructions:

In completing the public input statement, an agency describes the strategy prescribed by ICAR to maximize public input, what it did do, or will do to comply with that plan to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of the rule.

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:
   Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:
   Agency of Natural Resources

3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE STRATEGY PRESCRIBED BY ICAR TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

   During drafting of this rule amendment, the Agency sought input from the Technical Advisory Committee, which is comprised of wastewater system designers, well drillers, hydrogeologists, Vermont Department of Health staff, Vermont League of Cities and Town staff, water treatment specialist, a municipal representative, and Agency staff. Additionally, during drafting, the Agency reached out to several other Vermont State agencies for input on the rule amendment, including the Agency of Human Services, the Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets, and the Agency of Transportation.

   During the 7 public hearings and the formal public comment period that will be held on the rule amendment, the Agency intends to engage with a variety of stakeholders including wastewater system designers, architects, service providers, well drillers, realtors, lawyers, municipalities, Regional Planning Commissions, and a number of Vermont State agencies and non-governmental organizations.

4. PLEASE LIST THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:
The Technical Advisory Committee was consulted while drafting the rule amendment, prior to initiating rulemaking. During rulemaking, 7 public hearings will be held and the rule amendment will be posted on the Agency's website, and directly distributed to all of the entities and categories of individuals listed below prior to the first hearing.

5. **BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:**

   * Technical Advisory Committee
   * Professional engineers and environmental consultants
   * Vermont Board of Professional Engineers
   * Wastewater system designers, using a list provided by the Office of Professional Regulation within the Secretary of State
   * American Institute of Architects Vermont
   * Service providers who inspect and repair wastewater pre-treatment units, using a list maintained by the Agency
   * Associated General Contractors of Vermont
   * Licensed well drillers, using a list maintained by the Agency
   * Vermont Association of Realtors
   * Vermont Bar Association
   * Municipalities, using a list obtained from the Vermont League of Cities and Towns
   * Vermont League of Cities and Town
   * Regional Planning Commissions
   * Vermont Agency of Transportation; Vermont Agency of Commerce and Community Development; Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food and Markets; Division of Fire Safety within the Department of Public Safety; Department of Buildings and General Services within the Agency of Administration; and Vermont Department of Health within the Agency of Human Services
* Non-governmental organizations including Vermont Natural Resources Council; Conservation Law Foundation; Vermont River Conservancy; Lake Champlain Committee; Vermont Rural Water Association
Administrative Procedures – Incorporation by Reference

THIS FORM IS ONLY REQUIRED WHEN INCORPORATING MATERIALS BY REFERENCE. PLEASE REMOVE PRIOR TO DELIVERY IF IT DOES NOT APPLY TO THIS RULE FILING:

Instructions:
In completing the incorporation by reference statement, an agency describes any materials that are incorporated into the rule by reference and how to obtain copies.

This form is only required when a rule incorporates materials by referencing another source without reproducing the text within the rule itself (e.g. federal or national standards, or regulations).

Incorporated materials will be maintained and available for inspection by the Agency.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:
   Wastewater and Potable Water Supply Rules

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:
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3. DESCRIPTION (DESCRIBE THE MATERIALS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE):
   Two documents are incorporated by reference, the Vermont Plumbing Rules and the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soils.

   The Vermont Plumbing Rules are rules adopted by the Department of Public Safety for the design and installation of plumbing in buildings.

   The Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soil is a publication of the Natural Resources Conservation Service within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides a uniform method for describing soil and soil limitations, such as redoximorphic features and consistence, for the design of wastewater systems.

4. FORMAL CITATION OF MATERIALS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE:
   * Vermont Plumbing Rules (August 1, 2015)  
   * Field Book for Describing and
5. OBTAINING COPIES: (EXPLAIN WHERE THE PUBLIC MAY OBTAIN THE MATERIAL(S) IN WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC FORM, AND AT WHAT COST):

The Vermont Plumbing Rules are available for no cost from the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Safety's website identifying codes and standards, currently located here: http://firesafety.vermont.gov/buildingcode/codes

The Field Book for Describing and Sampling Soil is available for no cost on the Natural Resources Conservation Service's website identifying methods and guides, currently located here: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/soils/research/guide/

Copies are also available from the Agency of Natural Resources by contacting the Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division at 802-585-4884.

6. MODIFICATIONS (PLEASE EXPLAIN ANY MODIFICATION TO THE INCORPORATED MATERIALS E.G., WHETHER ONLY PART OF THE MATERIAL IS ADOPTED AND IF SO, WHICH PART(S) ARE MODIFIED):

No modifications made