

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jewel Mullen, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A.
Commissioner



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Circular Letter EHS #2014-22

DATE: May 8, 2014

TO: Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians
Town Building Department Officials

FROM: Ryan Tetreault
Supervising Environmental Analyst
DPH Private Well Program

RE: DEEP General Permit for the Discharge of Low Flow Water Treatment Wastewater

In conjunction with the Office of the State Building Inspector, the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), Private Well Program would like to make local health departments and local building officials aware of a general permit for the discharge of Low Flow Water Treatment Wastewater (LFWTW) that was issued by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection on January 30, 2014. The general permit for LFWTW provides a mechanism for homeowners with point of entry (whole house) water treatment systems for private wells to dispose of most treatment backwash wastewater. Backwash water from point of entry (whole house) treatment systems cannot discharge into a septic system. The subject permit is for water treatment wastewater discharges with a maximum of 500 gallons per day and does not include treatment discharges for removal of radionuclides. Please refer to the LFWTW general permit on wastewater discharge restrictions and other operating conditions (http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/Permits_and_Licenses/Water_Discharge_General_Permits/lowflow_gp.pdf)

The general permit for LFWTW discharges outlines criteria for sizing and location of a water treatment wastewater disposal system (WTWDS). Minimum horizontal separation distances to private wells are also specified in the general permit. The separation distances between a private well and WTWDS are consistent with the Public Health Code for potential sources of pollution: 75 feet for a required well withdrawal rate less than 10 gpm, 150 feet for a required well withdrawal rate 10-50 gpm and 200 feet for a required well withdrawal rate greater than 50 gpm. The general permit allows the local Director of Health to reduce the separation distance between the WTWDS and a private well, but only on existing developed properties when minimum distances cannot be provided. However, the reduced separation distance cannot be less than 25 feet and cannot be applied for new construction sites.

The "Record Keeping and Reporting Requirements" of the permit states "Within thirty (30) days following the installation of a water treatment wastewater disposal system, the permittee shall submit an installation report to the local health department." Permittees are encouraged to seek consultation with their local health departments when they are uncertain about the correct design or placement of the WTWDS.



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Though the general permit only requires the permittee to notify their local Director of Health after the WTWDS is installed, the DPH Private Well Program recommends that Local Health Departments establish necessary procedures that will allow for the review of a WTWDS before it is installed. This will be helpful to ensure a WTWDS is properly located based on information that may be on file with a Local Health Department and not readily known by homeowners. Local building officials are encouraged to notify their respective local health officials when an application is made for a permit that involves plumbing and piping work that includes the installation of a whole house water treatment system that includes a backwash. Likewise, local health departments are encouraged to share contact information and maintain communication with the building officials for the towns in their local health jurisdiction.

The DPH Private Well Program is coordinating a work group to bring together individuals that may have some role in the activity pertaining to the installation of a water treatment system that will backwash to a WTWDS. If you would like to participate in this work group, please contact Ryan Tetreault, Private Well Program Supervisor at 860-509-7296 or through email: Ryan.Tetreault@ct.gov.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., M.P.H., Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH
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