



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

January 2016

The Municipal EcoLink is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). We respectfully request that the following is electronically distributed or otherwise made available to your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well. You may read past issues at [The Municipal EcoLink](#)

New Wetlands Mitigation Rules

Effective February 1, 2016, the NHDES Wetlands Bureau has adopted new mitigation rules. See notice on new Rules: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/process-improvement.htm> Before submission of a wetlands application that requires compensatory mitigation, an applicant has to meet with NHDES in a pre-application meeting. A NHDES Wetlands Bureau pre-application webpage has been created: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/pre-app.htm> Where mitigation is required, applicants will have to review a list of local mitigation options from a municipality if one has been prepared. Other significant changes include clarifying “enhancement”, stream mitigation requirements, and the state-federal coordination process.

Solid Waste Operator Continuing Education

The Solid Waste Program will be hosting a **NEW** Used Oil Class on February 25th (9-Noon) and two sessions of Solid Waste Facility Managers Class (**REPEAT**) on March 22nd (9-Noon; 1-4). These workshops are quickly filling up so please register with Nelson Ordway at (603) 271-2925 or nelson.ordway@des.nh.gov at your earliest convenience. For more information on the Solid Waste Operator Training Program or on these workshops, please go to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/index.htm>

Small Storage Tank Inspection

The NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau is pleased to announce the Small Community Public Water System Tank Inspection Grant program. Atmospheric and hydropneumatic tanks are vital components of a small water system and need to be properly maintained. To evaluate the condition of a tank and its remaining life expectancy, it needs to be inspected internally, and if accessible, externally too. NHDES offers small water systems a 50 percent matching grant of up to \$4,000 per tank of 20,000 gallons or less to perform tank inspections. NHDES will award a maximum of \$10,000 for each water system (enough for three tanks) to perform those long-neglected inspections in 2016. NHDES will accept applications until Friday, March 4, 2016.

For more information or to obtain an application, please visit <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/asset-managment/index.htm> or contact Luis Adorno at (603) 271-2472 or luis.adorno@des.nh.gov.

New Sludge Management Rules

NHDES has recently readopted the Sludge Management Rules, Env-Wq 800, on January 1, 2016. These rules establish the standards and requirements for transportation, disposal, and recycling of sludge. A copy of the recently readopted rules can be downloaded at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rulemaking/documents/env-wq800-adptpstd.pdf> For additional information, contact Michael Rainey of the Residuals Management Section at (603) 271-2818 or via e-mail at michael.rainey@des.nh.gov.

NHDES and Dartmouth College release the ‘Well Water Community Action Toolkit’

Do many residents in your town use drilled or dug wells located on their property (referred to as “private wells”) to supply water to meet their domestic water needs? Water produced by private wells is not required to meet state or federal water quality standards that govern public drinking water supplies.

Consequently, some private well users may be unknowingly drinking contaminants in their well water that may be harmful to their health, such as arsenic, which is common in New Hampshire's groundwater. NHDES' toolkit provides useful guidance for town officials (conservation commissions, health officers, etc.) to effectively promote and organize town-wide well water testing events, making it easier for private well owners to test their well water. Testing well water at an accredited lab is the first step to determining whether it is necessary to install water treatment to remove contaminants present at unsafe levels or that affect home appliances. Access to toolkit at:

<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~toxmetal/assets/pdf/wellwatertoolkit.pdf> For more information about the toolkit or general interest in organizing a local well testing event, please contact Pierce Rigrod (271-0688, pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov) or Amy Hudnor (271-2950, amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov) within the NHDES Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau.

Reminder - Annual Certification of Criminal Background Checks for Youth Skill Program Staff

New Hampshire Youth Skill Programs are annually required to conduct criminal background checks for any staff (owners, employees, and/or volunteers) that may be alone with any child or children. The requirement applies to all "youth skill camps" ("non-profit or for profit programs teaching a skill to children under 18 years of age") and covers any program designed to impart a specific skill over a period of 3 or more consecutive days. More information and a list of currently certified camps is available online at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/youth-skills/index.htm> If you have any questions, please contact Chip Mackey of the NH Youth Recreation Camp Licensing Program at 603-271-0655 or chip.mackey@des.nh.gov.

2015 AFR Forms for Solid Waste Facilities Available Online

Each year, permitted solid waste facilities are required to report their regulated activities to DES. The 2015 Annual Facility Report (AFR) forms for all facilities, including Transfer Stations and Scrap Metal Facilities, are online at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/css/categories/forms.htm> Reports are due March 31, 2016 and can be submitted in the mail, by fax (271-2456) or electronically, either as a pdf or email attachment to: solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov Send questions to solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov or call 271-2925. Staff will also be available to answer questions in person on March 22, from 9:00 to 3:00.

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