



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

July 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](#)

Drought

It is dry out there and experts agree conditions are likely to continue into the fall. NHDES is asking municipalities and public water systems to work together on limiting outdoor water use in their communities. Please go to www.des.nh.gov and scroll through the "A-Z List" to "Drought Management Program" to find "2016 Drought Guidance for Municipalities and Public Water Systems" and the latest drought status update.

PFOA and PFOS Rulemaking Public Hearings

Effective May 31, 2016, NHDES adopted Emergency Ambient Groundwater Quality Standards (AGQS) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) based on Health Advisory levels established by EPA. The Emergency AGQS were needed to enable NHDES to require responsible parties to remediate contaminated groundwater or otherwise provide safe drinking water to the properties owners in New Hampshire whose drinking water has been or may be affected by PFOA and/or PFOS contamination. The emergency AGQS will expire on November 27, 2016 unless readopted prior to that date. NHDES thus is proposing to readopt the emergency rules as regular rules so that the AGQS for PFOA and PFOS will remain in place. The proposed rules is posted at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rulemaking/index.htm#poil>. Public hearings on the proposed rule will be held Wednesday, August 3, 2016 at 6:00 PM at Place: Campbell High School Auditorium; 1 Highlander Court, Litchfield, NH; and Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at 6:00 PM in Conference Room A, NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office; Pease International Tradeport; 222 International Drive, Suite 175; Portsmouth, NH.

Notice of Public Hearings for Clean Water and Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund Programs

NHDES will hold a public hearing on the CWSRF and DWSRF Project Priority Lists for Fiscal Year 2016 and ensuing years and the Fiscal Year 2016 Draft Intended Use Plans. The hearings will be held in the NHDES auditorium, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH on Thursday, August 4, 2016. The hearings will open at 9 AM and remain in session until all attendees have been given an opportunity to provide comments. Copies of the draft Project Priority Lists and Intended Use Plans will be posted on the Department's website at www.des.nh.gov, prior to the public hearing date. For more information please contact the Clean Water Program at (603) 271-3908 or the Drinking Water Program at (603) 271-2513 or dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov.

Firefighter Training Activity Enforcement

As a follow-up to last month's reminder about local fire departments planning to conduct training burns, NHDES wishes to remind those local fire departments that administrative fines of up to \$2,000 per violation, or civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day of violation, may be assessed for failure to follow all of the requirements for this activity. Recently, NHDES assessed a fine of \$2,601 in a case where a local fire department failed to notify NHDES prior to a training burn and failed to properly remove asbestos-containing materials prior to the training burn. Historically, NHDES has assessed fines for improperly burning camping trailers and a boat, as well as for failing to have a state certified fire instructor or specialty instructor for the training burn. For assistance with firefighter training burn requirements, please contact Tom Guertin at (603) 271-0907 or Steve Cullinane at (603) 271-1373. You can also find additional information on fire fighter training requirements, including lists of consultants, abatement contractors and notification forms at the following links:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/npsap/firefighter-training.htm>

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/ams/index.htm>

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/npsap/documents/open-burn-firefight-train.pdf>

Used Oil Grant Funds Available for Fiscal Year 2017

The NHDES is accepting applications for Used Oil Grant Funds for State Fiscal Year 2017. This will be the only opportunity to obtain the grant this coming fiscal year. Grants are approved on a first-come first-serve basis. The deadline for submitting a **completed** grant application is September 1, 2016. Grant application packages are available on the NHDES web-site at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/orcb/fms/uomp/categories/grants.htm>

Solid Waste Operator Training and Certification Program

The NHDES Solid Waste Operator Training (SWOT) and Certification Program has populated the remaining months of the 2016 calendar with Continuing Professional Development opportunities for all solid waste operators. The next two classes are "Pollution Prevention & Household Hazardous Waste" (August 24) and "Asbestos" (September 29). For complete workshop descriptions, please go to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/workshop.htm> and click on either the course title or time. Each workshop is at least 2.5 hours and will count towards Continuing Professional Development. Additionally, the SWOT Program has announced the next Basic Training date, September 29. Please have all new operators submit complete initial applications no more than 30 days from hire. For all information regarding the SWOT Program, go to <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swrtas/index.htm>

NH Drinking Water and Wastewater Managers School

The NH Drinking Water and Wastewater Managers School is now accepting applications for the 2017 management course. The program is open to current managers and supervisors who wish to improve their management skills. This program is also for drinking water & wastewater operators preparing to become candidates for future management or supervisory positions. Applications are due by November 1, 2016. <http://www.nhwpc.org/nh-drinking-water-wastewater-managers-school/>

A Reminder about Asbestos Inspections

A reminder to all towns and municipalities of the necessity for building owners to have an asbestos inspection prior to any renovation/demolition. Also, property management companies have a responsibility to inform clients and ensure any asbestos containing materials are maintained and remain hazard free.

http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/ard/documents/asbestos_brochure.pdf

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/cb/ceps/ams/documents/asbestos-management.pdf>

2017 Local Source Water Protection Grants -Application Available Now!

Project funding is available from NHDES to develop and implement programs to protect existing sources of public drinking water. The grants are available to water suppliers, municipalities, regional planning agencies, non-profit organizations, educational institutions, conservation districts and state agencies. Applicants can receive up to \$20,000 for projects to protect drinking water sources, including watershed planning, delineation of protection areas, assessment of threats to water supply sources, implementation and source security. **Applications are available at:**

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/dwspp/lswp_grants.htm

Please contact Pierce Rigrod at (603) 271-0688 or pierce.rigrod@des.nh.gov or Amy Hudnor at (603) 271-2950 or amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov if you have any questions or would like to discuss your proposal. Applications are **due November 1, 2016.**

Lead in Drinking Water Information

A new NHDES Lead in Drinking Water web page (<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/lead-drinking-water.htm>) is now accessible via the A to Z list (and on various other NHDES pages) and a FAQs document is available at the top of the page. If municipalities receive inquiries from the general public, please direct them to these resources.

New OneStop Data Mapper

NHDES is pleased to announce the new OneStop Data Mapper, an easy-to-use, interactive mapping tool displaying environmental data. The new tool replaces the existing OneStop Web GIS viewer and is maintained by NHDES and NH GRANIT. Access the Mapper through the OneStop GIS website at <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/gis/onestop/>

Collecting Environmental Data?

NHDES houses environmental data such as river, lake, ambient air, biological and habitat assessments in a central database. If you collect or are planning to collect data, consider connecting with us! Data in our central database is available to staff and the public, may be used in waterbody assessments, is backed up regularly to prevent data loss, and is available on our data mapper. We can also provide pre-collection technical and planning support. For more information please contact Melanie Titus at melanie.titus@des.nh.gov

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