



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

January 2020

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](#).

Wetlands Rule Changes Approved

On January 17, 2020 JLCAR approved amendments to wetland rules and allowed the Emergency rule clarifying wetlands delineation for docking to stand. The consolidated rules with the new amendments are available here: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/legal/rulemaking/index.htm#awetlands>. Additionally, check out the new fact sheets related to rule changes here: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/categories/publications.htm#factsheets>

AFFF Firefighting Foam Update

NHDES recently updated information related to Class A and Class B firefighting foam on its PFAS website: https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/?page_id=148 Some of the new information includes a technical bulletin jointly issued by NHDES and the Department of Safety found here: <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/nh-pfas-investigation/wp-content/uploads/PFAS-Foam-Fact-Sheet-FINAL.pdf>

Open Burning

Did you know that a municipal fire chief has the authority to extinguish or require that an open burning fire be extinguished pursuant to RSA 154:2, II, even when the ground is covered with snow, if the fire chief determines that the fire violates (any) state or local law? More information on open burning can be found on the [Burning of Residential Trash fact sheet](#) and the [Opening Burning fact sheet](#).

Outdoor Wood-Fired Boilers (OWB)

Currently only OWB's certified by the United States Environmental Protection Agency can be legally sold, purchased, installed and operated in New Hampshire. If you are planning to purchase, operate or install an OWB on your property, make sure it's done in accordance with [the law](#). If you have a used OWB you want to sell, make sure it's a certified device. If not, the buyer will not be able to legally install or use it. For more information check out this fact sheet: <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/ard/documents/ard-54.pdf>

Notice to Solid Waste Facility Owners & Permittees - 2019 Annual Facility Report Forms

The 2019 Annual Facility Report (AFR) forms, used for reporting required information regarding the operation of your solid waste facility (active or inactive) are available online at <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/waste/swmb/css/categories/forms.htm#annual>. Please make sure you choose the correct form for your facility. These reports are due by March 31st from all active solid waste facilities and the majority of the inactive landfills. If you have questions, please contact the Solid Waste Management Bureau at (603) 271-2925 or solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov.

Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Grants Program – Now Open

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of grant funding to implement projects aimed at reducing emissions from the nation's existing fleet of older diesel engines. Applicants must request funding from the EPA regional office which covers the geographic project location. The maximum amount of federal funding that may be requested per application varies by EPA Region. Region 1 (which includes New Hampshire) will accept proposals requesting up to \$1,000,000 in grant funds. Applicants may apply until February 26, 2020. For more information and to access the Request for Applications, visit the [EPA Clean Diesel webpage](#).

FREE – 4th Grade Water Science Fair and NH Drinking Water Festival

Two events in one day - schools may participate in one or both events! At the festival, students will spend the day learning about water quality, conservation, erosion, the effects of pollution, wildlife and many other water-related topics. Activities are hands-on and students interact with professionals in fields of science, technology, engineering and math. These lessons are packed with opportunities to explore Next Generation Science Standards concepts.

Students participating in the festival may also participate in a water poetry competition. The theme this year is “The Depth of Water” and it is open to all topics (not just science). For the NH state-level water science fair, students will conduct research, create an exhibit, write a report and present their findings to a panel of judges. There are a variety of ways the school-level fair can be configured. We have a guide booklet to make this process easy and are happy to discuss ways your schools can participate. The festival, water science fair and water poetry competition are free to registered schools and will take place on May 6, 2020, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in Keene, NH. Space is limited - first come, first served! For more information or to register, please contact Lara Hooper at (603) 271-4071 or lara.hooper@des.nh.gov.

Used Oil Burner Notification

Often, transfer stations and municipal garages will burn used oil that is either collected from Do-It-Yourselfers or generated at the facility. If any of your municipal facilities burn used oil fuel for heat, you are required to notify NHDES of this activity. The notification form can be found on the [Used Oil Management Program website](#). [An instructional video](#) on how to complete the notification form can be viewed on the NHDES YouTube channel.

PROTECT YOUR TAP: 10-minute lead test

The U.S. EPA and NHDES created the [Protect Your Tap: 10-minute lead test](#), an online guide that walks homeowners through a series of steps to see if they have lead pipes bringing water into their home, how to reduce their exposure to lead and how to get their water tested. If you would like to share the guide with your community, please contact Amy Rousseau at (603) 271-0893 or amy.rousseau@des.nh.gov for more information.

Is Your School AHERA Compliant?

The school year is well underway, so make sure your schools’ Asbestos Management Plans are up-to-date and in compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), 40 CFR 763, Subpart E. The purpose of AHERA is to ensure that local educational agencies safely manage asbestos containing building materials found in schools, to ensure students, faculty and the general public are not exposed to asbestos. This brochure has the [responsibilities of all public, non-profit private, and charter schools](#) in the State of New Hampshire regarding AHERA. NHDES urges all schools to provide a safe and healthy educational environment. For more information, contact the [NHDES Asbestos Management Program](#) at (603) 271-4555.

Asbestos Inspection and Abatement – Notice to Town when Issuing a Building Renovation and Demolition Permit

A reminder to all towns and municipalities of the necessity for building owners and their contractors to have an asbestos inspection prior to any renovation/demolition. With the spring construction season approaching, homeowners and contractors will be applying for building permits. Please direct them to NHDES for guidance on their projects. For information on asbestos requirements contact NHDES at (603) 271-1373, or visit the [Asbestos Program webpage](#).

Planning Board Environmental Assistance

Did you receive a proposal/application for a new small business coming to your town or city? Not sure what environmental rules apply? The Small Business Technical Assistance Program (SBTAP) can help by providing guidance and publications on potential environmental regulations that may apply to that business sector, including hazardous waste management, groundwater protection and air emissions. For more information, go to the [SBTAP webpage](#).

Financial Assistance for Heating Oil Tank Replacements

NHDES is looking to increase awareness of the [Safetank program](#) among NH cities and towns. This nearly 20-year-old program provides eligible homeowners assistance of up to \$2,250 for the replacement of an aboveground heating oil tank if they meet the definition of “low-income” by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Page 5 of the [Safetank application](#) contains the current income eligibility requirements. Please keep this program in mind for residents of your communities who may need the assistance. For more information please contact: Genevieve Al-Egaily at Genevieve.Al-Egaily@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3577, or Erik Paddleford at Erik.Paddleford@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3431.

NHDES Subsurface e-Permitting Now Accepts eChecks

A new option went into effect for registered users of the Subsurface e-Permitting system: payment by electronic check (eCheck) and a redesigned payment page. The eCheck option has no service fee. When using the credit card payment option, application fees over \$1,200 will incur an additional 2.49% service fee. For the largest subdivision applications, the payment options will be limited to paper check, money order or voucher. If you have questions after using the new payment page, please contact the [Subsurface System Bureau](#) at (603) 271-3501.

Emergency Generators - NHDES Approvals and Installation Requirements

Any facility installing an emergency electrical generator with an aboveground petroleum storage tank (AST) having a capacity of more than 660 gallons must submit an AST application and plans to the Waste Management Division of NHDES for construction approval a minimum of 45 days prior to installation. This is true whether the AST forms an integral part of the generator enclosure or is free standing. It is unlawful to install and to operate such an emergency generator or AST without prior NHDES approval. For more information on the AST application, plan and approval process, please contact Charles Corliss at (603) 271-6058, visit the [Aboveground Storage Tank program](#) on the NHDES website and note "[sample plans.](#)"

Revitalizing New England: Brownfields Summit 2020 – Save the Date October 7 & 8, 2020

Cleaning up and redeveloping brownfields facilitates job growth, increases local tax bases, utilizes existing infrastructure, and improves the environment – a win, win, win, win! To advance understanding of states and federal brownfield programs and opportunities, NEWMOA, NJIT TAB, and the New England states are organizing a regional summit. For more information, go to www.newmoa.org/brownfields2020.

NHDES Instagram Account

NHDES has an official [Instagram Account](#) (@NHEnvironmentalServices). The account will be used to post information about NHDES events, trainings, workshops, publications and more. Please take the time to check it out and follow us to stay connected with NHDES. You can also find us on [Twitter](#) (@NHDES), [Facebook](#) (@NHEnvironmentalServices) and [YouTube](#) (@NHDES). If you have any questions or suggestions for content, please contact us at socialmedia@des.nh.gov.

Please send your comments for the editor to editor@des.nh.gov.

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