



The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

July 2023

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](#).

NHDES wetlands information related to the latest flood event

If you have already made emergency repairs in wetlands or stream crossings in response to the natural disaster between **July 10 – July 16, 2023**, you need to complete an After-Action Report within 10 working days after commencing the work per Env-Wt 315.05. In the event you need further direction or have any questions, please review the regional permit reviewer map to obtain the contact information of the person who can assist you in your region. [Wetlands Permitting Regions](#).

State Revolving Loan Fund Public Hearings August 3

The NHDES Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) programs will hold public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2023 Draft Intended Use Plans (IUP) and Project Priority Lists (PPL). In addition, the Wastewater State Aid Grant Program for Water Pollution Control will hold a public hearing on the project priority lists for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 and for the ensuing years. The hearings will be held virtually via GoToWebinar on **August 3, 2023**. [Webinar Registration link](#). For more information, please see the [Public Hearing Notice](#).

Public Input regarding NH Code of Administrative Rules for Solid Waste Management

The NHDES Waste Management Division is seeking public input regarding the New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules for Solid Waste Management, namely, Env-Sw 804, Landfill Siting Requirements. An online public input session for these rules was held **July 19** – view the recording of the July 19 session and all other solid waste public input sessions on [NHDES' YouTube Channel](#). Comments may be submitted in writing to NHDES at any time before **August 4, 2023**, at 4:00 PM. Please submit comments using either NHDES' mailing address or by email at swmbrules@des.nh.gov. See the [public input notice](#) for further details. Please note that there will be future opportunities to provide public comment during the formal rulemaking process.

Navigating State Contracts and Grant Programs for Solid Waste

The New Hampshire Solid Waste Operator Training Program is partnering with New Hampshire Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to bring you a class to demystify New Hampshire State Contracts and Grant Programs. The majority of solid waste facilities in New Hampshire are publicly owned, and there are many contracts and grant opportunities available to facility owners for reuse, recycling and waste options. Amy Farnum of DAS and staff from the Purchasing and Contracts team will walk attendees through those options including their reuse facility at White Farm; contract pricing for items such as electronics; and navigating the information available on the DAS website. They also will delve into some strategies for reaching out to your community on reducing the load from generated waste. We welcome transfer station attendants and managers, as well as town officials and solid waste committee members, to attend. The class is on **August 10, 2023**, from 9:00 AM - Noon. Please [register](#) for the class online. For questions, please email SWOT@des.nh.gov.

Public Pool Registrations Required!

Owners and operators of public bathing facilities (PBFs) are required by New Hampshire law to register all existing and new public pools or spas with the state, conduct an annual fee-based self-certification of each existing facility and certify that the PBF is operated under the supervision of a certified pool operator. An online registration form is now available on our [PBF Registration Form webpage](#). The annual self-certification fee is \$250 per PBF (regardless of size) up to a maximum of \$1,500 annually for any facility that

has more than six PBFs. The online form and payment instructions are available on the [PBF annual Self-Certification Form webpage](#). To learn more about the program, please visit the [NHDES Public Bathing Facility Program webpage](#).

Management of Municipal Roadway Soils

The NHDES Solid Waste Management Bureau is pleased to share a new fact sheet, SW-38, and correspondence to New Hampshire City and Town Clerks [on our website](#) regarding management of Municipal Roadway Soils. NHDES is focused on providing guidance to New Hampshire communities on this topic to ensure protection of public health, safety and the environment. You can contact us via email at solidwasteinfo@des.nh.gov or by phone at [\(603\) 271-2925](tel:(603)271-2925) to answer any questions that you may have.

Water Works Operator Training

NHDES/NHWWA Grade 1A Water Operator Instruction (Small Systems Class), Basic Water Works Math, and Grade 1 Water Operator Exam preparation course registration is open for this fall. For more information or to register please see the [NHWWA training webpage](#)

Water Works Operator Certification Exams

Drinking water operator certification examinations will be held on Tuesday, **December 5, 2023**, at NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. Applications for the exam are due 30 days before the examination. There is also an option to take a computer-based exam for Grades I-IV at various locations throughout the state at any time. For more information, see our [Water Works Operator Certification webpage](#).

Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water Program

NHDES has created the Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water program to support schools and child care facilities in completing their required lead in drinking water testing. All facilities can receive technical support, and public schools and licensed child care facilities can receive free sample analyses. For more information and to view testing results, visit www.gettheleadoutnh.org.

Back to School... Is Your School AHERA Compliant?

As students and faculty return to school, make sure your school's Asbestos Management Plans are up-to-date and compliant 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 buildings, to ensure students, faculty and the public are not exposed to asbestos. This brochure outlines the [responsibilities of all public, non-profit private, and charter schools](#) in the state of New Hampshire regarding AHERA. For more information, please visit the [NHDES Asbestos in Schools webpage](#), or contact the [NHDES Asbestos Management Program](#) at [\(603\) 271-4555](tel:(603)271-4555).

State Asbestos Requirements

A reminder that when residents are requesting permits from the town or city to conduct demolitions or renovations there are also state requirements they may have to comply with. For example, a notification must be received by NHDES at least 10 working days prior to the start of any major asbestos abatement project or any demolition activity. In addition, inspections for asbestos must be conducted and all asbestos-containing materials must be removed before a demolition. There are additional requirements for the proper disposal of the material. Don't forget to inform your residents about also complying with state requirements!

Funds available Through NH Clean Diesel Grant Program – New Funding Round Available Now!

NHDES has approximately \$800,000 available through the New Hampshire Clean Diesel Grant Program. This program provides partial funding to projects in New Hampshire that reduce emissions through replacement or upgrade of diesel-powered vehicles, engines and equipment or through installation of idle reduction technologies. This RFP closes **September 15, 2023**, at 11:59 PM. For more information, visit the [NH State Clean Diesel Program webpage](#).

New Funding Program for Electric Fleets and New Diesel – Granite State Clean Fleets Available Now!

NHDES has \$10 million available for local governments to replace their older diesel vehicles and equipment with new diesel and electric versions. Funding can cover up to 95% of an approved project's costs, including

electric vehicle infrastructure and make-ready expenses. The RFP closes **October 13, 2023**. For more information, visit [the NH Volkswagen webpage](#).

Could Registering Your Dock Save You Time and Money?

Summer is here, and many waterfront property owners and visitors are enjoying (or working on) their docks. For all owners or agents considering repair or replacement of existing, non-tidal docking structures, we now offer a voluntary registration option that may help. For more details, see our [Voluntary Non-Tidal Dock Registration Fact Sheet](#), or to register using the [Non-Tidal Docking Structures Registration Form](#).

Permit Tips for Projects in Protected Shoreland

If you are ever involved with properties or projects within protected shoreland, and you have 10 free minutes, watch this video for our [top permit tips](#). Our goal is to ensure your proposals are as complete as possible. This helps reduce the risk of unnecessary delays.

Citizen Air Monitoring Program (CAMP) for Particulate Matter

NHDES has a new, [citizen scientist program](#) designed to connect private PurpleAir fine particulate matter sensor owners with air pollution experts at NHDES. This is a voluntary and free program that aids in PurpleAir sensor installation, maintenance and data quality.

Note to Conservation Commissions and Local River Advisory Committees

In accordance with state statute, the NHDES Wetlands Bureau cannot reject Minimum Impact Expedited applications that have not been signed by the municipal conservation commission or local river advisory committee. Members of such commissions and committees should be aware that refusal to sign an expedited application will not preclude its use but will only preserve a 21-day hold by the Bureau for comment. All forms will be amended to reflect the language of the law in the coming weeks. However, the procedural change is effective immediately. To view the state statute, visit [Section 482-A:11 Administrative Provisions](#).

Projects Begin with DataCheck

NHDES wants to remind applicants that the first step for many proposed projects in or near state protected areas is to confirm the presence or absence of protected species in the proposed work area. Permit applicants can do this easily using the [Natural Heritage Bureau DataCheck tool](#). Look for a helpful short video on this topic coming soon!

Stream Crossings and Culverts

The Granite State features at least 17,000 stream crossings. The NHDES Culvert Maintainer Certification program in partnership with UNH Extension, helps support critical infrastructure and mitigate risks of flooding. For more details on this and other initiatives, visit the [stream crossings section of our website](#).

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

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