



Introduction to the Drinking Water Section

What We Do:

The Drinking Water Section (DWS), comprised of over 50 staff, is responsible for the administration of all state and federal drinking water regulations. The DWS is made up of the following: the Certification Section, Compliance Section, Programs Unit, and the Source Water Protection Unit. The Section holds EPA primary enforcement authority for the Department of Public Health (DPH).

The engineers, planners, analysts, administrative and office support staff of the Section are dedicated to assuring the quality and adequacy of our state's public drinking water. This is accomplished by providing technical assistance, education and regulatory enforcement relative to both state laws and provisions of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act in cooperation with various other state and federal agencies.

The DWS regulates over 3,200 entities that provide drinking water to almost every citizen of Connecticut. The DWS is committed to monitoring drinking water quality, protecting sources of drinking water, and educating consumers, assuring the high standard of drinking water Connecticut's citizens have come to expect and enjoy!

What is a Public Water System?

Connecticut is one of the smallest states in the United States. It has 3.6 million people living in a land area of 4,844 square miles. Even though Connecticut is small, it is home to over 2,500 public water systems. About 550 of these systems are community water systems that serve at least 25 residents throughout the year. Approximately seventy seven percent of Connecticut's population of 3.6 million is served by community systems.

Connecticut has over 550 non-transient non-community water systems. These systems are not community systems and regularly serve at least 25 of the same people over six months of the year at places like schools and office buildings.

There are currently over 1,400 confirmed transient non-community water systems in Connecticut. These non-community systems do not meet the definition of a nontransient, non-community water system such as restaurants, parks, etc. The DWS regulates these systems to assure a safe and adequate supply of drinking water is available.

Other DWS Responsibilities:

- Review of water quality monitoring and reporting
- Review & approval of new public water systems under the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity process administered by the DPUC and DPH
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund
- Water Company Owned Lands Permits
- Recreation Permits
- Water Utility Coordinating Committees
- Source Water Assessment Program
- Well Permit Exceptions
- Sale of Excess Water Permits
- Plan Reviews
- Oversight of mandatory filtration of all surface water supplies
- Oversight of the Operator Certification Program
- Oversight of the Cross Connection Control Program
- Approval of treatment, infrastructure upgrades, and new sources
- Sanitary surveys

Get Involved:

The DWS works diligently to assure that you receive an adequate supply of safe, affordable drinking water. Approximately 85% of the nation's citizens consume water from public water supplies; and yet, what do you know about the water you drink, or the public water system that provides your water?

Check with your public water system to find out what you can do to get involved. Many community systems encourage public participation by announcing regularly scheduled meetings; holding educational tours of their facilities; providing an annual Consumer Confidence Report that includes information on source water, levels of any detected contaminants, compliance with drinking water laws; and other educational materials.

The DWS also provides oversight of the water quality regulations for private residential wells. Information concerning private wells in your town can be obtained from your local health department. Water tests should be performed by an approved laboratory. For a listing of approved laboratories or laboratories available for contract work, contact your Local Health Department or the CTDPH Laboratory Approval Program at 860.509.7389.

A continued commitment to drinking water treatment and monitoring, protection of sources of drinking water, and consumer education is required to assure the high standard of drinking water that we deserve and have come to expect. Connecticut continues to provide some of the best drinking water in America!

More Information

For additional information contact the Drinking Water Section at 860.509.7333. The Section staff can provide you with answers regarding any of our programs, as well as provide water supply technical assistance.

If you need to contact the CTDPH from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m., we can be reached at 860.509.8000. Information can also be accessed online at www.ct.gov/dph/publicdrinkingwater

To contact the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), call the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791; or www.epa.gov To learn more about the Safe Drinking Water Act, you can log on to EPA's Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/sdwa.html

Additional information can be obtained from:

- The CT Section of the American Water Works Association at www.ctawwa.org or 203.757.1855
- The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators at www.asdwa.org or 202.293.7655
- The American Ground Water Trust at www.agwt.org or 603.228.5444
- The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) at www.ct.gov/pura/ or 1.800.382.4586
- The Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association at www.asrwwa.org or 860.889.6373