

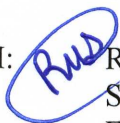
# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

### EHS Circular Letter # 2009-17

DATE: March 30, 2009

TO: Directors of Health & Chief Sanitarians

FROM:  Robert W. Scully, PE  
Supervising Sanitary Engineer  
Environmental Engineering Program

SUBJECT: Point of Use Reverse Osmosis Wastewater

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This Circular Letter concerns the disposal of wastewater from reverse osmosis (RO) potable water treatment systems. Section X Other Wastewater of the Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems stipulates that wastewater from water treatment systems is prohibited from being discharged to subsurface sewage disposal systems (AKA, septic systems) unless authorized by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or this Department. Water treatment systems that treat all the water utilized in a building are referred to point-of-entry systems, and the wastewater generated from them are under the jurisdiction of DEP. A water treatment system that only treats water at a specific location (i.e., kitchen tap) is considered a point-of-use system, and wastewater generated from these units is under DEP's jurisdiction unless a finding is made that it can be included with other wastewater that is directed to the septic system.

This Department's Private Well Program has prepared guidance on point-of-use RO water treatment systems, which notes that units are available that produce limited volumes, less than 30 gallons per day, of reject water (waste) in typical single family home applications. The nature of these limited volumes of RO reject water is not problematic for septic systems. The definition of sewage as defined in Public Health Code regulations stipulates that it includes "other waterborne wastes incidental to the occupancy of a residential building". This Department has deemed that point-of-use RO reject water from single-family homes is of acceptable quality and is limited in quantity such that it can be considered incidental wastewater, which can be directed to the on-site septic system. This determination does not apply to point-of-entry RO systems, or to point-of-use RO systems for non-single family homes or non-residential buildings. For more information on RO systems visit [www.ct.gov/DPH](http://www.ct.gov/DPH), on the left side of the webpage select Environmental Health, then Private Wells, and then Private Well Publications.

In closing, this Department hereby authorizes the disposal of point-of-use RO wastewater from single-family homes to the septic systems serving the homes. This authorization is not applicable to subsurface sewage disposal systems regulated by DEP.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH  
Ellen Blaschinski, Chief, Regulatory Services Branch, DPH



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