

The attached draft guidance, “Seasonal System Start-Up Procedure”, was developed for use by seasonal public drinking water system owners/operators, local health department staff, and Department of Natural Resources staff. The content is presented in three formats to enable hard copy or email distribution, or internet posting.

Starting in April 2016, owners/operators of seasonal public water systems will be required to perform a “seasonal start-up procedure”. This complies with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act, specifically the Revised Total Coliform Rule. A “seasonal public water system” starts up and shuts down at the beginning and end of each operating season, and depressurizes at least part of the water system at some point during the year. Examples of seasonal systems include ski chalets, summer resorts, camp grounds, and restaurants that are only open during part of the year.

The draft was developed based on input from state and local inspectors who work closely with these types of systems. The Revised Total Coliform Rule Advisory Group provided overarching feedback to guide Department work to implement this new federal rule during meetings in 2013 and 2014.

The Department is now soliciting public comment from all external stakeholders. Once the 21 day notice period is complete, all comments will be considered, revisions will be made to the guidance as needed, and final guidance will be made available to the appropriate internal and external stakeholders.

The final guidance will be available to system owners/operators nearly a full year ahead of the federal requirement. By producing this guidance so far in advance, the Department will provide system owners/operators additional time to voluntarily experience and evaluate the procedure.

Comments related to this draft guidance document should be sent to Eileen Pierce, eileen.pierce@wisconsin.gov; (608) 275-3311.