DNR – Drinking Water and Groundwater Study Group Meeting

April 28, 2020
Zoom Meeting Recording Link
https://zoom.us/rec/share/3MhVF7Gqr1pJYoH28muYa4lwH5b3X6a81XAX-qdfz0on9NY0obIqIlyuwWiK3-7T?startTime=1588084406000
COVID-19 DNR Updates

1. Our Highest Priority Remains Public Health and Safety and the Provision of Safe Drinking Water

2. Partnering and Communicating With You Is Important To Us
COVID-19 DNR Updates

3. We understand you are facing issues related to COVID-19

- We are committed to working through these issues with you
- We will offer flexibility where we can
- We can’t offer flexibility that would put public health and safety at risk or the provision of safe drinking water
DNR Operations / Communication

- All staff are working remotely
- All routine field work has been put on hold
- Electronic transfer of information
- Stakeholder ZOOM calls
- DNR Drinking Water COVID-19 Website

Monitoring and Compliance

EPA Compliance Memo

• Public Water Systems have a heightened responsibility to protect public health and safety

• Public Water Systems, drinking water testing laboratories, and manufacturers supplying drinking water systems are essential functions, businesses, and workers
Monitoring Requirements

• **Monitoring and Reporting Violations**
  – *DNR cannot waive M/R violations triggered in relation to COVID-19 issues or public noticing requirements*

• **Monitoring Site Flexibility**
  – *Contact DNR Representative to address accessibility issues*
Other Compliance Questions

- Requirements from past sanitary surveys
  - If COVID-19 circumstances will hinder compliance with established deadlines:
    - Contact DNR representative to discuss potential alternative compliance pathways
  - Public health and safety along with the provision of safe drinking water is our highest priority
Other Compliance Questions

- **Lead and Copper Monitoring Sites**
  - Further *onsite* materials inventory (premise plumbing, treatment, etc.) to determine Tier criteria is not being required at this time
  - Continue to review available records for public and private service line material
  - Provide available information to field staff
• **Operator Certification**
  
  – Governor Evers has suspended ch. NR114, Wis. Adm. Code, requirements for renewal and continuing education deadlines for the duration of the public health emergency
  
  – WI Rural Water staff are available to provide remote technical assistance and maintaining a list of certified operators available for mutual aid
Operations/Operator Certification

• **Operator Certification Exam Status**
  
  – May 6, 2020 exams have been **cancelled**
    
    • Credit will be issued to applications that have been processed and non-processed checks will be returned
  
  – August 5, 2020 exams will be held statewide in 6 locations
    
    • You will need to reapply for exam period and location
    
    • Applications will be available on the Wisconsin DNR website starting May 27, 2020
PWS Operations

• Chemical Supplies
  – Acceptable to have more than 30 day supply on hand
  – Storage, handling, and labeling code requirements continue to apply

• Construction Projects
  – Follow the Governor’s “Safer At Home” order
  – Evaluate the imminent need- can the project be delayed 6 months?
  – Consider the risk of water disruption to consumers
PWS Operations

• **Emergency Operation Plans**
  
  – *Add pandemic related documents/protocols*
  
  – *Have appropriately certified backup operators identified in the event personnel become sick*
  
  – *Have contingencies in place in the event any water system staff fall ill*
  
  – *Update emergency contact lists*
Contact Us

• Ways to contact us with compliance or any other questions:
  1. Contact your DNR Representative
  2. DNR COVID-19 Environmental Compliance Assistance Process website. (see next slide)
  3. DNR Drinking Water COVID-19 inbox
     DNRDrinkingWaterCOVID-19@wisconsin.gov
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

COVID-19 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PROCESS

EMERGENCIES
Contact the DNR immediately if there is an imminent or actual danger or threat to human health or the environment.
Call 1-800-943-0003 • select #1
As part of DNR’s response, staff will initiate a request for compliance assistance, where applicable, once the threat is addressed.

NON-EMERGENCIES
If there is no threat or danger, request Pre-Approval for Compliance Assistance:

FIRST
Email DNR point-of-contact to submit a request.

IF
If a confirmed DNR contact is not established...

THEN
Submit DNR’s online form: www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDNRCmplAssist
The DNR will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis.

The DNR will work as quickly as possible on a solution in response to the compliance assistance request.
Do not implement alternative methods until receiving DNR written approval.
Scott Laeser, Clean Wisconsin
Chris Groh, Wisconsin Rural Water Association
David Webb, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
David Kelter, American Water Works Association (AWWA) - Wisconsin Chapter
Lawrie Kobza, Municipal Environmental Group
Lane Ruhland, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce
Paul Junio, Northern Lake Service
Jeff Kramer, Wisconsin Water Well Association
Roy Irving, Department of Health Services
Rick Wietersen, Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
NR 812 Updates

Liesa Lehmann – Private Water Supply Section Chief
NR 812 Revisions

- Revising Wisconsin’s well and pump code
- Process is *almost* done...
- All approval steps completed
- **Not in effect yet, but soon!**
- **July 1, 2020** expected effective date
NR 812 Rulemaking Scope

1. Correct and clarify
2. Streamline procedures
3. Update construction standards
4. Be consistent with state and federal laws

...while maintaining protection of groundwater and public health.
Recap of 2019:
- Public Hearings/Comment January 2019
- Nat. Resources Board approved May 2019
- Worked with WWWA summer/fall 2019 to address 3 areas of concerns:
  - Casing depth in limestone/dolomite
  - Flowing wells
  - Thermoplastic casing in bedrock
NR 812 Revisions

2020

- NR Board approved modified revisions January 2020
- Legislative Review completed April 2020
- July 1, 2020 = estimated Effective Date
- Training
- Communication
- Implementation
NR 812 Revisions

Training
- DNR staff
- Other agencies – DATCP, Counties
- Drillers and pump installers

Communication - “early and often”
- Summary of Changes
- Weekly Emails – Topic of the Week
Implementation

- Training – in-person, online modules
- Fact sheets – topic-based information about code requirements
- Publications and Forms
- Personal Contacts
NR 812 Revisions

For more information...

• NR 812 Rule Changes web page
  http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/nr812.html

• Contact DNR Private Water Supply staff
NR 140 & NR 809 Update

Steve Elmore – DG Program Director
Wrap–up and adjourn

Next Meeting Date:
August 13, 2020
GEF 2, State Natural Resources Building,
Madison, 9:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes will be posted on the
Drinking Water & Groundwater Study Group
website