

Christine Thompson, Director, Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division

VT Department of Environmental Conservation

H.25 testimony notes 2 /11/2015

\*\*\*\*\*

- Potable and public water system sources are regulated by the Water/Wastewater Rules and Water Supply Rules.
- These Rules regulate where these water sources can and cannot be located.
- Although upcoming WW Rule revision will contain minimum isolation distances to cemeteries/natural burial grounds that new potable water sources must meet, specific isolation distances between potable and public water system sources and cemeteries do not currently exist.
- Cemeteries/natural burial grounds present bacterial/viral/chemical risk to potable and public drinking water sources due to their high concentration of human remains and embalming fluids.
- In order to ensure existing water sources are protected, DEC is recommending the following isolation distances for new and expanding cemetery/natural burial grounds containing human remains that are not cremated:

DEC RECOMMENDED AMENDMENT TO H.25 (2/11/2015):

Sec. X. § 5324            Siting Requirements

(a) The burial boundaries of a new or expanded cemetery or natural burial ground shall be located:

(1) no less than 200 feet up gradient of a drilled bedrock well or a drilled well in a confined aquifer that is part of an exempt or permitted potable water supply or a transient non-community public water system source;

(2) no less than 500 feet up gradient from any other groundwater source that is part of an exempt or permitted potable water supply or a transient non-community public water system;

(3) no less than 150 feet cross or down gradient from any groundwater source that is part of an exempt or permitted potable water supply or transient non-community public water system;

(4) outside zone one or two of the source protection area for an existing or permitted public community water system; and

(5) outside the source protection area for an existing or permitted non-transient non-community public water system.

Additional information:

- Existing drilled well locations can be found on the ANR Atlas.
- Current Water Supply Rules require *community* public water systems to have an approved source protection plan. Source protection areas can be found on the ANR Atlas. The plan contains 3 zones:
  - o zone 1 is the area within 200 ft radius from the well; must be controlled by the water system and is area where impacts to the water source will most likely be immediate and certain.
  - o zone 2 is determined by monitoring/source interference study and is the area where there will be probable impacts from sources of potential contamination.
  - o zone 3 is the rest of the well's recharge area where there may be possible impacts from sources of potential contamination.
- Source protection area for public community water systems generally encompasses a 3,000 ft fixed radius around the water source.
- Current Water Supply Rules do not require transient *non-community* public water systems to have a Source protection plan
- Potable water supply = the source, treatment and conveyance equipment used to provide water intended for human consumption (including drinking, washing, food prep, bathing); does not include Public water systems.
- Transient non-community public water system = non-community public system that serves at least 25 people during the year (restaurants, motels, campgrounds)
- Non-transient non-community public water system = non-community public system that serves at least 25 of the same persons daily for more than 6 months of the year (schools, factories, office buildings)
- Public community water system = a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by year round residents or at least 25 year round residents.