

## DEC's Priorities for SNRE (3/16/2015)

**H.248 Miscellaneous Air Amendments.** This bill proposes to revise the air pollution statutes to allow the Agency of Natural Resources: ~~(1) to require the registration of certain emission sources that emit less than five tons per year;~~ (passed in last year's fee bill) (2) to make additional funds available for future programs to address emissions from wood-burning technologies by removing the minimum funding requirement for the outdoor wood-fired boilers exchange program; (3) to require the disclosure of emission and monitoring data; (4) to reduce the lead time required for submitting an operating permit renewal application; and (5) to enforce rules adopted to carry out the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

**H.517 Water Classifications.** This bill will further the goals of the federal and Vermont Clean Water Acts by allowing the state to identify and protect lakes and river segments that exceed baseline water quality standards. HFW&WR passed the bill on a vote of a vote of 8-1-0.

**H.674 CSO Notification Bill.** On a count of 8-0-1, HFW&WR voted out a version of H.674 that would require operators of wastewater facilities to report discharges of untreated waste on public media designated by ANR within 1 hour of a discharge, and additional information on DEC's online system within 12 hours of the discharge. The bill as introduced proposed a single report within 4 hours of any discharge.

### **Report on lowering the threshold for stormwater operating permits from one acre to ½ acre.**

DEC's report on this issue is available at <http://legislature.vermont.gov/assets/Legislative-Reports/2016-Act-64-Report-on-half-acre-stormwater-threshhold-Final.pdf>. The EPA's draft total maximum daily limit for phosphorus in Lake Champlain anticipates more than 4,000 acres of new development over the next 20 years. To accommodate this growth, developers will need either to retrofit stormwater systems on existing properties or incorporate stormwater practices on new development. DEC recommends lowering the stormwater permitting threshold for new development in order to distribute the costs of phosphorus reduction more equitably between existing development and new development.

**H.625 Sunset Extension for Title Encumbrances Due to Transition Stormwater Permits.** In a [report](#) issued in January, DEC recommended that the Legislature extend a sunset that will avoid title encumbrances due to expiration of pre-2004 stormwater permits. DEC anticipates that all transition stormwater permits will be in full compliance by 2018.

**H.531 Above ground storage tank (AST) red-tag bill.** This bill requires ANR to promulgate rules for the inspection and "red tagging" of non-compliant fuel tanks; requires ANR to maintain a database of non-compliant fuel tanks; and requires owners of ASTs to remove the fuel tank and associated piping when converting to natural gas or propane. DEC supports this bill, which came out of work of the Petroleum Cleanup Fund (PCF) Advisory Committee.

**H.595 Potable Water Sources From Surface Waters.** On a vote of 8-1-0, HFW&WR passed out H.595, a bill that would allow owner-occupied residential homeowners to draw from surface waters for drinking purposes. Because surface waters generally require ongoing disinfection, which may be difficult for some owners to maintain, this bill is narrowly crafted.