



Association of Environmental Authorities of New Jersey

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

NJDEP Adopts New PFOS/PFOA Ground Water Discharge Rules Based on Methodology AEA Has Questioned

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) amendments to regulations implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act, significantly tightening the limits on perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) became effective today, June 1. The amendments are to regulations governing water quality, private wells, ground water discharges, and petroleum/hazardous substances.

The NJDEP has **lowered the Maximum Contaminant Levels** for PFOA to 0.014 µg/l and to 0.013 µg/l for PFOS. The amendments establish monitoring requirements for the chemicals for public community and public non-transient noncommunity water systems.

Private wells being sold or leased **must be tested for PFOA/PFAS** and another in the same class, PFNA.

Testing for the chemicals are now **required as part of permit applications** and listings for discharges to ground water. The DEP has amended the List of Hazardous Substances in the Discharges of Petroleum and Other Hazardous Substances rules to include the acidic and anionic forms of PFOA and PFOS and their salts and esters.

AEA has expressed to the NJDEP its concern that the ground water discharge rules being implemented are based on drinking water research. The methodology used for analyzing wastewater needs to account for a much more complex and "dirtier" matrix of parameters that can lead to interference and possible false positives.

If the NJDEP adopts similar standards for discharges to surface water, **the cost impact on treatment plants, AEA has noted, could be significant.**

A courtesy copy of the adoption package can be found on the DEP's website at www.nj.gov/dep/rules/adoptions.html.

STAY INFORMED

Water Sector Warned to Be Vigilant on Cyber Security

Water and wastewater utilities are being reminded to be alert for cyber attacks. According to the Washington Post, ICS/SCADA systems that control flow at two Israeli water and wastewater facilities were hacked in April, allegedly by Iran.

The attack involved valve controls and took place while the districts were under lock-down.

[Here is link to another article on this topic](#)

Send AEA Pictures and Video of your Utility During COVID19



Please send AEA photos and short videos that illustrate your work during the pandemic.

They can be images that illustrate special arrangements and adaptations you are making or images that show work proceeding as normal.

Wherever possible, please give us a short description of that is happening in the photo/video and please identify the staff members. Thank you!

Program Offers Free Technical Support

Application Deadline is June 19

A nationwide water group's Project Accelerator program offer free technical support for projects. The application deadline is June 19.

Water Now Alliance a forum for local water leaders who want to champion sustainable, affordable and climate resilient water strategies, as part of its Project Accelerator program, twice a year chooses two projects to each **receive 250 hours of professional support** in 3-6 months (valued at \$25,000 each) for its projects.

The projects chosen receive professional hands-on support, and technical and program assistance in ranging from deep water policy guidance to support and advice on communications strategies.

For more information, [follow this link](#).

Impacts of Increased Volume of Disinfectant Hurting Wastewater Process?

We came across the following news brief in Treatment Plant Operator under the headline "Operators Say Hand-Washing, Bleaching Is Affecting WWTP Bacteria."

Wastewater treatment plant operators at the Liberty Lake (Washington) Sewer and Water District are speculating that all the hand-washing and sanitizing during the COVID-19 pandemic is **thinning out the wastewater plant's bacteria**

The bacterial colonies that aid the treatment processes are dying off as a result of all the soaps and disinfectants being used in people's homes.

"We're a little at a loss, because we can't tell people, stop washing your hands or using bleach," Adams tells the Spokesman-Review. "What we're trying to do now is wait out the storm, if you will."

Officials at Liberty Lake have notified the Washington Department of Ecology about the problem, and now the department is **looking for others in the state with similar experiences**.

No AEA members have reported this type of concern, but if such concerns do occur, the Wednesday morning weekly COVID19 Online Check-in Meeting may be a good forum to discuss it. Those interested in participating, contact karen@aeanj.org.



News Links

We gather industry news from throughout the state so you don't have to! Explore the following headlines and more at this news link

- [The Road Back: Restoring Economic Health Through Public Health](#) - Gov. Murphy's re-opening plan for New Jersey
- [The Financial Impact of the COVID-19 Crisis on U.S. Drinking Water Utilities](#)
- [Covid 19 coronavirus: Warning after coronavirus found in Dutch sewage water](#)
- [Coronavirus traces found in Massachusetts wastewater at levels far higher than expected](#)
- [NJ DEP adopts new protections for 600 miles of rivers and streams](#)

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