



WATER QUALITY POLICY

Office of Drinking Water

Water Quality Policy Discussion
Drinking Water Advisory Group
December 2023



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Source Water Protection

Policy Discussion

- Stormwater Manual
- Stormwater Permit
- UIC guidance nested into both

Dept of Ecology Stormwater Manuals

- Started Fall 2021 with open house
- Spring 2022 early input, listening sessions
- Fall 2022 preliminary drafts, workshops
- August-Nov 2023 drafts up for comment
- July 2024 Publish new manuals

Dept of Ecology Stormwater Permits

- Spring 2022 Ad hoc groups convened
- Summer 2022 listening sessions
- Fall 2022 preliminary drafts for informal comments
- August-Nov 2023 drafts up for comment
- July 2024 “Make permit decision”

Dept of Ecology UICs

- Manual combined pub in 2019
- “Discharge fluids from the ground surface into the subsurface and is bored, drilled or driven or excavated hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension”
- “Subsurface fluid distribution system which includes perforated pipes”
- 2024 draft emphasis on “deep” UICs

Vol I- 4.15 Deep UIC Wells

- UIC wells that extend below an upper confining layer and discharge into the underlying vadose zone
- Local jurisdictions may impose additional limits based on specific hydrologic conditions
- Explore alternatives before deciding to use a deep UIC
- Must provide a hydrogeologic study with O&M Manual, basic treatment, 15' separation to seasonal high groundwater, dealing to prevent aquifer interconnection if a perched aquifer or other saturated stratum is penetrated
- Document notification and summary of discussion with adjacent well owners, inside a WHPA, must notify water purveyors

Office of Drinking Water – manual comments

- Microbial pathogens in Section 1.4 on stormwater pollutants- refer Water Research Foundation report 5034
- Vadose zone assumption for treatment is not supported by current research
- Stormwater pollutants does not include PFAS despite an abundance of literature
- UICs-Groundwater antidegradation goals and beneficial use, use demonstrative approach, use a licensed hydrogeologist for site specific analysis and hydrogeologic study, notify water purveyors
- Include Wellhead Protection Areas in screening criteria for all infiltration BMPs, not just UICs

Office of Drinking Water- permit comments

- PFAS Management Plan for non-stormwater discharges to the stormwater system
- Updates regarding prohibitions on PCBs could be expanded to include PFAS in IDDE, O&M, Ed & Outreach
- Appendix 9-Total coliform and e. coli sampling

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- Step 1 - Susceptibility assessment for each source
- Step 2 - Delineation of wellhead protection area for each well, well field, or spring (sanitary setback area, 6-month, 1-year, 5-year, and 10-year time of travel zones)
- Step 3 - Inventory of potential contaminant sources
- Step 4 - Documentation of notification letters
- Step 5 - Contingency plans
- Step 6 - Coordination for spill or incident response measures

Discussion

Thank you!



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