



## The Municipal EcoLink

An e-bulletin from the NH Department of Environmental Services

June 2024

*The Municipal EcoLink* is a monthly e-bulletin designed to inform you of the latest environmental ideas, trends, grants, rules and more from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). We respectfully request that the following is electronically distributed or otherwise made available to your municipal committees, councils and boards. Please feel free to post it on your municipal website as well. You may read past issues at [The Municipal EcoLink](#).

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### Wetlands Rules Updates

Please note wetlands rules Env-Wt 100, 200 and 700 have recently been updated and adopted. Highlights include [added clarity on definitions](#), [public hearing and waiver updates](#) – including new approval criteria for waiver requests - and [prime wetlands updates](#) – including a process for municipalities to update filed prime wetlands maps.

### Attention Local Health Officers and Beach Managers - New Cyanobacteria Notification Sign Available

NHDES has created a [new cyanobacteria sign](#) for local health officers and beach managers that promotes self-risk assessment messaging and techniques, which is a priority action described in the [New Hampshire's Cyanobacteria Plan: A Statewide Strategy](#). NHDES recommends these alternative signs be used when notified of a cyanobacteria warning and removed once NHDES has lifted the warning. For more information on cyanobacteria, visit the [Harmful Algal Blooms website](#).

### Ready to reinstall your seasonal dock?

Please remember to complete your [seasonal dock notification form for lakes and ponds](#). Eligible seasonal dock owners now have the option to go completely paperless – without having to print anything out or send anything in the mail. There is no fee associated, and the processing time is five business days.

### Voluntary dock registration could save dock owners time and money

[Voluntary dock registration](#) makes it easier to repair or replace existing non-tidal permanent docking structures. In addition, it offers an easy way to show that docking structures, whether seasonal or permanent, comply with relevant state statutes and rules. This is especially useful when selling properties that include such structures. Registrations are valid for five years, or until the property changes ownership. For more information on the benefits, the alternatives to voluntary registration, and whether your dock qualifies, please [consult our voluntary non-tidal dock registration fact sheet](#) or [visit the docking structures and shoreland stabilization](#) section of our website.

### Notice to Culvert Maintainers

Cities and towns reporting culvert work, please note the next [quarterly reporting](#) deadline of **July 15** for **April 1 – June 30** work. The Culvert Maintainer Certification program is a [partnership with University of New Hampshire](#) designed specifically for municipal employees, as well as state transportation staff who work in and around [stream crossings](#).

### Online Submitting for the NHDES Solid Waste Operator Certification Application is HERE!

The NHDES SWOT Program has officially rolled out online submittals for Initial and Renewal Applications including payments through the [nForm System](#). The forms are set up so that either the operator or the employer may pay for the application; see the [instructions](#) for guidance. The [Initial/Renewal Form](#) itself MUST be filled out by the operator as opposed to an office staff person because there is a signature field. As always, a complete application package includes a signed application, fee and verification of 2.5 hours of continuing professional development; see the [SWOT website](#) for more information. Applications that are not complete will be rejected. Note: If you want to pay electronically, the operator needs to submit a complete application electronically. If you want to pay via check, the operator needs to submit a paper application.

### Water Works Operator Certification Exams

Drinking water works operator certification examinations will be held on Thursday, **July 18, 2024**, at NHDES, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord. Applications for the exam are due 30 days before the examination. There is also an option to take a computer-based exam for Grades I-IV at various locations throughout the state at any time. For more information, see our [Water Works Operator Certification](#) webpage.

### **Municipal Funding Opportunity: EPA's Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program – replace your 2010 or older Class 6 and 7 trucks or buses with EVs**

The EPA has made more than \$900 million available nationwide to competitively fund the replacement of Class 6 and 7 internal combustion engine powered vehicles with electric vehicles. Visit the Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grant Program webpage for information about eligible projects, vehicles, and infrastructure. Applications are due **July 25** and each application must request a minimum of three vocational vehicles or 10 school buses.

### **Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water Program**

NHDES has created the Get the Lead Out of Drinking Water program to support schools and child care facilities in completing their required lead in drinking water testing. All facilities can receive technical support, and public schools and licensed child care facilities can receive free sample analyses. For more information and to view testing results, visit [www.gettheleadoutnh.org](http://www.gettheleadoutnh.org). Funding for the program is provided by the U.S. EPA Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act. In addition, the New Hampshire Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund has awarded \$1 million for remediation grants for public and private schools, which are available now. The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services is working to establish a \$400,000 grant program for child care facilities that will be available later this summer. The details for both opportunities are on the “Available Funding” page of our website.

### **Used Oil Gift Grants Applications Available**

NHDES is now accepting requests for applications for Used Oil Gift Grants for State Fiscal Year 2025 (**July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025**). Applications will be accepted until all funds have been encumbered. Grant applications are available on the [Used Oil Collection Gift Grant Program webpage](#). If you have any questions or concerns you can refer to the [program brochure](#) or please contact Andrew Gould at (603) 271-6424, or by email at [UsedOilGrants@des.nh.gov](mailto:UsedOilGrants@des.nh.gov).

### **Seasonal Public Pool and Spa Requirements for 2024**

NHDES is reminding owners and operators of seasonal public bathing facilities (PBFs) that they are required by New Hampshire law to do three things prior to opening pools or spas for the summer season. 1) [Register](#) their PBF's with the state, 2) Conduct an [annual fee-based self-certification](#) for each facility, and 3) certify that the PBF is operated under the supervision of a certified pool operator. Operation of a PBF by an owner/operator that has not met the three requirements outlined is in violation of state law. Registrations and annual self-certification must be completed through the State of New Hampshire's online web portal application. To learn more about the requirements outlined above please visit [NHDES Public Bathing Facility Program webpage](#) or [Frequently Asked Question webpage](#). For any other questions please contact us at [despools@des.nh.gov](mailto:despools@des.nh.gov).

### **Municipal Green SnowPro**

Changes to the administrative rules for the [Voluntary Certified Salt Applicator Program \(Env-Wq 2200\)](#) became effective on **May 24, 2024**. The adopted rules include amendments to the Commercial Green SnowPro rules and the adoption of the Municipal Green SnowPro rules. Additional resources for Municipal Green SnowPro certification will be available soon. For more information, please contact Aubrey Voelker, the Salt Reduction Program Coordinator, at [aubrey.r.voelker@des.nh.gov](mailto:aubrey.r.voelker@des.nh.gov).

### **Annual Drinking Water, Stormwater and Wastewater Asset Management Workshop**

NHDES will host its annual Asset Management Workshop on **October 30, 2024**, in Pembroke, N.H. This year's theme is “Bringing It All Together.” The annual workshop focuses on asset management topics relating to drinking water, stormwater and wastewater infrastructure. Every year the event brings together professionals ranging from utility managers and operators, public works staff, community administration, consultants, and other asset management enthusiasts from around New Hampshire. See [additional save-the-date information](#) on our website.

### **Emergency Wetland Work Information**

For certain types of emergency work that otherwise require wetlands permitting, paperless “[Emergency Authorization](#)” forms are now available. Wetland emergency authorizations happen most often during or after flooding (on public infrastructure or private property). They can be especially critical for towns seeking future federal reimbursement for unbudgeted emergency spending. When an emergency is so immediate that responders don’t even have time to fill out a form, they can email [irm@des.nh.gov](mailto:irm@des.nh.gov) or call (603) 271-2147 to make the request, provide certain basic information, and follow up afterward using the form. More information is available in the [flooding](#) section of our website, including a [fact sheet](#) with additional details and resources.

### **Paperless Permitting Progress**

As of June 2024, [shoreland permitting](#) and several other wetland permitting forms can now be processed completely online. Homeowners or their agents no longer need to print the application form, mail anything to NHDES, or write a paper check. Frequently asked questions and answers about using [onlineforms.nh.gov](https://onlineforms.nh.gov) (including the benefits, as well as [help creating an account](#) if you do not already have one) are also available.

### **New Land Resources Management Video Resources**

The [Land Resources Management playlist](#) on the NHDES YouTube channel features several new, short video resources, including about [permitting for nontidal docking structures and the benefits of voluntary dock registration](#).

### **Septic Systems Records Updates**

More than 14,700 septic systems records are now available on [SSB OneStop](#). Dozens of boxes of records from 1967-1986 have been successfully scanned and added. Hundreds more are currently being processed. By 2027, 692 more boxes of records will be digitized and available.

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