



Aquifer Protection

Potential Environmental Impacts

Vehicle service facilities pose a potential threat to groundwater because of the many wastes associated with this type of activity. The storage and transfer of gasoline, oil, antifreeze and other petroleum products may contaminate the groundwater and the drinking water supply if improperly stored or handled. The key to protecting groundwater resources is preventing contaminants from reaching the source.



Legal Requirements

To address the issues of groundwater protection for drinking water supplies, Connecticut developed the Aquifer Protection Area Program. The foundation of the program was the adoption of the Aquifer Protection Land Use Regulations (RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-1 to 22a-354i-10). These regulations prohibit new businesses that use, handle, and store hazardous materials from locating in aquifer protection areas, and require existing businesses to register their activity in order to continue to operate.

The Aquifer Protection Area Regulations apply to aquifer protection areas that are mapped and designated around the state's 122 active public water supply well fields in sand and gravel aquifers that serve more than 1000 people. Over 75 towns are implementing the Aquifer Protection Area Program to protect these drinking water supplies at the local level, including those listed below. Maps showing the aquifer protection areas in the towns are available on the Aquifer Protection Area Program web site at www.ct.gov/dep/aquiferprotection.

Towns with Aquifer Protection Areas

Avon	Danbury	Madison	Plainville	Stamford
Beacon Falls	Darien	Manchester	Plymouth	Stonington
Berlin	Derby	Mansfield	Portland	Thomaston
Bethany	East Lyme	Meriden	Prospect	Thompson
Bethel	East Windsor	Middletown	Putnam	Tolland
Bethlehem	Enfield	Naugatuck	Ridgefield	Vernon
Bolton	Essex	New Britain	Rocky Hill	Wallingford
Bristol	Farmington	New Hartford	Salisbury	Watertown
Brooklyn	Glastonbury	New Milford	Seymour	Westbrook
Burlington	Goshen	Newtown	Shelton	Weston
Canton	Griswold	North Canaan	Simsbury	Westport
Cheshire	Guilford	North Haven	Somers	Willington
Clinton	Hamden	Norwalk	Southbury	Wilton
Colchester	Killingly	Old Saybrook	Southington	Woodbury
Coventry	Ledyard	Oxford	Sprague	
Cromwell	Litchfield	Plainfield	Stafford	

Legal Requirements (continued)

- ◆ If your vehicle service facility is in one of these affected areas, you will have to comply with the legal requirements listed below [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-1 through 10]:
 - Register with the local Aquifer Protection Agency within 180 days of the Aquifer Protection Area designation [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-7]. Existing facilities are “grandfathered” into the program, if they are registered. It is therefore important for existing facilities to register. Note: New vehicle service facilities are prohibited from locating in Aquifer Protection Areas [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-5(a)].
 - Renew aquifer protection area registration every five years; transfer of the registration to a new owner is allowed [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-7(g)].
 - Obtain a permit to add a regulated activity to a registered facility [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-8]. For example, if an existing vehicle repair facility wanted to add car washing, an aquifer protection permit for the car wash would be needed. The CT-DEP or the municipality will issue permits for a ten-year period. Permits may be renewed, or transferred to another owner [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-8(g) and (i)].
 - Certify compliance with the Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in the regulations [RCSA Sec. 22a-354i-9]. For instance, hazardous materials must be stored inside a building or under a roofed area and a materials management plan must be developed and implemented at the facility.

For more information, contact the CT DEP’s Aquifer Protection Area Program at (860) 424-3020 or visit the web site at www.ct.gov/dep/aquiferprotection.



Did you know?

It only takes a small quantity of some substances to contaminate millions of gallons of groundwater. For instance, only a few ounces of perchloroethylene (a degreasing solvent found in some aerosol brake cleaners) can render millions of gallons of water unsafe to drink based on federal standards.