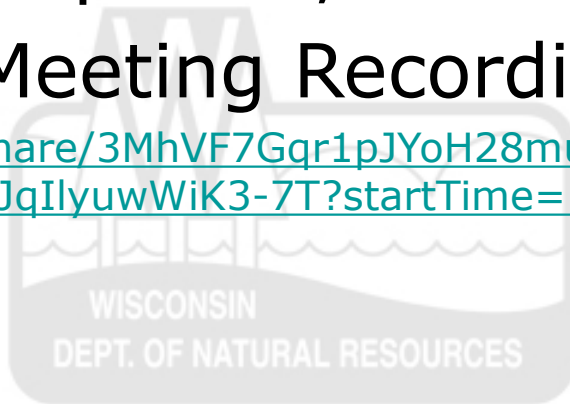


# DNR – Drinking Water and Groundwater Study Group Meeting

April 28, 2020

Zoom Meeting Recording Link

<https://zoom.us/rec/share/3MhVF7Gqr1pJYoH28muYa4lwH5b3X6a81XAX-qdfz0on9NY0obJqIlyuwWiK3-7T?startTime=1588084406000>





# COVID-19 DNR Updates

- 1. Our Highest Priority Remains Public Health and Safety and the Provision of Safe Drinking Water**
- 2. Partnering and Communicating With You Is Important To Us**





# COVID-19 DNR Updates

## **3. We understand you are facing issues related to COVID-19**

- *We are committed to working through these issues with you*
- *We will offer flexibility where we can*
- *We can't offer flexibility that would put public health and safety at risk or the provision of safe drinking water*





# DNR Operations / Communication

- All staff are working remotely
- All routine field work has been put on hold
- Electronic transfer of information
- Stakeholder ZOOM calls
- DNR Drinking Water COVID-19 Website

<https://dnr.wi.gov/topic/DrinkingWater/PWSCOVID19.html>





# Monitoring and Compliance

## EPA Compliance Memo

- Public Water Systems have a heightened responsibility to protect public health and safety
- Public Water Systems, drinking water testing laboratories, and manufacturers supplying drinking water systems are essential functions, businesses, and workers





# Monitoring Requirements

- **Monitoring and Reporting Violations**
  - *DNR cannot waive M/R violations triggered in relation to COVID-19 issues or public noticing requirements*
- **Monitoring Site Flexibility**
  - *Contact DNR Representative to address accessibility issues*





# Other Compliance Questions

- **Requirements from past sanitary surveys**
  - If COVID-19 circumstances will hinder compliance with established deadlines:
    - *Contact DNR representative to discuss potential alternative compliance pathways*
  - Public health and safety along with the provision of safe drinking water is our highest priority





# Other Compliance Questions

- **Lead and Copper Monitoring Sites**

- *Further onsite materials inventory (premise plumbing, treatment, etc.) to determine Tier criteria is not being required at this time*
- *Continue to review available records for public and private service line material*
- *Provide available information to field staff*







# Operations/Operator Certification

- **Operator Certification**

- Governor Evers has suspended ch. NR114, Wis. Adm. Code, requirements for renewal and continuing education deadlines for the duration of the public health emergency
- WI Rural Water staff are available to provide remote technical assistance and maintaining a list of certified operators available for mutual aid





# Operations/Operator Certification

- **Operator Certification Exam Status**

- May 6, 2020 exams have been cancelled
  - Credit will be issued to applications that have been processed and non-processed checks will be returned
- August 5, 2020 exams will be held statewide in 6 locations
  - You will need to reapply for exam period and location
  - Applications will be available on the Wisconsin DNR website starting May 27, 2020





# PWS Operations

- **Chemical Supplies**

- *Acceptable to have more than 30 day supply on hand*
- *Storage, handling, and labeling code requirements continue to apply*

- **Construction Projects**

- *Follow the Governor's "Safer At Home" order*
- *Evaluate the imminent need- can the project be delayed 6 months?*
- *Consider the risk of water disruption to consumers*





# PWS Operations

- **Emergency Operation Plans**

- *Add pandemic related documents/protocols*
- *Have appropriately certified backup operators identified in the event personnel become sick*
- *Have contingencies in place in the event any water system staff fall ill*
- *Update emergency contact lists*





# Contact Us

- **Ways to contact us with compliance or any other questions:**
  1. Contact your DNR Representative
  2. *DNR COVID-19 Environmental Compliance Assistance Process website. (see next slide)*
  3. *DNR Drinking Water COVID-19 inbox*  
**[DNRDrinkingWaterCOVID-19@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DNRDrinkingWaterCOVID-19@wisconsin.gov)**





## Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources **COVID-19 ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE PROCESS**



If you foresee **COVID-19** posing a **POTENTIAL COMPLIANCE ISSUE** at your site or facility, follow these steps to request special DNR assistance.

### **EMERGENCIES**

Contact the DNR immediately if there is an **imminent or actual danger or threat** to human health or the environment.

**Call 1-800-943-0003 • select #1**

As part of DNR's response, staff will initiate a request for compliance assistance, where applicable, once the threat is addressed.



### **NON-EMERGENCIES**

If there is no threat or danger, request Pre-Approval for Compliance Assistance:

**FIRST** | Email DNR point-of-contact to submit a request.

**IF** | If a confirmed DNR contact is not established...

**THEN** | Submit DNR's online form:  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDNRComplAssist](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WDNRComplAssist)

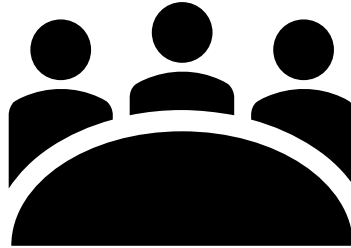
The DNR will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis.



The DNR will work as quickly as possible on a solution in response to the compliance assistance request.  
**Do not implement alternative methods until receiving DNR written approval.**



# Member Roundtable



Scott Laeser, Clean Wisconsin

Chris Groh, Wisconsin Rural Water Association

David Webb, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

David Kelter, American Water Works Association (AWWA) - Wisconsin Chapter

Lawrie Kobza, Municipal Environmental Group

Lane Ruhland, Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce

Paul Junio, Northern Lake Service

Jeff Kramer, Wisconsin Water Well Association

Roy Irving, Department of Health Services

Rick Wietersen, Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards





# NR 812 Updates

Liesa Lehmann – Private Water Supply Section Chief







# NR 812 Revisions

- Revising Wisconsin's well and pump code
- Process is *almost* done...
- All approval steps completed
- **Not in effect yet, but soon!**
- **July 1, 2020** expected effective date



# NR 812 Rulemaking Scope



1. Correct and clarify
2. Streamline procedures
3. Update construction standards
4. Be consistent with state and federal laws

...while maintaining protection of groundwater and public health.





# NR 812 Revisions

## Recap of 2019:

- Public Hearings/Comment January 2019
- Nat. Resources Board approved May 2019
- Worked with WWSWA summer/fall 2019 to address 3 areas of concerns:
  - Casing depth in limestone/dolomite
  - Flowing wells
  - Thermoplastic casing in bedrock





# NR 812 Revisions

## 2020

- NR Board approved modified revisions January 2020
- Legislative Review completed April 2020
- **July 1, 2020** = estimated Effective Date
- Training
- Communication
- Implementation





# NR 812 Revisions

## Training

- DNR staff
- Other agencies – DATCP, Counties
- Drillers and pump installers

## Communication - “early and often”

- Summary of Changes
- Weekly Emails – Topic of the Week





# NR 812 Revisions

## Implementation

- Training – in-person, online modules
- Fact sheets – topic-based information about code requirements
- Publications and Forms
- Personal Contacts





# NR 812 Revisions

For more information...

- NR 812 Rule Changes web page  
<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/nr812.html>
- Contact DNR Private Water Supply staff





# NR 140 & NR 809 Update

Steve Elmore – DG Program Director







# Wrap-up and adjourn

Next Meeting Date:

August 13, 2020

GEF 2, State Natural Resources Building,  
Madison, 9:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes will be posted on the  
Drinking Water & Groundwater Study Group  
website

