

**Protection of Sensitive Drinking Water Source Areas –
Applicants to Local Land Use Boards Required to Notify the State Department of Public Health**

By: Lori Mathieu
Source Water Protection Unit Supervisor
CT DPH, Drinking Water Section

In a move to highlight the need to protect sensitive source water areas that drain to public drinking water supplies, the State Department of Public Health (DPH) is now required to be notified when a proposed development is planned within a public water supply watershed and/or aquifer protection area. This new requirement is in addition to the existing requirement to notify the water company that owns and controls the public water supply. Effective October 1, 2006, Public Act 06-53 Sections 1 and 2 modify two existing laws requiring an applicant of either a inland wetland agency or a planning and zoning board to notify the DPH.

Connecticut's public drinking water supply watersheds and aquifer protection areas cover approximately 19 % of the state and impact 157 towns within Connecticut. These drainage areas provide water to large capacity public drinking water supplies, including 150 surface water reservoirs and 120 aquifer protection areas.

The DPH has authority over the adequacy and purity of sources of public drinking water, and regulates the public water systems within Connecticut. The DPH/DWS views this notification as a proactive step toward land developers recognizing the potential adverse impact that proposed projects can have on drinking water purity and public health. It is our intent to continue to provide technical assistance to local town land use decision makers concerning development and management of these drainage areas.

You can view Public Act 06-53 at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2006/ACT/PA/2006PA-00053-R00SB-00313-PA.htm> . In addition, the DPH has developed a web based Public Water Supply Watershed or Aquifer Protection Area Project Notification Form located at http://www.dph.state.ct.us/BRS/Water/Source_Protection/source_protection.htm in an effort to streamline the notification requirement.

Please contact Lori Mathieu or Laurie Giannotti at the DPH's Drinking Water Section at (860) 509-7333 if you should have any questions.