



August 1, 2013

The Honorable Andres Ayala, Jr.  
State Senator  
Co-Chair, Legislative Regulations Review Committee  
Room 3600, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

The Honorable Selim G. Noujaim  
State Representative  
Co-Chair, Legislative Regulations Review Committee  
Connecticut House Republican Office  
Room 4200, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Dear Senator Ayala and Representative Noujaim:

Pursuant to Section 4-170 of the Connecticut General Statutes, I submit for the Legislative Regulations Review Committee's consideration and approval the enclosed regulations proposed to be codified as Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies (RCSA) sections 22a-426-1 to 22a-426-9, inclusive. The proposed regulations are to be commonly referred to as the Connecticut Water Quality Standards Regulations ("Water Quality Standards").

Connecticut's Water Quality Standards were first established in 1967 pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a-426. The current Water Quality Standards were adopted and periodically reviewed and updated through a public process in accordance with state statute and federal law. The most recent revision of the Water Quality Standards was finalized on February 25, 2011. The Water Quality Standards set the overall policy for management of surface water and ground water quality in accordance with the state and federal clean water programs. The Standards designate use goals, define allowable discharges, and identify measures necessary to maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of Connecticut's surface and ground waters. The Standards protect fish, shellfish, and wildlife, support recreation in and on the water, and safeguard public and private drinking water supplies.

The Department proposes to codify the existing Water Quality Standards as regulations in response to an amendment to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22a-426 (Section 9 of Public Act 10-158) that required the Water Quality Standards to be adopted as regulations.

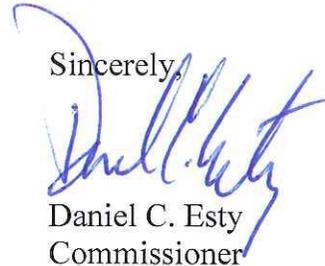
For this rulemaking exercise, the Department took great care to codify the Standards without any substantive changes. Substantive changes to the Standards will be considered during the federally-mandated Triennial Review process, slated to begin in the fall or winter of 2013.

The proposed regulations include, but are not limited to, provisions regarding: (1) short title; (2) purpose, goals and applicability; (3) definitions; (4) surface waters; (5) biological condition gradient model; (6) lake trophic category; (7) ground waters; (8) antidegradation standards and antidegradation implementation procedures; and (9) environmental criteria.

As noted in my signed statement, the Department met all requirements for public notice of the proposed regulations. As required, I have enclosed one copy of the proposed regulations, the hearing officer report summarizing the public notice and comment, the fiscal note, the small business impact analysis, and the signed certification sheet.

If you have any questions, please contact the Department's legislative liaison, Robert LaFrance, via e-mail at [robert.lafrance@ct.gov](mailto:robert.lafrance@ct.gov) or by telephone at (860) 424-3401. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Esty  
Commissioner

Enclosures

Cc: The Honorable Senator Edward Meyer  
The Honorable Representative Linda M. Gentile  
Marcy Picano, Office of Fiscal Analysis  
Robert LaFrance, Legislative Liaison, DEEP  
Betsey Wingfield, Chief, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, DEEP