

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Title of Rule: Groundwater Quality Rules

Rule Identifier: 250-RICR-150-05-3

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: 11/13/2018

Hearing Date: 12/04/2018

End of Public Comment: 12/13/2018

Authority for this Rulemaking:

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 46-12

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 46-13.1

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-18.9

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-19.1

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-17.1

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-17.6

R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 42-35

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The purpose of these rules is to protect and restore the quality of RI's groundwater resources for use as drinking water and other beneficial uses, and to assure protection of the public health and welfare and the environment. The purpose of these amendments is to recodify the Stormwater Manual into the Rhode Island Code of Regulations format as required by amendments to the Administrative Procedures Act (§ 42-35-5). This recodification must follow a standard format used for all state regulations. In addition, proposed changes include, but are not limited to, 1) changes to improve clarity of the Rules, 2) changes to the groundwater classification and wellhead protection area maps, 3) procedure for setting a groundwater quality standard when no EPA maximum contaminant level has been established, and 4) abandonment procedures for private drinking water wells are included similar to requirements for other subsurface borings.

A separate document has been uploaded with a more detailed explanation of the proposed changes.

Additional Information and Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until December 13, 2018 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Ernie Panciera
Department of Environmental Management
Office of Water Resources
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
ernie.panciera@dem.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held on December 4, 2018 at 1:30 pm at Conference Room 280C, R.I. Department of Environmental Management, 235 Promenade Street, 2nd Floor, Providence, RI 02908 at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals who are handicapped. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-222-4700 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Using available information, the RI Department of Environmental Management prepared an analysis of the societal benefits and costs associated with the proposed changes in the Groundwater Quality Rules. The range of estimated societal benefits exceeded the range of estimated societal costs for the implementation of the changes in the Groundwater Quality Rules.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.