

**Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation  
Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division**

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*Agency of Natural Resources*

**MESSAGE RE: OPERATOR CERTIFICATION RENEWAL DURING COVID-19  
PANDEMIC**

For the reasons set forth below, the following message will be provided to drinking water system operators, relating to the Department of Environmental Conservation's exercise of enforcement discretion during the COVID-19 pandemic:

**Operator Certification Renewal:** We are actively working with the Vermont Rural Water Association to continue to provide required trainings, likely with some or all trainings in the foreseeable future being provided online. While we understand that not everyone has access or the ability to stream training sessions, we are hoping that this will still be a viable option for many operators. As you are aware, certified water system operators are required to submit to the Secretary, at least 30 days before the expiration date of their operator certificate, a completed application on the form approved by the Secretary, including any fee due, and certifying that the continuing education requirements of Section 12.11 have been fulfilled. Because of the current State of Emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recognizes that it may be difficult to complete the continuing education requirements prior to the submission of the application. In recognition of this situation, if you are unable to complete the continuing education requirements, please submit the application and indicate that you have been unable to complete those requirements. DEC will deem all such applications administratively complete and will extend the certification. All operators who submit such an application shall submit an amended application within 120 days from the date that the State of Emergency is lifted verifying that they have completed the continuing education requirement, unless they have done so earlier.

**Operator Certification Exams:** The operator certification exams scheduled for May 1, 2020 have been indefinitely postponed. We hope to be able to reschedule the exams and will be in contact further once we have more information.

Signed at Montpelier, VT this 25th day of March, 2020  
Peter Walke, Commissioner  
Department of Environmental Conservation

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Bryan J. Redmond, Division Director