

FOR CONSECUTIVE (PURCHASE) AND WHOLESALER SYSTEMS: NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES UNDER THE GROUND WATER RULE

15A NCAC 18C Section .2202 [40 CFR 141.402(a)(4) and 40 CFR 141.402(g)]

The Ground Water Rule (effective December 1, 2009) requires the following:

- A consecutive water system (purchaser) must notify the wholesale system(s) within 24 hours of being informed of a routine total coliform-positive sample result(s) collected in the purchaser's distribution system.
- Upon notification, the wholesaler must then, within the next 24 hours, collect the appropriate triggered source water samples from their wells to determine the vulnerability of their source water. (Note: If the wholesaler has a State-approved triggered source water monitoring plan, the sampling can be limited to the approved representative source(s), otherwise, the wholesaler must collect at least one sample from each ground water source in use at the time. If the wholesaler provides State-approved 4-log treatment for viruses for its ground water sources, the triggered source water samples do not need to be collected.)
- If a triggered source water sample collected by the wholesaler is fecal-indicator positive, the wholesaler must notify all of its consecutive water systems receiving water from that source. [Note: The wholesaler and all of its consecutive systems receiving water from the contaminated source must conduct public notification in accordance with 15A NCAC 18C Section .1523 (40 CFR 141.202) - Tier 1 Public Notice within 24 hours.]

IMPORTANT: The Public Water Supply (PWS) Section is tracking these requirements and will be issuing violations for non-compliance. If you are a consecutive water system that has to notify its wholesaler that a routine total coliform sample was positive, or if you are a wholesaler that needs to notify its purchasers about a fecal-indicator ground water source sample, you also must notify the State that this interaction has occurred. Whenever you notify the other water system by e-mail, you need to copy the PWS Section's Regional and Central Office staff. If you notify the other system by phone, you need to send the PWS Section an e-mail indicating the person contacted and their affiliation to the system, and the date and time of the notification.

Below is the list of PWS Section Central Office staff that should receive these e-mails:

Bethany Goodwin at bethany.goodwin@ncdenr.gov;
Joshua Sartin at joshua.sartin@ncdenr.gov;
Alex Gorbounov at alex.gorbounov@ncdenr.gov;
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For a list of PWS Section Regional Office staff e-mail addresses, please refer to the PWS Section Web site at www.ncwater.org/pws/counties.htm