

### **15A NCAC 18C .1305 SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLANNING**

(a) In compliance with G.S. 130A-320, every supplier of water operating a public water system treating and furnishing water from a surface water source shall create and implement a Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) based upon the following schedule:

- (1) Water systems that have a single source of supply and a source susceptibility rating of higher or moderate, as determined by the Department, shall create and implement a SWPP by January 1, 2021.
- (2) Water systems that have multiple sources of supply and any source susceptibility rating of higher, as determined by the Department, shall create and implement a SWPP by January 1, 2022.
- (3) All other water systems treating and furnishing water from surface water sources shall create and implement an SWPP by January 1, 2023.
- (4) Any public water system that begins treating and furnishing water from a surface water source on or after January 1, 2021 shall create and implement a SWPP that satisfies the requirements of this Rule prior to the commencement of its operations.

(b) Any public water system required to create and implement a SWPP in accordance with this Rule shall review and update their SWPP at three year intervals from the creation deadline specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule. Updated information in the SWPP must address the plan elements listed in Paragraph (c) of this Rule.

(c) Each SWPP shall contain the following elements:

- (1) A list of potential contaminant sources (PCSs), both provided by the Department and identified by the water system, located in the following areas as defined in Classifications and Water Quality Standards Applicable to Surface Waters and Wetlands of North Carolina, 15A NCAC 02B .0200, which is hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions and can be found at no charge at [http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=f12e8078-b128-44cc-b55b-fc5e7d876f3c&groupId=38364](http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=f12e8078-b128-44cc-b55b-fc5e7d876f3c&groupId=38364);
  - (A) within the entire watershed for waters classified as WS-I;
  - (B) within the critical area and 1,000 feet from perennial streambanks within the protected area for waters classified as WS-II and WS-III;
  - (C) within the critical area and 1,000 feet from perennial streambanks, within the protected area for waters classified as WS-IV;
  - (D) within ½ mile from the normal pool elevation in which the intake is located, or to the ridge line of the watershed, whichever comes first, for a reservoir within waters classified as WS-V; and
  - (E) within ½ mile, measured as a straight line, upstream from and draining to the intake located directly in the stream or river, or to the ridge line of the watershed, whichever comes first, for a direct-stream intake within waters classified as WS-V.
- (2) For community water systems, a contingency strategy that documents the system's planned response to an emergency event or contamination of its water source(s) that includes the following:
  - (A) identification and contact information of personnel responsible for emergency management, including water system, local, State, and federal emergency response personnel;
  - (B) identification of foreseeable natural and human-caused emergency events including water shortages and outages;
  - (C) description of the emergency response strategies for each identified shortage or outage event and each potential contamination event associated with PCSs identified and listed in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule;
  - (D) standard operating procedures to close intakes and switch to an alternate intake during a contamination event, including procedures that outline exercises designed to practice closure and switching of the intake(s);
  - (E) description of public notification procedures; and
  - (F) identification and evaluation of all facilities and equipment that upon failure would result in a water outage or violations of the Rules Governing Public Water Systems, 15A NCAC 18C.
- (3) For non-transient, non-community water systems, the contingency strategy shall contain the positions and phone numbers of responsible persons to contact in the event of an emergency, including water system, local, State, and federal emergency contacts.

- (4) An evaluation of a water system's ability to take the following actions:
  - (A) close its water intake(s) in the event of contamination, including a determination of the duration of time the water intake(s) can remain closed while maintaining positive water pressure within the distribution system;
  - (B) isolate or divert contaminated water from its surface water intake(s);
  - (C) reduce demand by implementing conservation measures during a contamination event. Water Shortage Response Plans can be referenced to fulfill this requirement for water systems required to prepare a Water Shortage Response Plan under 15A NCAC 02E .0607, which is hereby incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions and can be found at no charge at <http://reports.oah.state.nc.us/ncac/title%2015a%20-%20environmental%20quality/chapter%2002%20-%20environmental%20management/subchapter%20e/15a%20ncac%202e%20.0607.pdf>; and
  - (D) meet demand via alternate sources of supply in the event of contamination or loss of its primary water source.
- (5) Verification of outreach efforts provided to the owners of the PCSs identified in Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule to raise awareness of the proximity of the drinking water intake(s) and provide emergency contact information for use during a contamination event.
- (6) A description of proactive activities and management strategies designed to protect the source(s) from contamination, including documentation of any voluntary source water protection activities that have been implemented by the water system.
- (7) Description of public awareness communication efforts that include the following:
  - (A) publication of the emergency and source water protection planning status, the next revision date, and a reference to this Rule in the community water system's annual Consumer Confidence Report, as required by 15A NCAC 18C .1538; and
  - (B) notification to any other public water system to which the system is directly interconnected of the contingency strategy set forth in Subparagraph (c)(2) of this Rule. A description of this communication shall be maintained in the SWPP.
- (d) The supplier of water shall maintain a copy of the current SWPP onsite at each water treatment facility and make the SWPP available to personnel responsible for emergency management and operator(s) on duty at all times. The SWPP and any associated documentation used in its creation and implementation shall be available for review by Section staff upon request.
- (e) The supplier of water shall certify that a SWPP has been created and implemented, and that the water system's governing body has been advised of the SWPP creation and implementation. The certification shall be submitted to the Department by the deadline specified in Paragraph (a) of this Rule.
- (f) The supplier of water shall certify that a SWPP has been revised and that the water system's governing body has been advised of the revision. The certification shall be submitted to the Department by the revision deadline specified in Paragraph (b) of this Rule.

*History Note:* Authority G.S. 130A-315; 130A-320(c);  
Eff. January 1, 2019.