



Central Utah Water Conservancy District

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August 19, 2008

RECEIVED
AUG 26 2008
DIVISION OF
WATER QUALITY

Mr. Walter Baker, Director
Division of Water Quality
PO Box 144870
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4870

Re: R317-2, Water Quality Standards Amendments

Dear Mr. Baker:

Public Water Systems (PWSs) in Utah are responsible by State Rule (R309-600, R309-605) to protect their sources of drinking water from contamination. PWSs are required to develop, submit, and implement a Drinking Water Source Protection Plan (DWSP) for each drinking water source. The DWSP includes a delineation of protection zones throughout the watershed, an inventory of existing and potential contamination sources within those zones and an assessment of controls (regulatory, best management/pollution prevention, or physical), and the susceptibility of the PWS to contamination by those sources.

Central Utah Water Conservancy District (CUWCD) has responsibility for several PWSs and has therefore submitted a DWSP for each of those facilities (available upon request). Our implementation strategy is to monitor watershed water quality and watershed activities, to rely upon existing local, state, and federal agencies' authority to control contamination, and to communicate concerns within each of its DWSP zones in a coordinated effort to prevent adverse public health effects.

The authority of the Division of Water Quality through Water Quality Standards and permitting is one of the strongest tools we have available in the protection of surface waters and public health. To further that protection, we are requesting additional language be included in R317-2-3.5d. Special Procedures for Drinking Water Sources (attached), that would provide for stakeholder participation in new or increased discharges to waterbodies used as drinking water sources.

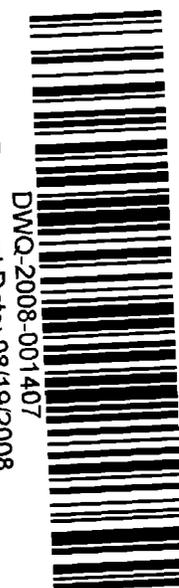
The intent of these changes is to require a coordination meeting with the drinking water utility responsible for administering the Source Water Protection Plan at the beginning of the discharge permit application or renewal process. It is our opinion that this action would allow stakeholders to discuss concerns and cooperatively work together to

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minimize potential public health risks and would result in a more streamlined permit issuance process. Furthermore, it significantly improves our ability to assess and control potential contamination sources as required in our DWSP.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we ask that you consider the suggested changes. If there are any questions, please contact me at 801-226-7160 or Reed@CUWCD.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reed Y. Oberndorfer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Reed Y. Oberndorfer, Ph.D.
Water Quality Director

cc: William Moellmer, UDWQ

R317-2-3. Antidegradation Policy.

3.5 Antidegradation Review (ADR)

d. Special Procedures for Drinking Water Sources

An Antidegradation Review may be required by the Executive Secretary for discharges to waters with a Class 1C drinking water use assigned, irrespective of whether any of the conditions in Section 3-5 b. apply. Factors to be considered may include the volume of the discharge compared to the flow of the receiving stream, or where the pollutants discharged may have potentially adverse impact on the drinking water supply.

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When the discharge falls within a Source Water Protection Zone of an existing drinking water utility(s), the Executive Secretary shall require a coordination meeting with the Division of Drinking Water, the drinking water utility(s), and the permit applicant to evaluate the potential of a reasonable public health risk and/or discharge alternatives. Depending upon the locations of the discharge, any associated public health risk, and its proximity to drinking water diversions, additional treatment or more stringent effluent limits or additional monitoring, beyond that which may otherwise be required to meet minimum technology standards or in stream water quality standards, may be required by the Executive Secretary in order to adequately protect public health and the environment. Such additional treatment may include additional disinfection, suspended solids removal to make the disinfection process more effective, removal of any specific contaminants for which drinking water maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) or where current or identified concerns exist, and/or nutrient removal to reduce the organic content of raw water used as a source for domestic water systems.

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Additional monitoring may include analyses for viruses, protozoa, other pathogenic organisms, and/or any contaminant for which drinking water MCLs or identified, realistic public health risks exist. Depending on the results of such monitoring, more stringent treatment may then be required.

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The additional treatment/effluent limits/monitoring which may be required will be determined by the Executive Secretary after consultation with the Division of Drinking Water and the downstream drinking water users.