



Technical Guidance for Public Health Standards for Onsite Water Systems



The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) and the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) are working together to develop recommendations for public health standards for treated alternate water sources for non-potable applications, including water quality criteria, monitoring regimes, and permitting strategies for onsite water systems. The project is sponsored by Water Research Foundation (WRF), WaterReuse Research Foundation, and Water Environment Research Foundation (WERF, pending funding).

BACKGROUND

In May 2014, the SFPUC hosted a dedicated group of water agencies, public health departments, and research institutions from across North America to discuss onsite water systems at the *Innovation in Urban Water Systems Meeting* (www.sfwater.org/np/iuws), funded by WERF and WRF. The meeting participants identified two primary institutional barriers to onsite water treatment:

- Developing a local program to manage onsite water systems; and
- Developing scale-appropriate water quality criteria and monitoring.

To address the first barrier, the group developed the *Blueprint for Onsite Water Systems: A Step-by-Step Guide for Developing a Local Program to Manage Onsite Water Systems*. The Blueprint was released in September 2014 and serves as a how-to guide for communities interested in implementing a program to oversee onsite water systems. The **Technical Guidance for Public Health Standards for Onsite Water Systems Project** will address the second barrier of developing scale-appropriate water quality criteria and monitoring.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project includes a five member expert panel, a stakeholder advisory committee, and two interactive workshops. The expert panel includes technical experts in the field of risk assessment, microbiology, and water quality standards and regulations. The stakeholder advisory committee, comprised of local and state public health officials from across the United States, provides guidance and feedback to the expert panel. The goal is to establish water quality criteria along with monitoring and reporting recommendations to create a cohesive set of guidelines that can be implemented by local officials and create uniform practice across jurisdictions.

ANTICIPATED PROJECT SCHEDULE – 2015

March - April

- Assemble Expert Panel
- Assemble Stakeholder Advisory Committee

June – July

- Draft Annotated Outline
- Conduct Workshop One

August - October

- Draft Public Health Standards Report
- Host Workshop Two

November-December

- Release Final Technical Guidance for Public Health Standards for Onsite Water Systems Report



Last updated: April 3, 2015

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The expert panel will be managed by NWRI, under the guidance of the SFPUC. The panel will be led by a Chair, who is charged with facilitating expert panel meetings and the preparation of the panel reports.

The stakeholder advisory committee comprised of state and local public health agency officials, will review recommendations and provide input to the expert panel during two interactive workshops. The SFPUC called for volunteers to participate on the stakeholder advisory committee and includes representatives from the following organizations:

- California State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
- County of Los Angeles Public Health
- Hawaii State Department of Public Health
- Minnesota Department of Health
- New York City Public Health (invited)
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
- Province of Alberta
- San Francisco County Department of Public Health
- San Mateo County Environmental Health
- Tuolumne County Department of Public Health
- United States Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Research and Development
- Washington State Department of Health

The expert panel will prepare a draft annotated outline to establish preliminary recommendations for scale-appropriate water quality criteria and monitoring criteria. During Workshop One, stakeholder advisory committee members and public agencies will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the annotated outline. The expert panel will then prepare a draft report that incorporates applicable input. During Workshop Two, the draft report will be presented and discussed with the goal of obtaining consensus on the final recommendations. The expert panel will prepare the *Final Technical Guidance for Public Health Standards Report* following Workshop Two. The final report should address:

- Water quality standard(s) for multiple types of alternate water sources, including graywater, blackwater, rainwater, stormwater
- Monitoring regimes for water quality;
- Permitting strategies; and
- Applications and end uses of treated alternate water sources.

To learn more about the *Technical Guidance for Public Health Standards for Onsite Water Systems Project*, please contact Paula Kehoe at 415-554-0792 or pkehoe@sewater.org.