

# Groundwater Protection Rule and Strategy

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# Title 10: Conservation and Development

## Chapter 48 : Groundwater Protection

### Subchapter 1: Policy; Definitions

[§ 1390. Policy](#)

[§ 1391. Definitions](#)

### Subchapter 2: General

[§ 1392. Duties; powers of secretary](#)

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# Chapter 48 : Groundwater Protection

## § 1390. Policy

- Recognize GW is a finite resource
- Protect GW resources for high-Q drinking water
- Manage to minimize risk to GW Quality
- Recognize Human activities and Agriculture
- GW resources held in public trust

# Chapter 48 : Groundwater Protection

## **§ 1392. Duties; powers of secretary**

Secretary shall develop a comprehensive GW mgt program.

Among other things:

- Strategy for the management and protection of GW
- Continuing studies and investigations of GW
- Mapping existing and potential future uses
- Technical Assistance – planning GW protection, local regional
- Developing O&E materials

# Chapter 48 : Groundwater Protection

## **§ 1392. Duties; powers of secretary**

Comprehensive GW Mgt Strategy (continued):

- Integrate GW Mgt Strategy : ANR Regulatory programs
- GW Coordinating Comm - AAFM, DFPR, VDH, private sector
  
- Rulemaking - GW Protection Strategy
- GW Classification
- Technical criteria and standards

## Chapter 48 : Groundwater Protection

### § 1394. Classification of groundwater

- Class I - Suitable for public water supply. No exposure to risks.
- Class II - Suitable for public water supply. Some exposure to risks.
- Class III - Suitable as source for individual domestic water supply et.al.
- Class IV. Not suitable as a source of potable water.  
(Suitable for some agricultural, industrial and commercial use.)

## Chapter 48 : Groundwater Protection

### § 1394. Classification of groundwater

#### Class III – Default

All groundwater of the state is Class III unless the Secretary reclassifies.

Class I or II - Aquifers in use as a public water supply source or which have a high probability for such use.

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# § 1394. Classification of groundwater

Appropriate classification of groundwater; major considerations:

- Use or potential future use as PWS
- Activities/risks to GW
- Current water quality;
- Availability in quantities needed for beneficial use;

General Assembly must approve any Class I aquifer designation affecting private lands



# GWPR&S shall consider:

- DW Standards – VT VDH and USEPA
- Nature and quantity of groundwater at risk
- Availability, cost, effectiveness of remedial measures
- Nature and quantity of risks that activities may generate;

# **GWPR&S shall consider:**

- Consequences to the public interest should damage occur and be irreremediable
- Economic, social and environmental value of existing activities
- Surface water quality standards

# Pre-Rulemaking Draft – comment summary

- Rules should apply to all discharges (e.g. On-site systems, Indirect Discharges, Stormwater)
- Protection of GW should be for existing and future uses
- Protect public and private water supplies
- Consider all impacts to GW on a regional basis

# Pre-Rulemaking Draft – comment summary

- Minimize the allowance for GW Contamination – strict application of compliance points; not a function of property lines
- Manage threats to both GW Quality and GW Quantity
- GWCC extensive comments – (e.g. Stormwater mgt)

# Target adoption schedule – Summer 2016

Early March – ICAR submittal

APA begins for rule adoption