

CHAPTER 9
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL

Authority

N.J.S.A. 13:1B-3, 13:1D-9, 58:4A-4.1 et seq., 58:10A-1 et seq. and 58:11A-1 et seq.

Source and Effective Date

R.1996 d.86, effective January 18, 1996.
See: 27 N.J.R. 3519(a), 28 N.J.R. 1201(c).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 9, Ground Water Quality Standards, expires on February 5, 2006. See: 36 N.J.R. 1191(a).

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 9, Water Pollution Control Rules, was adopted and became effective prior to September 1, 1969.

Subchapter 10, Installation of Sewerage Facilities in Critical Areas, was adopted as new rules by R.1971 d.208, effective January 15, 1972. See: 3 N.J.R. 78(a), 3 N.J.R. 255(b).

Subchapter 9, Sealing of Abandoned Wells, was adopted as new rules by R.1973 d.299, effective October 23, 1973. See: 5 N.J.R. 185(b), 5 N.J.R. 370(b).

Subchapter 11, Allocation of Waste Lands or Point-Source Dischargers, was adopted as new rules by R.1974 d.151, effective June 18, 1974. See: 6 N.J.R. 132(c), 6 N.J.R. 263(b).

Subchapter 4, Surface Water Quality Standards, was adopted as new rules by R.1974 d.310, effective December 2, 1974. See: 6 N.J.R. 302(d), 6 N.J.R. 470(c).

Subchapter 13, Sewer Extension Ban, was adopted as new rules by R.1975 d.302, effective October 16, 1975. See: 7 N.J.R. 147(a), 7 N.J.R. 499(e).

Subchapter 14, Ground Water Quality Standards, was originally adopted by R.1978 d.20, effective January 23, 1978. See: 9 N.J.R. 68(b), 10 N.J.R. 61(a).

Subchapter 15, Grants for Restoring Publicly Owned Freshwater Lakes, was adopted as new rules by R.1980 d.374, effective August 22, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 310(a), 12 N.J.R. 575(c).

Subchapter 3, Location of Factory within Watershed, was repealed by R.1980 d.433, effective October 7, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 454(b), 12 N.J.R. 643(a).

Subchapter 4, Surface Water Quality Standards, Subchapter 5, Subchapter 8, Treatment of Wastewaters Discharged into Waters of the State, Subchapter 11, Allocation of Waste Loads or Point-Source Dischargers, and Subchapter 14, Ground Water Quality Standards, were repealed by R.1981 d.80, effective March 4, 1981. See: 12 N.J.R. 108(c), 13 N.J.R. 194(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 2, Standards for Construction of Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, was readopted as R.1983 d.243, effective June 3, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 591(a), 15 N.J.R. 1042(a).

Subchapter 10, Installation of Sewerage Facilities in Critical Areas, was repealed by R.1983 d.423, effective October 3, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 1155(a), 15 N.J.R. 1654(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 13, Sewer Extension Ban, was readopted as R.1984 d.336, effective July 23, 1984. See: 16 N.J.R. 660(a), 16 N.J.R. 2096(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 15, Grants for Restoring Publicly Owned Freshwater Lakes, expired on August 22, 1985

Subchapter 15, Grants Restoring Publicly Owned Freshwater Lakes, was adopted as new rules by R.1985 d.717, effective January 21, 1986. See: 17 N.J.R. 2182(a), 18 N.J.R. 163(b).

Subchapter 13, Sewer Extension Ban, was repealed by R.1987 d.445, effective November 2, 1987. See: 18 N.J.R. 2163(a), 19 N.J.R. 2000(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 1, Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment Plants, expired on April 25, 1985.

Subchapter 1, Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment Plants, was adopted as new rules by R.1988 d.205, effective May 2, 1988 as R.1988 d.205. See: 19 N.J.R. 2227(b), 20 N.J.R. 980(a).

Subchapter 2, Standards for Construction of Individual Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, was repealed by R.1989 d.450 and recodified to N.J.A.C. 7:9A, effective August 21, 1989, (operative January 1, 1990). See: 20 N.J.R. 1790(a), 21 N.J.R. 2534(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 9, Water Pollution Control, was readopted as R.1991 d.68, effective January 18, 1991. See: 22 N.J.R. 3297(a), 23 N.J.R. 406(c).

Notice of petition to amend New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System permits. See: 23 N.J.R. 236(a), 23 N.J.R. 622(b).

Subchapter 6, Ground Water Quality Standards, was repealed and new rules were adopted by R.1993 d.73, effective February 1, 1993. See: 24 N.J.R. 181(a), 25 N.J.R. 464(a).

Subchapter 4 was recodified to N.J.A.C. 7:9B-1 by R.1993 d.610, effective December 6, 1993. See: 24 N.J.R. 3983(a), 24 N.J.R. 4471(a), 25 N.J.R. 404(a), 25 N.J.R. 5569(a).

Public Notice: Opportunity for interested party review for rule amendment. See: 25 N.J.R. 411(a).

Subchapter 1, Sewer Systems and Wastewater Treatment Plants, was repealed by R.1994 d.278, effective June 6, 1994. See: 25 N.J.R. 3282(a), 26 N.J.R. 2413(b). See, now, N.J.A.C. 7:14A-22 and 23.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 9 was readopted as R.1996 d.86, effective January 18, 1996. See: Source and effective date.

The expiration date for Chapter 9, Water Pollution Control, was extended by gubernatorial directive from January 18, 2001 to January 1, 2002. See: 33 N.J.R. 553(b).

The expiration date for Chapter 9, Water Pollution Control, was extended by gubernatorial directive from January 18, 2002 to August 18, 2002. See: 34 N.J.R. 920(a).

Subchapter 2, Lake Restoration Funds, was repealed, and Subchapter 15, Grants Restoring Publicly Owned Freshwater Lakes, was recodified as Chapter 7:23, Administration of Lake Restoration Projects, by R.2002 d.410, effective December 16, 2002. See: 34 N.J.R. 2399(a), 34 N.J.R. 4436(a).

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1d, Chapter 9, Water Pollution Control, expiration date was extended by gubernatorial directive from August 18, 2002 to February 5, 2004. See: 34 N.J.R. 3079(a).

Chapter 9, Water Pollution Control, expiration date was extended by gubernatorial directive from February 5, 2004 to February 5, 2006. See: 36 N.J.R. 1191(a).

Subchapter 5, Wastewater Discharge Requirements, was recodified to N.J.A.C. 7:14A by administrative change. See: 37 N.J.R. 3648(a).

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SUBCHAPTERS 1 THROUGH 5. (RESERVED)

SUBCHAPTER 6. GROUND WATER QUALITY STANDARDS

7:9-6.1 Scope of subchapter

(a) Unless otherwise provided by statute, the following shall constitute the rules of the Department of Environmental Protection concerning ground water classification, designated uses of ground water, and ground water quality criteria and constituent standards, pursuant to the Water Pollution Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10A-1 et seq.) and the Water Quality Planning Act (N.J.S.A. 58:11A-1 et seq.).

(b) This subchapter shall provide the basis for protection of ambient ground water quality, through the establishment of constituent standards for ground water pollutants. These constituent standards are applicable to the development of: ground water protection standards pursuant to the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDES; N.J.A.C. 7:14A); ground water cleanup standards and compliance levels beyond the boundaries of a contaminated site pursuant to applicable regulatory programs; and other requirements and regulatory actions applicable to discharges that cause or may cause pollutants to enter the ground waters of the State, including nonpoint and diffuse sources regulated by the Department. Other relevant laws through which the Ground Water Quality Standards may be applied include, but are not limited to, the Spill Compensation and Control Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10-23.11 et seq.), the Solid Waste Management Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1E-1 et seq.), the Environmental Cleanup Responsibility Act (N.J.S.A. 13:1K-6 et seq.), the Storage of Hazardous Substances Act (N.J.S.A. 58:10A-21 et seq.), the Realty Improvement Sewerage and Facilities Act (N.J.S.A. 58:11-23 et seq.), and the Pesticide Control Act of 1971 (N.J.S.A. 13:1F-1 et seq.).

(c) This subchapter shall be the Department's primary basis for setting numerical criteria for limits on discharges to ground water and standards for ground water cleanups.

Case Notes

Private home septic system installed in violation of regulation; violation does not give rise to private cause of action for damages. *Jalowiecki v. Leuc*, 182 N.J.Super. 22, 440 A.2d 21 (App.Div.1981).

7:9-6.2 Policies

(a) It is the policy of this State to restore, enhance and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of its waters, to protect public health, to safeguard fish and aquatic life and scenic and ecological values, and to enhance the domestic, municipal, recreational, industrial and other uses of water.

(b) Discharges to ground water that subsequently discharges into surface waters shall not be permitted by the applicable regulatory program if such discharges would cause a contravention of surface water quality standards applicable to those surface waters. That is, those discharges must achieve compliance with both these standards and the surface water quality standards (N.J.A.C. 7:9-4).

(c) When existing ground water quality does not meet the constituent standards determined pursuant to N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.7, 6.8 and 6.9(a) and (b), due to human activities, the Department shall, after a review of relevant and available scientific and technical data, determine in the context of the applicable regulatory programs the management actions necessary (including, but not limited to, the requirement of remedial actions) to restore or enhance ground water quality pursuant to the policies of this subchapter.

(d) The Department shall not approve discharges or activities posing a significant risk of discharges, within the jurisdiction of and subject to regulation by the Pinelands Commission, that would contravene the rules of the Pinelands Commission with regard to the protection of ground water or surface water quality.

Case Notes

Standards for Total Suspended Solids set by Federal and State regulations; fine assessed appropriate for permit level violations. *Lentine Aggregates v. Dept. of Environmental Protection*, 4 N.J.A.R. 117 (1981), affirmed per curiam Dkt. No. A-3424-80 (App.Div.1982).

7:9-6.3 Construction

This subchapter shall be liberally construed to permit the Department to implement its statutory functions.

7:9-6.4 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings:

"ACL" means alternative concentration limit.

“Agricultural water” means water used for crop production, livestock, horticulture and silviculture.

“Alternative concentration limit” (ACL) means a constituent standard or narrative description of actions, discharge controls and water quality requirements that is less stringent than the ground water quality requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.7, 6.8 and 6.9(a) and (b), due to a Departmental determination pursuant to NJPDES regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:14A-6.15(e)2). In order to approve an ACL, the Department must find that the relevant constituent standard(s) cannot be achieved through technologically practicable means.

“Antidegradation” means a policy to ensure that existing ground water quality (that currently is of higher quality than the water quality criteria in N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.7) is not degraded to the criteria by discharges, but rather remains at a better quality ranging from natural quality at the most stringent, to a limited allowance for degradation at the least stringent. “Nondegradation” is the most stringent case of the antidegradation policy. It prohibits any degradation of ground water quality below existing background water quality by a discharge.

“Antidegradation limit” is the numerical expression (in terms of a concentration or level of a constituent in ground water) of the antidegradation policy.

“Applicable regulatory program” means any of the Department’s programs which implement the regulations issued pursuant to the statutes cited in N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.1(b) or in any other regulations that specifically cite this subchapter.

“Aquifer” means a saturated geologic formation(s) or unit(s) which is sufficiently permeable to transmit water to a pumping well in usable and economic quantities. The upper level of an unconfined aquifer may vary over time; “aquifer” applies to the full saturated zone at any time.

“Aquitard” means a hydrogeologic confining unit(s) that exhibits limited permeability, bounding one or more aquifers, that does not readily yield water to wells or springs, but may serve as a storage unit for ground water and may release this

water to adjacent ground water units or surface waters. Such confining units are further defined and listed in N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.5(f)1 or may be established through reclassification under N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.10.

“Background water quality” means the concentration of constituents in ground water which is determined to exist directly upgradient of a discharge but not influenced by the discharge, or is otherwise representative of such concentration of constituents as determined using methods and analyses consistent with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 7:14A-6.15(h)7.

“Classification area” means the geographic extent (lateral and vertical) of a geologic formation(s) or unit(s) wherein ground water is classified for designated uses, as described in N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.5.

“Classification exception area” means an area within which one or more constituent standards and designated uses are suspended in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.6.

“Constituent” means a specific chemical substance (that is, element or compound) or water quality parameter (for example, temperature, odor, color).

“Constituent standard” means the required maximum level or concentration or the required range of levels or concentrations (as applicable) for a constituent in a classification area, as established in N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.7, 6.8 and 6.9(a) and (b). The constituent standards shall be the basis for the Department’s regulation of ground water quality effects of past, present or future discharges to ground water or the land surface, pursuant to applicable authorities as defined in N.J.A.C. 7:9-6.1.

“Conventional water supply treatment” means the chemical and physical treatment of ground water supplies for microbiological contaminants and undesirable naturally occurring substances resulting in treated water that meets all the primary and secondary standards for those constituents stipulated by the New Jersey Safe Drinking Water Act regulations (N.J.A.C. 7:10-12).