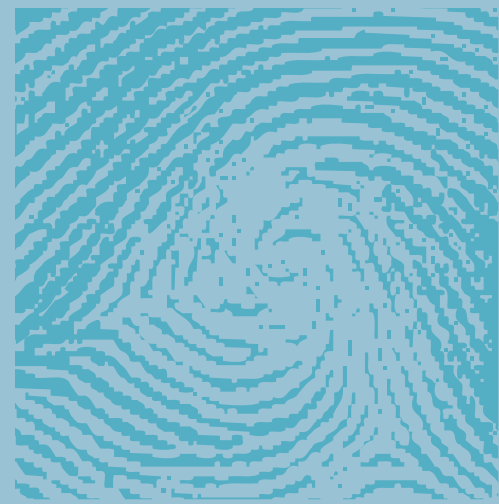


Drinking Water Regulatory Unit

Issue 2, October 2004



The Drinking Water Regulatory Unit is becoming more established, and is looking forward to the program manager commencing work at the end of October.

Contact details for incident reporting and the regulatory impact process and consultation are shown separately. All other matters relating to the Safe Drinking Water Legislation 2003 or the Drinking Water Regulatory Unit should be addressed to Jennifer McDonald or Julie Hoy.

New appointment

Mr. David Sheehan has been appointed to the position of Program Manager, Drinking Water Regulation and will commence work at the end of October.

David is a scientist with a strong environmental focus, who brings twenty years of experience to this position. He has worked in three states, including 17 years with Sydney Water, primarily in the laboratory sector, and most recently with SGS Environmental Services in regional Victoria. His experience spans field sampling, water microbiology, water quality studies, environmental consulting and laboratory management.

David will be available from October 25 on 9637 4647 or by e-mail on david.sheehan@dhs.vic.gov.au

Safe Drinking Water Regulations–Regulatory Impact Statement

The Department of Human Services has published an Exposure Draft for Safe Drinking Water Regulations and a Regulatory Impact Statement for the draft regulations.

These regulations set out the further matters to be addressed in risk management plans and audit, details relating to approval for auditors and analysts, sets out drinking water standards, sampling requirements and reporting details.

The draft regulations are out for public comment until Monday 25 October 2004. Written submissions are invited from any interested industry, stakeholder or community group and from the public in relation to any matter relevant to the proposed regulations. To assist organisations in participating in this process, a workshop was held on Friday 8 October 2004. The Powerpoint presentation from this workshop will be available on the website.

Copies of the Regulatory Impact Statement, the draft regulations and other related information are also available on the Victorian Government's health website: www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/water/drinking.

Submissions must be received by 5 PM on [Monday 25 October 2004](#), marked [Safe Drinking Water Regulations 2004–Submission](#) and addressed to:

Mr Brian Labza
Public Health Group
Department of Human Services
GPO. Box 1670N, Melbourne VIC 3001

For information or queries in relation to the Regulatory Impact Statement please call Brian Labza of the Department of Human Services on (03) 9637 4088 or by email to brian.labza@dhs.vic.gov.au

Regulated water

There have been numerous enquiries from water authorities in respect to water supplies that they would like to have declared as regulated water. This includes, but is not restricted to, towns where water supplies are currently classified as non-potable, supply by agreement arrangements, customer pipes and raw water supplies.

As a water supplier, you need to be very clear as to what the supply can and cannot be used for, and to communicate this effectively with customers. If it is clear in your communications with customers that the water is not intended for drinking purposes, and it is not likely that the water could be mistaken for drinking water through the method of supply, no action is required under the Act.

There are a number of mechanisms under the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* that allow the Department of Human Services and water suppliers to deal with water that does not meet the standards but is intended for drinking or could be taken to be for drinking. The declaration of regulated water is only one of these, along with exemptions and variations to standards and undertakings in respect to upgrade of supplies.

Section 6 of the *Safe Drinking Water Act 2003* empowers the Secretary to the Department of Human Services to declare water regulated, and details the circumstances where this declaration is applicable. To make a declaration of regulated water, the Secretary must be satisfied on two criteria:

- That the water is not intended to be drinking water
- That the water may be mistaken by consumers or the public as drinking water.

As the standards that will define drinking water will be in the regulations, the concept of water that is outside the standards will not formally apply until such time as the regulations commence.

The Water Regulatory Unit has not yet established the processes to consider these arrangements. These processes will be communicated with you after they have been established, and at the time that the regulations commence you will need to contact this office to initiate consideration of the appropriate approach to any water supplies intended for consumption that do not meet the standards.

Water quality monitoring results

It has been wonderful to see the water quality monitoring results rolling in for July and August.

Julie Hoy is currently looking at these, and will provide you with feedback and is available to discuss any problems you may have in providing them.

For those businesses that have been unable to provide results to date, could you please call Julie on 9637 4090 to discuss a starting schedule.

Contacts

Formal correspondence on the Drinking Water Regulatory Unit should be addressed to Ms Jennifer McDonald Manager, Food Safety and Water Regulation
Public Health Group,
Department of Human Services
GPO Box 1670N
Melbourne VICTORIA 3001

Call Julie Hoy for queries relating to the Drinking Water Regulatory Office on 9637 4090 or julie.hoy@dhs.vic.gov.au

Call Brian Labza for queries relating to the Regulatory Impact Statement on 9637 4088 or brian.labza@dhs.vic.gov.au

Call John Siapantas for queries relating to incident reporting on 9637 4221 or john.siapantas@dhs.vic.gov.au