



**State of Vermont
Department of Environmental Conservation**

Agency of Natural Resources

Water Supply Division

The Old Pantry Building

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June 30, 2008

Re: Act No. 156 (H.806) Exemption of Consecutive Water Systems serving less than 500 persons

Dear Consecutive and Wholesale Water Supplier:

Act No. 156, *An Act Relating to Public Water Systems* (H.806) was signed by Governor Douglas in May 2008 which enables consecutive water systems serving less than 500 persons to qualify for an exemption from Federal and State Drinking Water Regulations. Please find enclosed a copy of the law.

This legislation introduced in early 2008 encompassed the recommendations from Consecutive System Workgroup meetings held last summer which several of you attended. Representatives from a cross section of municipalities, public water systems, consulting engineers and consecutive systems were involved in the process.

Approximately 70 currently regulated consecutive systems may qualify for the exemption. The law provides an opportunity for consecutive water systems to reduce operating costs related to operating a public water system without diminishing health protection. It encourages partnerships that establish respective responsibilities of wholesale and consecutive water systems to provide safe drinking water from source to tap and in return reduces regulatory oversight.

The Consecutive System exemption is not required nor does it occur automatically under the new law and is contingent upon a partnership between the wholesale and consecutive public water systems. The consecutive system is required to apply for the exemption and as part of the application the wholesale water system needs to certify its responsibilities as specified in the law.

As wholesale and consecutive water systems you may decide to outline your respective operational requirements in a written agreement. The contents of the agreement are solely within your discretion and not required, therefore would not be reviewed or approved by the Water Supply Division. Absorbing consecutive systems is voluntary on the part of the wholesale system. The law includes a provision for the wholesale water system to notify the Agency of Natural Resources if they choose to withdraw from their obligations and thereby result in the consecutive system losing its exempt status.

Any consecutive water system wanting to apply for the exemption needs to submit a completed application form (copy enclosed). The Water Supply Division will review your application and send you written notification approving or disapproving the exempt status.

Please contact me at 802-241-3405 or 1-800-823-6500 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Jean M. Nicolai

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Operations and Compliance Chief

C: Gary Schultz, Director

Enclosures: Act No 156; Application form

