



Department Updates

John J. Truitt

Department Changes



- **New Secretary – Shawn Hamilton**
- **Other New Personnel**
 - **New Deputy Secretary**
 - **New Assistant Deputy Secretary**
 - **New Deputy Director in Water Resources Division**



- **Vacatur**
- **Current Proposed Rule – Nov. 18, 2021**
 - **Officially implements the pre-2015 regime**
- **Future Proposal – coming 2022**

Section 404



- **Anticipated Workload**
- **Overall Progress**
- **Continual Improvement Process**
 - **Additional Resources**
 - **Water Management District Coordination**
 - **Training**

Section 404 – As of November 22, 2021



Category	Number
Pending Applications	1,889
Individual Permits Issued	47
General Permits Issued	208
No Permit Required Letters Issued	242
Denied	34
Withdrawn	1,020

SB 712 THE CLEAN WATERWAYS ACT



Focuses on remedial action and improvements to regulations regarding septic and stormwater systems, wastewater infrastructure, as well as Agricultural Best Management Practices. This legislation serves as the foundation for implementing necessary actions by the department, local governments and our regulated community based on the Blue Green Algae Task Force's recommendations.

- Contingency plans for power outages at sewage disposal facilities to minimize discharges of untreated wastewater.
- Provision of financial records from all sewage disposal facilities so DEP can ensure funds are being allocated to infrastructure upgrades, repairs and maintenance that prevent systems from falling into disrepair.
- Detailed documentation of fertilizer use by agricultural operations to ensure compliance with Best Management Practices and evaluation of their effectiveness.
- Updated stormwater rules and design criteria to improve the performance of stormwater systems statewide to specifically address nutrients.
- Regulation of septic tanks as a source of nutrients and transfer of oversight from DOH to DEP.

REUSE

PHASE I IS COMPLETE, PHASE II IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



The purpose of this rulemaking is to update the rules to account for modern practices and technology, to implement the Potable Reuse Commission’s 2020 report “Advancing Potable Reuse in Florida: Framework for the Implementation of Potable Reuse in Florida”, and to revise rules to include the new requirements found in the act.

Once these rulemaking activities are complete, the revised rules will provide an updated framework for aquifer storage, recovery and recharge wells; reusing reclaimed water in general; indirect potable reuse (such as aquifer recharge); and a new nation-leading framework for direct potable reuse.

WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEMS NEAR COMPLETION, WILL REQUIRE FUTURE LEGISLATIVE RATIFICATION



- Amendments to update provisions and implement a power outage contingency plan, collection systems action plan and the relevant requirements of the CWA.
- Requires domestic wastewater treatment facilities to use inflow and infiltration studies and leakage surveys to develop pipe assessment, repair and replacement action plans.
- Updates setbacks and vertical/horizontal separation distances for collection systems from drinking water wells and lines and reclaimed water lines.
- Requires emergency response plans to address hurricanes, to be reviewed annually.
- Revises the reporting requirements for noncompliance events related to sanitary sewer overflows, bypass events, or unauthorized discharges. Expands the required information to be submitted to the State Watch Office.

BIOSOLIDS COMPLETED



The biosolids rulemaking process included multiple public workshops and several opportunities for public input. The final draft rules were also required by the CWA to be ratified by the Legislature prior to becoming effective.

Chapter 62-640, F.A.C. amendments ensure the proper management, use and land application of biosolids to protect waters of the state from nutrient pollution and in a manner that minimizes the migration of nutrients to prevent the impairment of waterbodies.

- DOS filed certification package with an effective date of 6/21/21 .



STORMWATER CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



DEP is currently in the rulemaking process to update the stormwater design and operation regulations, including updates to the Environmental Resource Permit Applicant's Handbook, using the most recent scientific information available.

DEP held two public outreach meetings in 2020 prior to rule development, and in response to public interest, established a Technical Advisory Committee in November 2020.

These recommendations will guide the department in rule development moving forward. To achieve maximum consistency throughout the state, the rulemaking efforts will commence with Florida's water management districts.

ONSITE SEWAGE PROGRAM TRANSFER BECAME EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2021



- 12 staff from DOH joined DEP's Division of Water Resource Management as the new Onsite Sewage Program.
- DEP's program staff coordinate with Florida's 67 county health departments on local septic permitting issues, as set forth in an Interagency Agreement between DOH and DEP that was executed prior to the transfer.
- The agreement is for a period of five years, after which time staff will complete the transfer from DOH to DEP and work directly for DEP under county delegations and DEP's regional district offices.



AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES CURRENTLY UNDERWAY



February 2021, DACS referred 6,033 parcels for enforcement to DEP.

DACS removed 3,261 parcels that were unlikely to have agricultural activity and on May 2021, DACS referred a revised list of 2,772 parcels.

- 254 on May 3, 2021.
- 2,518 on May 17, 2021.

DEP took immediate action and mailed outreach letters to enrollees within days of each referral.

- DEP has successfully brought more than 62% of the parcels referred in May into compliance or into the process of compliance through education and outreach.



Thank You