

# ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANUAL

<b>NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH</b>  <b>CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH</b>  <i>*[Replaces WSP 68 TR (08/06/07)]</i>	<b>ITEM NO:</b> WSP 68* <b>DATE:</b> 09/30/20*
	<b>SUBJECT:</b> Blending Policy for Use of Sources of Drinking Water  Page 1 of 2

## **PURPOSE**

To provide guidance on the use of source water blending as a method to enable public water systems to meet drinking water standards.

## **POLICY**

Public water systems should use available sources with the best water quality. Blending sources of varying quality is acceptable, provided the water that is served to the public meets all standards.

## **BACKGROUND**

Public water systems may have sources which when used solely cannot provide water to the public that meets all standards. The continued use of such sources can only be achieved through implementation of appropriate corrective actions. Blending source water that exceeds standards with source water that does not exceed standards, is an acceptable corrective action, as long as sufficient blending occurs to provide water to the public that meets all standards.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

1. The blending policy shall apply to all regulated inorganic, organic and radionuclide contaminants.
2. Blending shall not be used to correct bacteriological deficiencies.
3. Blending must be accomplished at a point prior to any consumptive use.
4. The variation in contaminant levels must be assessed to verify that blending is feasible (prior to implementation) and effective (after implementation); sufficient metering shall be installed so that blending can be controlled and tracked.
5. Local Health Departments (LHDs) may adopt more stringent requirements for blending sources of drinking water, based on local conditions and/or site-specific issues.

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6. Blending, even where feasible, will not be the preferred long-term corrective action under all circumstances. The cost and ease of implementing alternatives, including available treatment or replacement with a new source, shall also be assessed. System size and technical capabilities will be factors to consider when conducting such assessments.
7. The New York State Department of Health may require additional monitoring of the public water system to the extent deemed necessary, to provide additional data for decision-making purposes.
8. A water conservation program, acceptable to the LHD, may be established so that use of the contaminated source of drinking water is kept to a minimum.

### **ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Suppliers of water or their designated representatives shall:**

- Complete daily operational records that verify that sources are blended in a way that all water served to the public meets the established standards. At a minimum, meter readings shall be recorded at least once a day per source and included with the monthly operations report.
- Ensure that sufficient samples are collected and analyzed at the frequency established by the LHD. All samples must be analyzed by an approved laboratory.

#### **Local Health Departments shall:**

- Establish the monitoring locations and the frequency of sampling necessary to ensure that consumers receive drinking water that meets all established standards.

#### **Bureau of Water Supply Protection shall:**

- Review and approve blending proposals prior to implementation.

### **REFERENCES**

New York State Sanitary Code, Part 5, Drinking Water Supplies

Environmental Health Manual Item PWS 152, Procedure for Handling Community Water System Emergencies.