



Department of Environmental Services



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Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

March 29, 2022

His Excellency, Governor Christopher T. Sununu
and the Honorable Executive Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTION

Authorize the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to request an exemption to New Hampshire Plant and Property Management Rules, ADM 611:08(g) to enable the NHDES to increase its fleet by one vehicle. This new vehicle shall be assigned to the Water Division, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau.

EXPLANATION

The Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau (DWGB) is responsible for annually conducting sanitary surveys of approximately 700 public drinking water systems (PWS), 30 emergency inspections in response to bacteria contamination, and an average of 45 PWS reconstruction/PWS upgrade project inspections. The DWGB has had two designated vehicles since 2017, and its project load has increased by an annual average of 13 PWS projects (36 inspections) since then. New federal funding for drinking water infrastructure projects is anticipated to increase by more than \$100 million, adding a range of 50 to 60 projects.

Drinking Water upgrade projects require a minimum of three site visits, one for a contractor bid walk, one mid-project construction, and one near the end of the project for confirmation of construction according to design. Due to the increased federal funding, DWGB anticipates conducting another 150 to 180 site visits annually over the average 36 annual visits conducted before 2022. Each small PWS surveyor typically conducts 185 surveys annually. The additional projects equate to a full-time surveyor in terms of site visits. In addition, two more survey staff are now conducting Large PWS surveys out of two offices to balance design and survey work between the staff for upcoming projects.

NHDES operates and maintains a fleet of 26 passenger vehicles and 95 trucks and SUVs across the state. Of the total vehicles, 23 are considered to be pool vehicles, located in the Concord office. Of these, 10 are passenger vehicles and 13 are pool SUVs, which are used by various programs on a reservation basis and are only sporadically available during field season.

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29 Hazen Drive • PO Box 95 • Concord, NH 03302-0095
(603) 271-3503 • Fax: 271-7894 TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964

Vehicles that used to be shared among 10 surveyors, engineering staff, and a laboratory accreditor in one office now must be shared among 13 staff located in DES offices in Concord and Portsmouth. The pool cars are located in the Concord office.

The additional vehicle is needed for staff from the Bureau's Engineering and Sanitary Survey Section to have a vehicle available to perform the surveys, emergency inspections, and PWS upgrade project inspections required under New Hampshire's Drinking Water regulation Env-Dw 1109.14(b), and to respond to other emergencies such as legionella outbreaks and surface water contamination events.

The last waiver to expand the NHDES fleet was granted on May 6, 2020 (G&C Item #107) for one vehicle which was added to the Waste Management Division, MtBE Bureau. NHDES requests to expand its fleet by one vehicle to provide one additional full-time vehicle to the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau Engineering and Sanitary Survey Section staff located at the Concord Office. This increase in fleet size is supported by the Department of Administrative Services, Division of Procurement and Support Services Fleet Management. (see attached letter). Given the amount of official travel required, the requested vehicle would easily exceed the minimum 8,142-mile annual mileage requirement.

Approval of this request will provide the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau with the vehicle necessary to complete its mission of ensuring that Public Water Systems provide are constructed, operated and maintained to reduce the risk to health and life.

We respectfully request your approval.


Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPORT
SERVICES

25 Capitol Street – Room 102
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Charles M. Arlinghaus, Commissioner.
(603) 271-3201

Gary S. Lunetta, Director
(603) 271-2201

Attn:

Shelley H. Frost, P.E., P.G
Sanitary Survey Manger, Design Review Engineer
Water Division, Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

SUBJECT: Response to Fleet Increase Request 3.18.22

Ms. Frost,

Please accept this as acknowledgement and receipt of your request to increase the NHDES Fleet size by one (1) motor vehicle prior to submission to the Governor and Council for formal consideration.

It is the position of the DAS Division of Procurement and Support Services Fleet Management that the request is reasonably justified and compelling enough to merit consideration by the Governor and Council in a near future meeting.

Thank you for your proactive request to involve us in your fleet review in support of statewide efforts to maintain fleet efficiency.

Regards,

Colin Capelle
State Fleet Manager