

Drinking Water Program Reminder

MassDEP Approval Required to Acquire or Release Land

The best way to protect your public water supply is to acquire or control the land in your water supply protection areas.

State laws¹ require that you obtain approval from MassDEP before you acquire or release land for water supply purposes.




Acquire means all methods of land acquisition, including, but not limited to, purchases, donations, conservation restrictions, rights-of-way and other easements and eminent domain takings.

Release means, but is not limited to, abandonment, transfer, sale, lease or change in use of lands acquired for water supply purposes.

For more information about MassDEP's process to review acquisitions and releases of public water supply land, contact the Drinking Water Program at 617-292-5770 or program.director-dwp@state.ma.us.

Please share this message with your legal counsel.

 The Massachusetts Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program awards funds to public water suppliers to purchase land and conservation restrictions. Visit <http://www.mass.gov/eea/grants-and-tech-assistance/grants-and-loans/dcs/grant-programs/drinking-water-supply-protection-grant-program.html> for more information.

¹ MGL Chapter 40, sections 4, 15B, 38, 39B, and 41. Additional state approvals may be required.