

Testing Recommendations For Residential Wells Neighboring Gas Well Development Sites

Water testing is necessary to ascertain the quality of new drinking water wells, and is further important to periodically evaluate existing well water quality. With the increase in gas well development sites in Madison County, concerned residents in proximity to such activities may also wish to conduct testing to determine if contaminates are present in their drinking water well.

The water quality parameters listed below may be useful if measured prior to and after the commencement of such gas drilling activity to assess possible impacts. It typically is recommended to conduct sampling for basic water quality parameters and for contaminates commonly found in groundwater prior to the start of drilling to establish baseline indicators, and such analyses repeated along with testing for more specific contaminates are more likely to occur from such gas drilling activities after the drilling has been completed.

Basic Parameters	Common Contaminates Found in Groundwater	Potential Gas Well Pollutants
pH Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) Barium Chloride Sodium Sulfate	Turbidity Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Hardness Iron Hydrogen Sulfide Arsenic	Methane/Ethane Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Detergents (Surfactants) Strontium Calcium Total Oil/Grease Lead
Total Approx. Cost \$70	Total Approx. Cost \$100	Total Approx. Cost \$250

This Health Department recommends testing for total coliform, which can indicate bacteriological contamination, in addition to testing for nitrate (total approx. cost \$40), be conducted annually for anyone served by an individual water well. New residential water wells should be tested for those recommended water quality parameters listed on Individual Water Supply Wells – Fact Sheet #3 prepared by the NYS Health Department (NYSDOH) and which is available from the following website;

http://www.health.state.ny.us/environmental/water/drinking/part5/append5b/fs3_water_quality.htm

All potable water samples should only be analyzed by a laboratory properly certified by the NYSDOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP). A current listing of ELAP certified laboratories is available at <http://www.wadsworth.org/labcert/elap/elap.html> or by contacting the local Health Department. Note that each laboratory may approach baseline testing differently depending on area served and familiarity, and costs may vary accordingly.

Madison County
Department of Health
Environmental Division

Phone: 315-366-22526
healthymadisoncounty.org
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