

PRIVATE WELL PERMITTING PROGRAM

In 1992, the City of Wisconsin Rapids adopted a program to protect groundwater by requiring proper abandonment OR ten (10) year inspection and five (5) year permitting of private wells which are located on any premises served by the public water system. In 2020, this program was transferred to Wisconsin Rapids Water Works & Lighting Commission (WW&LC). Unused or improperly abandoned wells are a significant threat to groundwater quality and if they are not properly sealed, these wells can provide a direct conduit to channel contaminated water into the groundwater. The purpose of the well program is to allow individuals to keep their well provided the well is structurally compliant, produces bacteriologically safe water, and has no cross connections with the city water system. In order for the well on your property to be properly permitted, please follow these steps:

1. Well Inspection

If the well is new, **has not been inspected by a certified well driller or pump installer within the last 10 years**, or any modifications to the well have occurred since the well was last permitted, it is required that the well be inspected. Please contact Jerry Halbersma, WW&LC Water Inspector/ Licensed Pump Installer at **715-422-9041** or email jerry.halbersma@wrwwlc.com

2. Water Test

Your well water must be tested for bacteria. WW&LC will supply you a water test kit when the well is inspected. You will need to return your water sample to our office to complete the test. Please make sure to follow the instructions for obtaining your water sample.

3. Application Form and Fee

Fill out the application form that arrives with your letter requiring permit action and return it to Jerry on the day of the inspection. The cost for the inspection, water test, and permit is \$200.00.

4. Permit

You will be mailed a ten (10) year well inspection letter after the following is completed:

- ✓ Your well passes inspection.
- ✓ We have your completed application form.
- ✓ A safe water sample is completed.
- ✓ Payment is received.

According to the WDNR, installing basement wells has been prohibited since 1953. If you already have a basement well it may remain if properly permitted, however you may not do any modifications such as replacing the screens or pumps. If at any time the well stops working, it must be officially abandoned. Please note that as of June 1, 2008 water supply wells can only be filled and sealed by licensed well drillers and pump installers. If you no longer wish to keep your well, you must contact a local well driller or pump installer to have the well properly filled and sealed. The original form must be submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and a copy provided to WW&LC. If your well has been abandoned and properly filled and sealed, you must contact WW&LC Inspector Jerry Halbersma at **715-422-9041** or email jerry.halbersma@wrwwlc.com

If you have any questions regarding your well, the permit, inspection, or the water sample, please contact Jerry at 715-422-9041 or Adam at 715-423-6330.