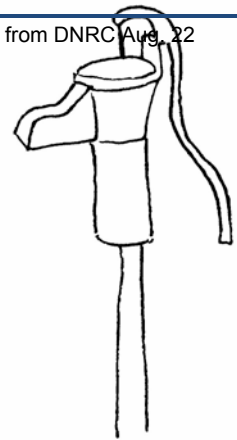


BASELINE GROUNDWATER SAMPLING PROGRAM



Rural water users have expressed concerns about the effects on water supply from oil field activities such as:

- Hydraulic fracturing and related activities
- Waste management accidents at well-head pits and injection wells
- Spills that occur during transportation of chemicals and product
- Large withdrawals of groundwater for consumptive use.

The purpose of the baseline sampling program is to establish baseline groundwater quality and availability in advance of oil and gas activity and in areas currently at risk from oil field activities. The program will characterize well water and aquifers currently used for domestic or stock water.

Who can have their well sampled?

Through a conservation district (CD), domestic and stockwater wells of rural water users can be evaluated for baseline conditions. The well must be registered on the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology Groundwater Information Center (GWIC) database and meet selection criteria below:

- Proximity to a potential source of contamination such as an active or abandoned oil/gas well, injection well, waste management area, or chemical management area.
- Landowner interest and cooperation

What is expected from a participating CD?

DNRC & Montana Salinity Control Association will provide technical assistance to the CD, well sampling services, a list of wells that are eligible in the CD, well evaluation reports, data management and a \$2,000 administrative grant.

Participating CDs are responsible for:

- Selection of cooperating well-owners,
- Collection of a small match fee for each well.
- Distributing results after receiving reports from DNRC

The CD will collect a fee from each well-owner to help insure owner cooperation before the well is scheduled for sampling. The fee amount (3% to 50% of cost) will be determined by the CD.

What information will be collected from each well?

Field parameters, such as temperature, pH and flow rate, will be evaluated at the well-head. Water samples will also be collected and analyzed for indicators of contamination specific to energy development activities. Well-head and analytical data will be entered into the GWIC database and provided to the CD for distribution.

IF INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN THIS BASELINE GROUNDWATER SAMPLING PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT:

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