

Nonpublic Household Water Well Recommendation #15: Update Key Nonpublic Water Well Resources

Proposed Action

Local and state environmental health professionals, water well contractors, and geologists will review and update key resources for environmental health professionals, water well contractors, and nonpublic household water well users.

These tools will be consolidated into one document for professionals and a different document for nonpublic water wells owners/users. Thereafter, these resources will be re-examined every 15 years for relevance and needed updates. These resources will be approved by experts and distributed widely across the state.

Potential Funding

Funding to support this recommendation would most likely come from a combination of sources, including: state funding and fees, county mill levy/property taxes, and a percentage of fertilizer and pesticide sales.

Background Information

Issues impacting the physical structure of a well and water quality of nonpublic well water can be complicated and require technical information and skills that nonpublic water well owners and users do not have. In addition, Kansas environmental health professionals rely on four key resources for information about the integrity of the physical structure and the water quality of nonpublic household water wells.

The resources include:

1. Kansas State University Research & Extension, Environmental Health Handbook, Chapter I: Private Water Wells (Kansas Department of Health & Environment, 2nd ed. 2002), *available at:* http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/lepp/EHH_Ch_I_Private_Wells_052705.pdf
2. Kansas State University Research & Extension, Private Wells-Safe Location and Construction (2004), *available at:* http://www.kdheks.gov/waterwell/download/MF970-Private_Wells-Safe_Location_and_Construction.pdf
3. Kansas State University Research & Extension, Recommended Water Tests for Private Wells (1999), *available at:* http://www.kdheks.gov/waterwell/download/MF871-Recommended_Water_Tests_for_Private_Wells.pdf
4. KDHE Minimum Standards for Design and Construction of Onsite Wastewater Systems. <http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/resources/mf2214.pdf>

Why This Action Is Needed

These resources have not been updated for 15 to 20 years and do not include the latest technology and information about well construction and maintenance, groundwater quantity and quality, and other information. Moreover, key informants interviewed repeatedly identified having reliable and up-to-date technical information as critical in enabling local environmental health professionals to perform well.

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