



Nonpublic Household Water Well Recommendation #2:

Provide Notice When Specific Groundwater Contamination is Found and When There is an Event Potentially Impacting Groundwater Quality

Proposed Action

1. KDHE must notify the local environmental health professional or designated local official about the contamination within 7 days of it being identified.
2. The state or local environmental health professional or other designated official will give notice in writing to all residents and businesses (so as to not exclude potential nonpublic well owners, and potentially affected individuals) within one square mile of the contamination sampling site and other potentially impacted individuals based on the groundwater/ aquifer hydraulic gradient and direction of contaminant travel, when any of the following events occur:
 - water quality results from either nonpublic or public water wells indicate VOC and/or pesticide contamination;
 - waterborne illness outbreak;
 - potential contamination risk (e.g., hazardous materials near water source, release of hazardous materials impacting groundwater); or
 - the presence of an emergency situation that poses a threat to health, as determined by a state or local environmental health professional.
3. The notice will contain:
 - the date the sample was tested, or the date the contamination occurred or was identified, whichever date is earliest,
 - the location of the contamination site (with as much information as is available),
 - the nonpublic or public well tested,
 - the water sample test results,
 - potential health consequences,
 - contact information for technical assistance, and
 - steps for correction action, mitigation, and/or remediation.

Potential Funding

Funding to support this recommendation would most likely come from a combination of sources, including: state funding, permit fees, increased fees from existing Dry Cleaner Trust Fund, and nonpublic water well users.

Background Information

Currently, when groundwater contamination is identified, there is no requirement for state officials to notify local environmental or public health professionals, or for state or local officials to notify nonpublic water well owners, users, or other potentially affected individuals or groups.

Why This Action Is Needed

In the last few years, well owners/users affected by groundwater contamination from the former Four Seasons and Best Dry Cleaner facilities in west Wichita, and residents affected by the groundwater contamination from the former American Cleaners facility in Haysville unknowingly continued to use contaminated water for household purposes for years after contamination had been initially identified. Requiring state officials to notify local officials, and state or local officials to notify individuals within the affected area will give residents opportunities to treat their well water or find alternate water sources.



For more information contact:

Dr. Elizabeth Ablah
or Jack Brown

eablah@kumc.edu
jbrown4@kumc.edu
316-293-2627