



Nonpublic Household Water Well Recommendation #7:

Limit the Use of Some Nonpublic Household Water Wells

Proposed Action

1. Nonpublic household water well users will be prohibited from using a nonpublic water well for household purposes if the [local environmental health professional or other designated local official] determines that:
 - the well is in a contaminated area, and
 - the cessation or use of the water well for personal use is in the best interest of public health, safety and welfare, and
 - no water treatment system is in place to bring the water to acceptable water quality standards
2. No new permits or authorization to construct or reconstruct a nonpublic household water well will be issued if KDHE or the local environmental health professional determines that the well is in an area with contaminated groundwater that presents a risk to human health.

Potential Funding

No new funding is needed to implement this recommendation.

Background Information

The use of nonpublic water wells for household purposes may need to be restricted in areas that have been identified as having groundwater contamination that cannot be remediated and poses a risk to public health. In these situations, the local municipality should work with individual nonpublic water well owners and users to find alternative water sources.

Why This Action Is Needed

Water well contamination can occur from natural geologic sources and other local and regional sources of contamination (e.g., arsenic, agricultural pesticides, landfills, hazardous waste). In both urban and rural areas of Kansas, groundwater contamination has been discovered that poses a public health threat to nonpublic well users. In these situations, alternative water supply through point of use filtration and bottled water distribution can be implemented as short-term interventions; however, the most effective solution in these situations is to prohibit the use of existing wells, restrict the use of new wells, and provide public water supply to the impacted area.



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