



Nonpublic Household Water Well Recommendation #8:

Create Funding Mechanisms to Offset Costs of Inspection, Water Quality Testing, Corrective Action, and/or Plugging of Nonpublic Water Wells for those Unable to Pay

Proposed Action

1. Establish a fund to support nonpublic household water well owners/users to cover the costs of water quality testing, well inspection, and corrective action, and remediation. Distribution of available funds may be determined based on a sliding-scale fee or needs- based assessment. Funds made available to nonpublic household water well owners may include grants and interest-free loans for physical well repairs and water treatment.
2. Develop a Kansas-specific fund to provide grants, cost-sharing loans, or other incentives to support the plugging of abandoned wells. This fund may include a prioritization process and sliding scale structure for plugging of abandoned or inactive wells that pose the greatest threat to groundwater quality (offering amnesty from legal enforcement to achieve participation rates).

Potential Funding

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

Background Information

Nonpublic water well owners and users may not have their water quality tested, or wells inspected, remediated, or plugged due to the associated costs.

Why This Action Is Needed

Nonpublic water well users deserve to be able to access clean, safe water. If costs are the only barrier to allow nonpublic water well users to consume safe water, funds can be made available to cover some of the associated costs.

Additionally, wells that have not been properly plugged are a common source for groundwater contamination. The cost of plugging abandoned water wells is likely contributing to the failure of many property owners to follow the state law.



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