



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
REGULATORY SERVICES BRANCH
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

Circular Letter # 2006-43

Date: September 19, 2006

To: Local/District Directors of Health
Chief Sanitarians

From: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S.,
Chief, Environmental Health Section

Re: Separation Distances for Potable Water Wells

It has come to the Department of Public Health's attention that there may be confusion concerning separation distances for potable water supply wells and public sewer service laterals containing pump vaults. Section 19-13-B51(d)(a)(2) of the Public Health Code reads as follows:

"No such well shall be located within seventy-five feet of a system for disposal of sewage or other source of pollution. Greater separation distance shall be required for certain industrial waste on certain rock formations. If a sewer lateral is constructed of extra heavy cast iron pipe with leaded joints or equal approve type of tight joints, a minimum separating distance of twenty-five feet shall be maintained"

The sewer lateral 25-foot separation distance applies only to tight piping that has been inspected and approved by the Local Director of Health. Approved sewer lateral piping and connections are listed in Table 2A of the Technical Standards. Some public sewer systems utilize pumps and pump vaults that are installed on the sewer laterals. Such pumps (i.e. grinder, ejection) and pump vaults are sources of pollution and must maintain the 75-foot separation distance. The Local Director of Health and his/her designee should approve all sewer extension projects and installation of sewer laterals. Local Health Directors need to be in contact with the local WPCA to ensure the health department has received all pertinent information to review each project.



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This program recognizes that there may be instances, such as sewerage lake-area developments, where it is not possible to provide the specified separation due to the lot layouts and existing well locations. In these cases our office has supported Local Health Departments/Districts granting exceptions if:

1. Separation distances are maximized, and;
2. Special precautions are taken such as the usage of higher-grade pipe, leakage testing, etc., and;
3. It is determined the exceptions are unlikely to pollute any well, and;
4. The exceptions will result in an improvement to the existing well and/or sewage system, and;
5. The pumping rate of the affected well is reduced to less than 10 gpm.

We recommend any such exceptions be discussed with the appropriate personnel at the Department. Please also be aware that no exceptions should be granted for new construction.

Please feel free to contact the Department with further questions.

C. Robert Scully, Supervising Sanitary Engineer, Environmental Engineering Program
Ray Jarema, Section Supervisor, Private Well Program
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