

June 28, 2021

Vice Chairman Jack Betkoski
Bureau Chief Graham Stevens
Branch Chief Lori Mathieu
Under Secretary Martin Heft
The Water Planning Council
10 Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Re: Private Well Water Quality Testing

Dear Members of the Water Planning Council:

The lack of data concerning domestic wells in Connecticut – specifically locational and water quality – was an area of need identified by the State Water Plan. Earlier, the Implementation Workgroup (IWG) provided the Water Planning Council (WPC) with a white paper entitled *Recommendations for Management of Domestic Water Supply Well Records in the State of Connecticut* (September 2020). A follow-up topical sub-workgroup subsequently reviewed available scientific data to determine whether changes should be made to water quality testing requirements for new and existing private and semipublic wells in the State. A white paper covering their findings and recommendations is attached (*Recommendations for water quality testing of private and semipublic drinking water wells, June 2021*).

Because of the prevalence of naturally occurring arsenic and uranium in the groundwaters of the state, and the documented health effects thereof, the report recommends the addition of arsenic and uranium to the current list of standard potability requirements for new private drinking water wells and semipublic wells. Further, because the sale of developed real property can occur absent an awareness of on-site well water quality, it is also recommended that standard potability testing, including for arsenic and uranium, be required for all real estate transactions where a private or semipublic well is in use. The statutory revisions to CGS Section 19a-37 necessary to effect these changes are included in Attachment A of the paper.

While there was much discussion regarding the inclusion of radon as a required analyte, the topical sub-workgroup and IWG (with Department of Public Health input) ultimately decided not to require such testing for several reasons, including the lack of a federal radon regulation for community water systems, and challenges surrounding sample collection. However, because radon in well water can contribute to a premise's overall radon inhalation risk, the WPC may choose to encourage radon testing when naturally occurring indoor air radon levels are at or above limits of concern, or when such a premise is located in an area with known elevated radon concentrations.

Finally, the IWG suggests the WPC consider undertaking a review of other states' requirements surrounding arsenic and uranium in private drinking water wells, especially as they may pertain to new well testing; testing during real estate transactions; and treatment requirements.

Sincerely,

Virginia de Lima and David Radka, co-chairs Implementation Work Group

Enc: Recommendations for water quality testing of private and semipublic drinking water wells, June 2021