

JEFFERSON COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Engineering Department

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Memorandum

TO: Home Owners, Home Builders, & Contractors

FROM: Roger Goodwin
Chief County Engineer/Building Code Official

DATE: July 19, 2010

SUBJECT: Building Code - **Technical Memo No. 8**
Potable Water Testing & Verification

The purpose of this technical memorandum is to clarify the requirements for potable water testing and verification of potable water supply for residential dwellings served by a well.

International Residential Code (IRC) 2009, Section P2901.1, Potable Water Required; requires that “dwelling units shall be provided with a supply of potable water in the amounts and pressures specified in this chapter.” Therefore, a supply of potable water shall exist at the dwelling prior to being occupied by the owner/occupant. **This requires that for dwellings served by a well, a certificate of acceptable/approved bacteriological testing for potable water shall be received by the Office of Permits & Inspections prior to issuing the Use & Occupancy Certificate.**

The home owner/builder may have the water tested by either of the following:

1. The Jefferson County Health Department
1948 Wiltshire Road, Suite 1
Kearneysville, WV 25430
Phone: 304-728-8415
2. A West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources approved independent testing laboratory. A list of approved labs is available at:

<http://www.wvdhhr.org/labservices/compliance/environmental/index.cfm>

Contact the Jefferson County Health Department regarding the specific bacteriological tests (e.g., Total Coli form & E coli) that are required. The testing laboratory is responsible for interpretation of the test results and determining whether or not the test results are satisfactory and a safe potable water supply is available. The certificate of acceptable/approved bacteriological test results shall clearly state that the test results are acceptable for potable water. The Office of Permits and Inspections makes no interpretation of the test results data.

The certificate of acceptable/approved bacteriological test results shall be submitted to the Engineering Department - Office of Permits & Inspections. The following information shall be clearly indicated on the certificate/test results:

1. Building permit number
2. Home owner's/builder's name; and
3. Phone number

The International Residential Code is available for review in the Office of Permits & Inspections or may be purchased from the International Code Council at 1-888-ICC-SAFE, or www.iccsafe.org. Please check with the Office of Permits & Inspections as to which version of the building code was adopted and currently being used.