

WISCONSIN WATER WELL ASSOCIATION (WWWA)

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SPEAKER'S TASK FORCE ON WATER QUALITY

JULY 24, 2019



WISCONSIN WATER WELL ASSOCIATION (WWWA)

RICK PETERSON, PRESIDENT - WWWA

MICHAEL HANTEN, PRESIDENT - CLEAN WATER TESTING

JEFF BEIRIGER, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS ADVISOR - WWWA



WWWA MISSION

PROTECT AND PROVIDE WISCONSIN'S GROUNDWATER FOR PRIVATE WELLS

PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY IN WISCONSIN

WWWA MEMBERSHIP

TOTAL MEMBERS (282)

WELL DRILLING (85 DRILLERS LICENSES, 30 RIG OPERATOR LICENSES)

PUMP INSTALLING (216 PUMP INSTALLER LICENSES)

SUPPLIERS AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES (59)

WWWA MEMBERSHIP

MEMBERS ARE LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE STATE

MOST ARE SMALL, FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESSES

CONTRIBUTOR TO LOCAL ECONOMIES

IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WWWA SERVICES

VOICE FOR >1,300 LICENSE HOLDERS, 44 PRIVATE BACTERIA LABS IN WISCONSIN

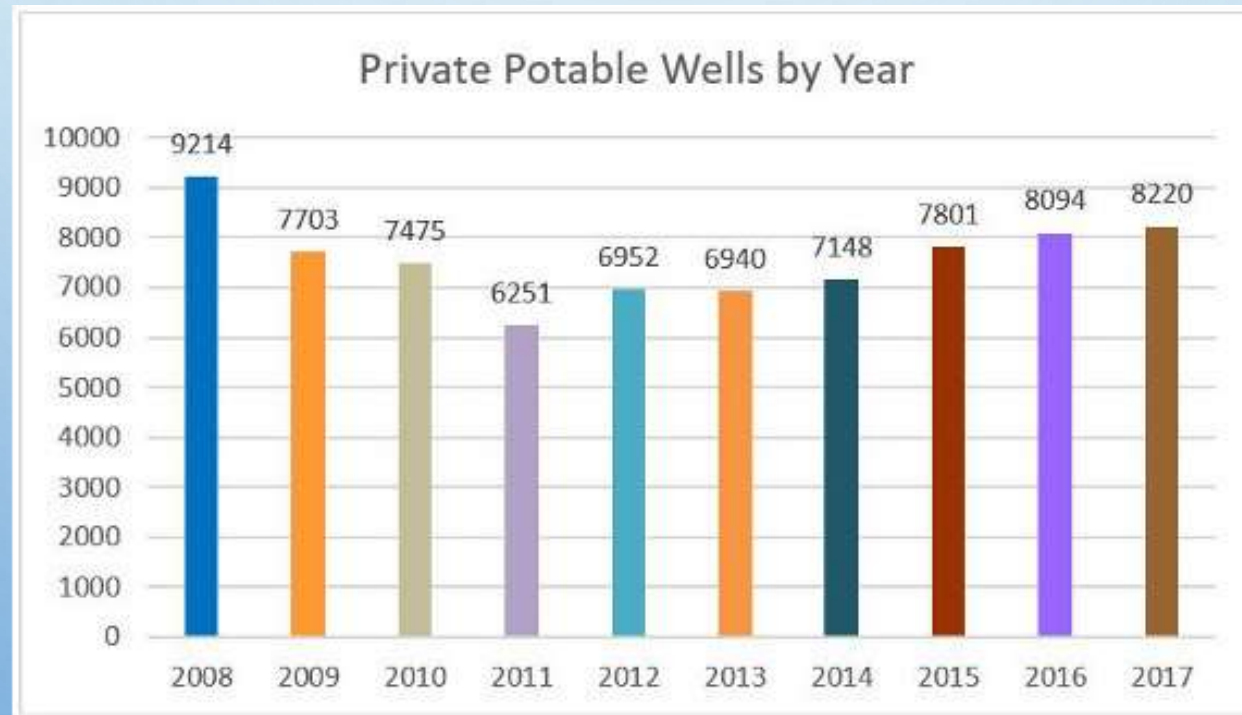
PROVIDES CONTINUING EDUCATION TO MORE THAN 95 PERCENT OF LICENSE HOLDERS

CONSUMER EDUCATION – FLOODS, WELL TESTING, CONSTRUCTION

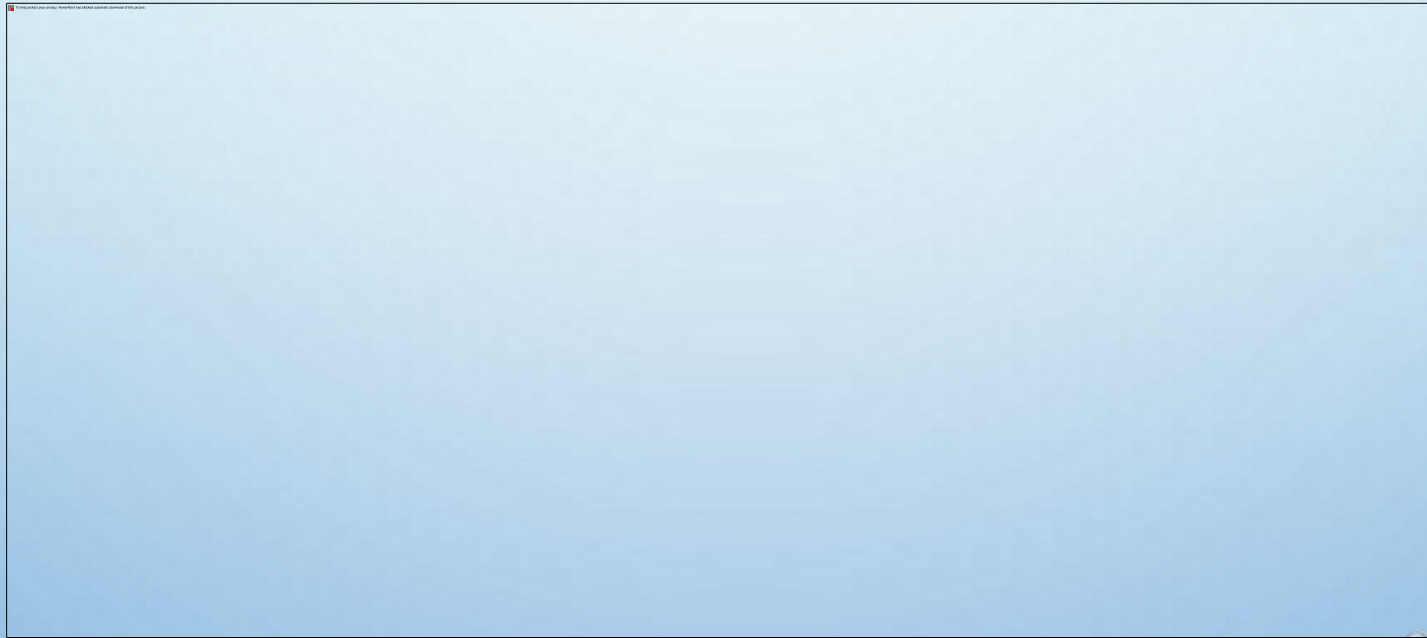
INDUSTRY STATISTICS

THERE ARE MORE THAN 800,000 PRIVATE WELLS IN WISCONSIN.

PRIVATE WELLS SERVE MORE THAN ONE-FOURTH OF THE STATE'S POPULATION.



INDUSTRY STATISTICS



INDUSTRY STATISTICS

License/Registration Type	Number of License /Registration Holders
Pump Installer	1242
Well Driller	264
Heat Exchange Driller	36
Well Drilling Rig Operator	145
Heat Exchange Drilling Rig Operator	36

REGULATORY OVERSIGHT OF OUR INDUSTRY

WISCONSIN STATUTES AND DNR RULES

LICENSES

CODES

PERMITS

INSPECTIONS

ENFORCEMENT

WATER TESTING

A CHANGE WAS MADE IN 2014, WITH OVERWHELMING INDUSTRY SUPPORT, TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TESTING OF WELLS. CURRENT TESTING REQUIREMENTS ARE:

NEW WELLS:	BACTERIA & NITRATE
NEW PUMP IN A NEW WELL:	BACTERIA
NEW PUMP IN AN EXISTING WELL:	BACTERIA, NITRATE & ARSENIC
IF A WELL INSPECTION IS REQUESTED:	BACTERIA, NITRATE & ARSENIC

INDUSTRY-PROVIDED DATA

SINCE 2014, MORE THAN 80,000 DATA POINTS HAVE BEEN COLLECTED RELATIVE TO WATER TESTING.

DRILL CUTTINGS ARE PROVIDED TO THE WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL SURVEY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MAP OF OUR GEOLOGY.

DATA COLLECTED ASSISTS THE DNR WITH ELECTRONIC MAPPING OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED WELLS.

PRIVATE & PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERSHIP

POSITIVE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WISCONSIN DNR

INDUSTRY SERVES ON CODE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

INDUSTRY SERVES ON GROUNDWATER & DRINKING WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES ON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

MUCH OF THE TESTIMONY HEARD BY THE TASK FORCE HAS BEEN NEGATIVE

WE BELIEVE THAT MUCH IS WORKING WELL TODAY

COMMUNICATION/PARTNERSHIP CAN SOLVE PROBLEMS THAT MONEY CANNOT

NOTES ON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOGNIZE THAT WISCONSIN HAS GEOLOGY DIFFERENT FROM OTHER STATES

RECOGNIZE THAT WISCONSIN HAS DIFFERENT GEOLOGY WITHIN THE STATE

ONE SIZE DOES *NOT* FIT ALL

NOTES ON POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

GROUNDWATER IS A STATE ISSUE

GROUNDWATER IS A “FLUID” ISSUE

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

LOOK TO WISCONSIN DNR FOR REGULATION

LOCAL REGULATION/ENFORCEMENT IS INCONSISTENT, UNWIELDY

ENCOURAGE AGENCY/INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

INVEST IN STAFFING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION OUTREACH

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

USE SCIENCE TO BEGIN THE POLICY PROCESS

PROVIDE FUNDING FOR STUDIES

(GROUTING, DRILLING TECHNIQUES, MIGRATION OF NUTRIENTS OVER TIME)

LOOK TO INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE RESEARCH GUIDANCE

LOOK TO INDUSTRY TO ADDRESS “REAL WORLD” OF POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

WE AGREE THAT NITRATES ARE A REAL PROBLEM

LONG-TERM POLICIES ARE NECESSARY TO REDUCE NITRATE LEVELS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

THE WELL DRILLING INDUSTRY PROVIDES WATER

DRILLERS CAN'T CONTROL WHAT'S IN THAT WATER, BUT CAN USE METHODS TO REDUCE CONTAMINANTS

ENCOURAGE SOLUTIONS THROUGH AGENCY AND INDUSTRY DISCUSSIONS

MANY ISSUE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE DISCUSSED AND SOLUTIONS DEVELOPED

EXAMPLE: ARSENIC, PFOA/PFOS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF THE WELL COMPENSATION FUND

INCREASE FUNDING FOR WELL COMPENSATION GRANTS

PROVIDE AN INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR WELL COMPENSATION GRANTS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

THERE IS A ROLE FOR EDUCATION!

“PRIVATE” WATER SYSTEMS COME WITH RESPONSIBILITIES

WELL WATER IS NOT “FREE” WATER

LOOK TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY FIRST TO TEST WELLS AND ANALYZE SAMPLES

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

PRIVATE WELLS ARE TESTED AT COMPLETION

GROUNDWATER CONDITIONS (AND THE WELL) CAN CHANGE OVER TIME

PROPERTY OWNERS VOLUNTARILY TEST WELLS

WELLS SHOULD BE REQUIRED TO BE INSPECTED AND TESTED AT PROPERTY SALE

>75 PERCENT OF THE INDUSTRY SURVEYED SUPPORT MANDATORY INSPECTION/TESTING AT TIME OF TRANSFER

MINIMUM INSPECTION GUIDELINES EXIST TODAY, BUT ARE NOT REQUIRED

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

MANY SOLUTIONS REQUIRE A SCALPEL, NOT A BROADSWORD

EXAMPLE: SPECIAL CASING AREAS (> 100 EXIST TODAY)

WORKING WITH INDUSTRY, SOLUTIONS CAN BE TAILORED

OVER-REACHING REGULATIONS CAN INCREASE COSTS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

WELL DRILLERS CAN PROVIDE THE BEST WATER POSSIBLE

IN SOME CASES, WATER MAY STILL REQUIRE TREATMENT

TREATMENT CAN ADDRESS BOTH HEALTH ISSUES AND “AESTHETIC” QUALITIES

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

UTILIZE THE EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE – THE WELL & PUMP INDUSTRY

CREATING NEW STRUCTURES FOR SAMPLING/TESTING ARE AN INEFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES

LICENSED PROFESSIONALS ARE DISTRIBUTED IN ALL AREAS OF THE STATE

CLOSING COMMENTS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION OF THIS TESTIMONY AND ALL OF THE TESTIMONY YOU HAVE RECEIVED.

OUR INDUSTRY IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN REGULATIONS AND THOSE AFFECTED BY THAT REGULATION. THE INDUSTRY HAS A STRONG SENSE OF OWNERSHIP IN OUR CODES AND COMMITMENT TO MEETING/EXCEEDING THOSE CODES.

CLOSING COMMENTS

WE INVITE YOU TO LOOK TO THE WFWA AS A RESOURCE AS YOU CONCLUDE YOUR HEARINGS AND BEGIN DELIBERATING ON RESPONSIBLE GROUNDWATER POLICY FOR OUR STATE.

CONTACT US

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