

## District Health Department No. 2

### Guidance information regarding building construction/additions relating to existing wells.

This guidance document is being provided for well owners and/or building contractors in regards to building construction/additions relating to well locations. Well owners are required to maintain minimum isolation distances from their existing wells in accordance with Part 127, Act 368, as amended, the well construction code.

Any new construction/addition or projection thereof (e.g. soffit overhang) must be at least 3 feet from the existing well. Wells must remain accessible for proper maintenance, and in the case of a new well construction/replacement must remain accessible for proper plugging. Any abandoned or improperly plugged well is a liability to a well owner who becomes legally responsible and may incur monetary and civil penalties for any environmental contamination or hydrogeologic condition (e.g. well overflow, sink hole) which may be the result of the abandoned well.

Buried wells must be located prior to any site construction to ensure that all minimum isolation distances will be met.

### Part 127, Act 368, as amended, the well construction code. States the following (in part)

#### R 325.1621 Location and construction of wells generally.

Rule 121. (1) All of the following provisions apply to well location:

(a) A well shall be located with due consideration of all of the following:

(i) Lot size.

(ii) Hydrogeology.

(iii) Site topography.

(iv) Soil characteristics.

(v) Other factors that are necessary to implement the provisions of these rules.

(b) A well shall be located so that the well and its surrounding area can be kept in a sanitary condition.

(c) A well shall be located so that access to the well for maintenance is provided.

(d) A well shall be located so that damage and personal injury do not result from contact with utilities during the construction or service of the well.

#### R 325.1622 Wells; distances from contamination sources.

Rule 122.

(4) A well owner shall be responsible for maintaining the isolation distances that are specified in the provisions of R 325.1622 and R 325.1624 for property that is owned by the well owner.

#### R 325.1624 Wells; relation to buildings and access for maintenance.

Rule 124. (1) A well shall be located not less than 3 feet horizontally from a building, pump room, or any projection thereof, unless a deviation is issued pursuant to the provisions of R 325.1613.

(2) A well shall be accessible for cleaning, treatment, repair, testing, inspection, and other attention as may be necessary. A well owner shall maintain access to a well for a well drilling machine.