



LAKEVILLE BOARD OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY **RADIONUCLIDES HAVE BEEN FOUND IN SOME NEW WELLS** **WHICH CAN BE A PUBLIC HEALTH RISK**

October 2015

Presently new private wells are required to be tested for radionuclides and if necessary treatment systems are required to make the water acceptable, depending on type and quantity. Although existing wells are not presently required to be tested as such, the Lakeville Board of Health wants well owners to be aware of the risk. It is the property owner's responsibility to monitor and maintain their private well water to safe and acceptable standards. Different types of wells are susceptible to different types of contamination and there are many variables that can influence the number of parameters a well should be tested for. Most cities and towns have adopted some minimum requirements (which vary greatly town to town) based on contaminants known to be present in those areas, however property owners are encouraged to consult professionals to assess and perform any additional testing that might be prudent but not necessarily mandated under local authority. Therefore any property owner with existing deep bedrock well may want to have their well sampled and analyzed for gross alpha and radon. Please note: An indoor air quality test for radon will not necessarily mean that your dwelling will be free from radon if radon is present in well water, which is a separate test. There are federal, state, and local recommendations available for reference as shown on our website. If you have questions or need assistance you may contact the EPA, DEP, and/or the BOH.

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/private-wells.html>

New wells are required to be tested before use however many existing wells have not been tested in years. The Lakeville Board of Health recommends annual testing of all wells. Well water quality and yield can fluctuate seasonally. Some wells may require more frequent monitoring, especially if from shallow aquifers or if contaminants have been found historically without the source eliminated.

Water Treatment Systems require maintenance and retesting after which. Treatment systems can become a source of contamination when not properly maintained. Operation and maintenance contracts for water treatment systems are encouraged and sometimes mandated to ensure system is working optimally to protect the occupants.