

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 393-3130-308

TITLE: New Source Sampling Requirements for a New Groundwater Well Serving a Transient Noncommunity Water System

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 14, 2013
Revisions March 2026

AUTHORITY: Pennsylvania's Safe Drinking Water Act (35 P.S. §721.1 *et seq.*) and regulations at 25 Pa. Code Chapter 109.

POLICY: Department of Environmental Protection (DEP or Department) staff will follow the guidance and procedures presented in this document to direct and support implementation of new source sampling activities under the Safe Drinking Water Program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this document is to establish a rational and reasonable basis for staff decisions which will promote quality, timely and consistent service to the public and regulated community.

APPLICABILITY: This guidance will apply to minimum sampling requirements for a new groundwater well for transient noncommunity water systems.

DISCLAIMER: The policies and procedures outlined in this guidance are intended to supplement existing requirements. Nothing in the policies or procedures shall affect regulatory requirements.

The policies and procedures herein are not an adjudication or a regulation. There is no intent on the part of DEP to give the rules in these policies that weight or deference. This document establishes the framework within which DEP will exercise its administrative discretion in the future. DEP reserves the discretion to deviate from this policy statement if circumstances warrant.

PAGE LENGTH: 3 pages

DEFINITIONS: See 25 Pa. Code Chapter 109



Introduction

This guidance outlines the procedures and identifies the minimum new source sampling requirements for a transient noncommunity water system (TNCWS) that use groundwater well(s). TNCWSs with other source types, such as springs, must contact Safe Drinking Water Program staff in the appropriate [DEP regional office](#) prior to conducting sampling.

TNCWSs serve an average of 25 or more individuals per day for at least 60 days of the year, but not necessarily the same individuals or on a regular basis. The population is considered transient because individuals are present only for short periods of time. Examples of TNCWSs include restaurants, hotels, service stations, campgrounds, and resorts.

TNCWSs utilizing groundwater sources should contact Safe Drinking Water Program staff in the appropriate [DEP regional office](#) to obtain information on the specific new source sampling requirements and additional guidance on sampling procedures.

General Information

1. A site visit to the well location must be conducted jointly by DEP, the applicant, and their representatives prior to well drilling, pump testing, and collection of the new source samples. The applicant shall coordinate and schedule the visit with Safe Drinking Water Program staff in the appropriate [DEP regional office](#).
2. All proposed public water supply wells must be drilled by a [Pennsylvania-licensed well driller](#).
3. The proposed public water supply well must be properly developed prior to collection of new source water samples or any other water-quality samples included in the application package. Well development should be conducted in accordance with the procedures outlined in the latest version of [AWWA Standard A-100](#), which includes the removal of drilling fines, formation fluids, and other debris to ensure representative water-quality samples. Proper development ensures that samples accurately reflect the groundwater quality.
4. The proposed public water supply well must be properly disinfected prior to collection of new source water samples in accordance with the procedures outlined in the latest version of [AWWA Standard C654](#).
5. Prior to collecting the new source samples, a free chlorine sample must be analyzed and recorded using an appropriately calibrated field analytical instrument with a digital display. The measured concentration must be less than 0.02 mg/L before new source water samples may be collected. The free chlorine results shall be submitted to DEP with the new source sample results.

Sample Collection

Except as otherwise noted, the public water supplier or its consultant is responsible for collecting new source groundwater samples.

1. Samples shall be collected immediately following the constant-rate pumping test conducted on the proposed well, when the aquifer is stressed and groundwater quality is most representative.
2. Samples shall be collected from a designated sampling port located directly on the groundwater discharge piping. Sampling must be conducted in a manner that does not alter the native groundwater chemistry.



3. Appropriate sampling equipment and techniques shall be utilized and fully documented.
4. Samples shall be properly collected, preserved, stored, and transported in accordance with laboratory requirements.

Laboratory Analysis

1. All sample analyses must be performed by a [DEP-accredited laboratory](#) in accordance with Subchapter H of 25 Pa. Code Chapter 109.
2. Samples should be submitted to the laboratory in laboratory-issued containers with appropriate chain-of-custody documentation and within the required analytical holding times.

List of Minimum Sampling Requirements

The following tables identify the minimum sampling requirements for a TNCWS utilizing a new groundwater well. Unless otherwise directed by DEP, all samples shall be analyzed in accordance with the parameters listed below.

MICROORGANISM CONTAMINANTS:	
*TOTAL COLIFORMS CONCENTRATION	Three (3) separate samples obtained at 15-minute intervals should be collected. *For each total coliform positive sample, analyze the same or equivalent sample for E. coli concentration.
TURBIDITY	Reported in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU)
INORGANIC CHEMICALS (IOCs):	
NITRATE (as Nitrogen) NITRITE (as Nitrogen)	The results of the analysis for Nitrate (as Nitrogen) and Nitrite (as Nitrogen) will be added to determine the total level of Nitrate + Nitrite (as Nitrogen).
MICROSCOPIC PARTICULATE ANALYSIS:	
<p>The Department may require that a Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA) sample be collected. The project applicant shall coordinate with appropriate DEP regional staff regarding MPA sampling requirements.</p> <p>MPA sampling shall be conducted by the Department or the project applicant for new groundwater sources that meet the criteria outlined in the <i>Surface Water Identification Protocol - Noncommunity Water Systems (394-3500-002)</i> guidance document. This document is available through https://greenport.pa.gov/elibrary/.</p>	
OTHER CONTAMINANTS:	
<p>On a case-by-case basis, DEP may require sampling for any additional contaminants deemed necessary to evaluate the potability of the source, or for which DEP has reason to believe are present in the source water and may pose a health risk to users of the system.</p>	