



***Bureau of Water Programs – GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION DELINEATED AREAS PROGRAM***

**Trends and Conditions:**

The implementation of the Chapter 62-524, F.A.C., "New Well Permitting in Delineated Areas", is a cooperative effort between three agencies (DOH, DEP, and the five Water Management Districts, WMDs) under the direct supervision of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The program was established in 1994 in response to concerns involving known or suspected groundwater contamination, and is considered a unique program within the United States.

**Division Cost: \$5,000**

**Division Positions: .1**

**County Program Cost: \***

**County Positions: \***

\* These county programs are not tracked by headquarters.

- As required in Section 373.309, F.S., and Chapter 62-524, F.A.C., the DEP has the responsibility of identifying areas within Florida that have noted or potential groundwater contamination. Sites are delineated based on known contamination by pesticides, solvents or hazardous wastes. DEP must further delineate those areas vulnerable to contamination, and provide maps of such to the five Florida WMDs, the DOH, regional planning councils, and county building and zoning departments. There are currently 38 counties with at least one delineated area.
- Where available, all new dwellings and establishments constructed within delineated areas must connect to a public water supply. However, if such is not available, a permit must be obtained from the local WMD office for the construction of a water supply well to serve the residence or establishment. The construction standards required by the WMD must be set forth so as to minimize potential contamination.
- The well construction permit holder is formally notified by the WMD of the noted groundwater contamination within the applicable geographical area, and is advised to contact the local county health department (CHD) to arrange for the sampling and clearance of the proposed water well within 60 days of well completion. The CHDs are informed of the pending water well construction and sampling via copies of the above correspondence.
- Following notification of the applicant to proceed with well sampling, CHD staff visit the well construction site and collect appropriate water samples. The water samples are sent to a DOH laboratory for analysis.
- Following receipt of applicable water quality results, the CHD is responsible for either issuing a letter of clearance, or informing the well owner of noted contamination, and referring them to DEP's Water Supply Restoration Section to arrange for well remediation. There is a clearance fee of \$50 that the water well owner is required to pay the CHD, prior to the CHD officially issuing clearance of the well for potable use, and also prior to the Certificate of Occupancy (CO) being issued by the local building department.
- As a final step in this process, the CHD is responsible for sending all pertinent information concerning the construction, completion and clearance of the delineated area well to the DEP, WMD, and DOH headquarters. For data management purposes, it is important that DEP receives all applicable information for the water well in question, including copies of well construction permit and completion report supplied



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to the CHD by the WMD, water quality analysis results, field data sheet, and well clearance letter. The WMD is sent copies of the water quality results and well clearance letter, and DOH headquarters is sent a copy of the well clearance letter.

- During the period of October 2002 – August 20063, over 12604330 wells were constructed in delineated areas using this process.

This strategic plan will improve coordination between DEP, the WMDs, and DOH, including the applicable CHDs. The need for an electronic data transfer ability between the three agencies, including the DOH Central Laboratory, is an important element of this plan. A training program for applicable CHD personnel can further enhance this program and aid in coordination efforts with DEP and the WMDs. The last element of this strategic plan required will require a joint agreement between the SFWMD, DEP, DOH and applicable CHDs, to extend the delineation program into the South Florida area to ensure that those residents are adequately protected in areas of groundwater contamination. As a result of the Division of Environmental Health's effort, an MOU was drafted and signed on August 27, 2004 between the DOH, DEP, and the SFWMD to begin implementing the delineated areas program in all areas of the SFWMD. Subsequently, the SFWMD amended their water well construction rule and officially began implementing the delineated areas program on May 15, 2005. As a result the program is now being implemented in all applicable areas of the state. It should be noted that this program samples wells only once, immediately after construction; however, the drinking water toxics program can sample them subsequently.

**Short Term Objectives**

By January 1, 20086:

- Hold meetings with DEP and WMDs to address data collection, training for CHDs and new delegations
- Conduct review of data currently available to develop seamless information exchanges inter & intra agencies
- Prepare and hold training workshops on permitting wells for the CHDs with involvement of DEP and WMDs

**Long Term Objectives**

By January 1, 20097:

- Implementation of database tracking system, analysis of trends
- Repeat and develop training for CHDs as deemed necessary

By January 1, 2008:

- Repeat and develop training for CHDs as deemed necessary

**Goal: Ensure safe water for those with potable water wells constructed in groundwater contamination delineated areas.**



**Business Plan 2006 – Division of Environmental Health - Florida Department of Health**

Mission: “Promote and Protect Health”

Vision: “Healthier Floridians”

**Goal: To prevent disease of environmental origin**

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**Measure #1:** 100% of the wells installed in a delineated area shall be sampled for the delineated contaminant and the results transmitted to the proper agencies.

HP 2010 Objective	Strategy	Benchmark	Responsible Party	Target Date (up to 18 months)	Status
8-12 Minimize the risk to human health and the environment posed by hazardous sites.	<i>Process Management</i> Enhance the coordination and reporting of the existing program	Electronic submission of program information between the DEP, the WMDs, and the CHDs	Bettinger		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hold strategy meetings with the stakeholders (CHDs, DEP, WMDs, Industry, Labs)</li> </ul>			3/31/04 On-going	COMPLETED Meeting held 7/12/02 in conjunction with the DEP Water Well Contractors Workgroup meeting; another held on 1/21/05
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a process to make water quality data available electronically to the CHDs</li> </ul>	DOH, Jax central lab creating tracking system to allow all data from chemistry samples to be retrieved by CHDs		6/1/06	As of 5/06 the Will be forthcoming within a few months via the Jacksonville Laboratories Chemistry Section has completed there update of the LIMS computer system to allow the CHDs real-time access to water quality analytical results.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish protocol for the electronic submission of program information between the three agencies</li> </ul>	Solicit current tracking by CHDs, DEP and WMDs, then determine best established platform and coordinate expansion and usage by all		126/31/076	DEP is still in the planning phase of utilizing an on-line Oracle data base for the electronic submission of program information that will be shared by the three agencies.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct semi-annual interagency coordination meetings (DEP, DOH, WMDs)</li> </ul>			On-going	First Interagency coordination meeting was conducted on 1/21/05. Next meeting is scheduled for 1/20/06. DEP will be planning one or more interagency coordination



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						meetings by the end of 2007.
		Provide training to the CHDs	Conduct training sessions for the staff of all the CHDs participating in the program	Bettinger		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a training program specific for the delineated areas activities performed by the CHDs</li> </ul>	Training session planning with DEP and WMDs		On-going 2/1/05	A comprehensive training session was developed and coordinated with the DEP and SFWMD during 4/05. Another Interdepartmental training session will be conducted by 12/31/07.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct initial round of trainings</li> </ul>	Planned for '05		3/1/05	The initial training session for CHD personnel was conducted on 5/19/05.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct annual refresher training sessions</li> </ul>			Beginning in 2006 and on-going thereafter	During 2006 one or more additional training sessions will be conducted. Another Interdepartmental training session will be conducted by 12/31/07.
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