GWCC, Private Well Workgroup

Sille Larsen

Senior Water Resources Engineer
Environmental Health, Vermont Department of Health
Background

- Population of Vermont: 623,657
- Vermonters on public water: ~70%
- Vermonters on private water: ~30%
  - Private water sources tested: ~5-11%
  - >10% of results have at least one contaminant above a level of concern
Aim

- Expand and strengthen collaborative private well program initiatives
- Provide a forum to discuss private well laws, regulations and policies
- Provide a forum to discuss private well technical issues (e.g. construction, treatment)
- Identify educational and training needs for the private well work force
- Increase education and outreach to private well owners
Today we have an agenda covering a wide variety of topics from regulation to water treatment.

Future meetings should be shaped and defined by members, and the topics selected by the group.

A forum for productive conversation.

Remember WAIT: Why Am I Talking
- Consider what you are about to say and whether it will add anything new to the conversation.

Survey:
- Fill out at the end of the day or during the presentations
- Please fill it out!
The GWCC meets monthly and this workgroup, focusing on private well issues, would be a standing agenda item occurring quarterly for the first year and on an agreed upon frequency thereafter.
A new state law, Act 161, requires that new wells are tested for certain contaminants.
The law has been incorporated into the Wastewater system and Potable Water Supply Rules.
GWCC, private well workgroup meeting

Introduction (~30 min)
- Scott Stewart/Kasey Kathan, Introduction to the GWCC
- Sille Larsen, Introduction to the private well workgroup
- Who you are, who you represent and how your organization relates to private wells

Mandatory testing of private wells, rule updates (DEC ~30 min)
- When is mandatory testing required
- Who can sample the water
- What testing is required
- Testing procedure
- Laboratory requirements
- Data submission
- What if the system is failed

Testing logistics (VDH Laboratory, ~20 min)
- How to find a certified drinking water laboratory
- Sampling technique

Results (VDH ~15 min)
- Interpretation
- How are the results being used by the Health Department

Man-made chemicals (DEC ~15 min)
- What, where, how

Treatment (Culligan ~30 min)
- Treatment, what to do if there are any contaminants
  - Treatment of arsenic, E. coli/TC, fluoride, lead, manganese, nitrate/nitrite, uranium and gross alpha chloride, sodium, iron, odor and pH (analytes required for testing)
  - Cost of treatment

Open Discussion (30 min)
- How to share the information with the public (private well owners)
- Next meeting
Introductions

- Who are you?
- What organization do you represent?
- How does your work relate to private wells?