



COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

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Joseph M. DiMino, DO
Director of Health/Medical Director

MONTGOMERY COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1430 DeKalb Street, PO Box 311
Norristown, PA 19404-0311
Phone: 610-278-5117 Fax: 610-278-5167
TDD: 610-631-1211
www.health.montcopa.org

January 9, 2012

The Honorable Robert W. Godshall, Chairman
House Consumer Affairs Committee
P.O. Box 202053
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2053

Re: House Bill 1855 - Water Well Construction Standards

Dear Representative Godshall:

As you may be aware, the Montgomery County Health Department has overseen an Individual Water Supply program since February 1997. Before developing the regulations, a countywide survey of 1,015 residents was conducted in October 1995. Results indicated that only 46% of residents served by individual wells regularly test their water and 80% of those surveyed felt better if the County approved well installation. This data provided the groundwork to develop the ensuing Montgomery County water supply regulations. Granted, this survey does not represent the entire Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, but it does indicate a general need to educate well owners and oversee well drillers as to the proper construction and operation of domestic drinking water supplies.

Upon hearing of the recently drafted House Bill 1855 proposing construction and operation standards for installation, use and decommissioning of private drinking water wells, it appears you have reached similar conclusions. Legislation is necessary state-wide to ensure that newly installed private water supplies are properly sited, drilled, constructed, monitored, treated and eventually decommissioned by knowledgeable and experienced individuals. The intent of such oversight is to prevent groundwater from needless degradation which ultimately protects public health. The residents of Pennsylvania are entitled to safe individual water supplies free of bacteria and contaminants and have waited long enough for this overdue legislation.

NORRISTOWN HEALTH CENTER

1430 DeKalb Street, PO Box 311
Norristown, PA 19404-0311
Phone: (610) 278-5145 Fax: (610) 278-5166

POTTSTOWN HEALTH CENTER

364 King Street
Pottstown, PA 19464
Phone: (610) 970-5040 Fax: (610) 970-5048

EASTERN COURT HOUSE ANNEX

102 York Road, Suite 401
Willow Grove, PA 19090
Phone: (215) 784-5415 Fax: (215) 784-5524

Therefore, on behalf of the Montgomery County Health Department, I hereby endorse HB 1855 proposing minimum construction and operation standards for newly drilled and decommissioned private water wells in Pennsylvania.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please call me at 610-278-5117, extension 6701.

Sincerely,

J. M. DiMino

Dr. Joseph M. DiMino
Director of Health/Medical Director

XC: Kevin Smith, Deputy Director for Environmental Health Services
Kyle Schmeck, Director of Water Quality Management