

PRE-TESTING WATER WELLS PRIOR TO OIL/GAS DRILLING

Water Well Pump Tests

A baseline water level and pumping capacity for each homeowner's private water well should be established prior to the start of natural gas drilling on or near their property. Several water well drillers that serve the area recommend that the pitless adapters be removed and the well pump pumped to a free discharge for a period of one to two hours. The water levels in the well should be measured before pumping (static water level), during pumping and for a period of time after the pumping ends (recovery). The cost includes providing a brief report of the data compiled during the test and obtaining a water sample for testing water characteristics.

The quotes from the well drillers range in price from approximately \$300 to \$600. There are variables that could affect these costs such as, condition of the well, ability of the existing pump to perform the test, distance to the property, etc. The quotes are posted on the Landowner Assistance/Oil and Gas Section of the Wayne SWCD website at www.wayneswcd.org. Below is a list of the well drillers contacted for price quotes:

- Frontz Drilling, 2031 Millersburg Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691 (330) 262-5301
- Jamison Well Drilling, 258 Central Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio 44905 (419) 524-8560
- Mullet Drilling, 3530 C.R. 58, Millersburg, Ohio 44654 (330) 674-0206

This list is not intended to be an endorsement by Wayne SWCD or to be a comprehensive list of well drillers in the area. A list of local well drillers can be found in the Yellow Pages under "Water Well Drilling & Service:"

Water Well Parameter Tests

Testing of private water wells prior to oil and gas drilling is recommended to establish baseline data. Water samples can be taken by the owner, however, it is recommended that a third party take the sample and follow a "chain of custody" protocol. A third party could be the well driller at the time of a pump test, an agent of a testing laboratory, or potentially a County Health Department employee. Chain of custody is important should the sample need to be used in litigation. The testing laboratory can provide more information on chain of custody protocol. A laboratory should also be certified to perform chemical analyses on public drinking water by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Two certified labs were contacted for water well analyses prices. The prices from these two labs range from \$125 to \$442, depending on what parameters are selected for testing. The quotes are posted on the Wayne SWCD website (see web address above). Below is a list of labs contacted for price quotes:

- [Alloway Laboratory](#), 1776 Marion-Waldo Road, Marion, Ohio 43301 1-800-873-2835
- [Brookside Laboratories](#), 308 S. Main Street, New Knoxville, Ohio 45871 (419) 753-2448

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For more information on water well testing parameters refer to "Water Facts #29 - Testing Drinking Water Supplies Near Gas Drilling Activity" developed by the Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences – Cooperative Extension at <http://extension.psu.edu/water/marcellus-shale/testing-drinking-water-supplies-near-gas-drilling-activity/view>.

If you have any questions regarding Water Well Pumping or Parameter Testing please feel free to contact the Wayne SWCD Office at (330) 262-2836, Holmes SWCD Office at (330) 674-2811 or Ashland SWCD Office at (419) 281-7645.