

Noncom Notes

FOR MINNESOTA'S NONCOMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

Spring/Summer 2019

The Noncom Scoop is now **Noncom Notes**!

You may notice that the title of this newsletter has changed from **The Noncom Scoop** to **Noncom Notes**. After more than twenty years of life as **The Noncom Scoop**, we felt a change was in order. Why? A couple reasons:

- **Format:** We have been moving towards a more frequent, shorter, electronic-based format – to provide you with handy “notes” regarding your public water system when you need them. Our current plan is to still do one longer print-friendly version each spring, but you also may see more frequent **Noncom Notes** in your email inbox throughout the year.
- **Content:** We hope you find the content in the newsletter to be practical, helpful information in the operation and maintenance of a safe, reliable public water system – the kind of “notes” you might consult when you have questions or are wondering about issues with your system. Of course, you are always encouraged to reach out to our staff with questions, but the newsletter provides one more avenue of assistance.



I hope you enjoy this inaugural version of **Noncom Notes**, as we bid farewell to **The Noncom Scoop**. If you have questions about this newsletter or ideas for what you'd like to see it address, please contact editor Leslie Winter at 651-201-4705 or leslie.winter@state.mn.us.

As always, we appreciate all the hard work you put into your noncommunity public water system.

Dave Hokanson

Dave Hokanson, Supervisor, Noncommunity Public Water Supply Unit

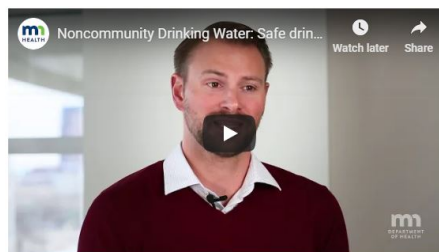
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“Safe Drinking Water Wherever You Go” Video

A video that introduces the work of Noncommunity Public Water Supplies was produced this winter. The two minute video shares a brief look at who noncommunity public water systems are and the MDH staff that support the systems. The video’s goal is to be a resource for Noncommunity Public Water Supplies. Minnesotans and visitors will know that no matter where you

go in Minnesota, you can confidently drink the water. You may access the video at [Noncommunity Drinking Water: Safe drinking water wherever you go.](#)



Reminder to Owners and Operators of Seasonal Systems

Seasonal public water systems are those that do not operate on a year-round basis, and start up and shut down at the beginning and end of each season. Seasonal systems are required to start up each spring with an approved start-up procedure, and notify MDH of its completion.

If you are the owner/operator of a seasonal water system, you will receive a reminder notice each spring. After starting up your water system, be sure to complete the notice with the date the procedure was completed, and return it to MDH.

Although providing certification of the start-up procedure is only required for the water systems that fully depressurize all their water system(s) in the off-season, water systems that

depressurize a portion of their system should also be following the approved start-up procedure. This will help to ensure these systems are maintained in a sanitary condition.

Please note that seasonal systems that do not complete the approved start-up procedure will be in violation of the Revised Total Coliform Rule and placed on a monthly coliform bacteria sample schedule. The owner/operator of the system will then become responsible for collecting water samples as well as overnight shipping costs.

- For reference, the approved procedure is located at [Start-up Procedure for Seasonal Public Water Systems \(PDF\)](#)

Additional information relating to the Seasonal Start-up Procedure and other water system related information is available at [Restaurants, Resorts, Campgrounds \(Transient\)](#).

Please contact your designated sanitarian if you have questions. See our MDH contact page, or call 651-201-4700 or 888-345-0823. If you are in a delegated local program jurisdiction, please contact the appropriate office.

- [Drinking Water Protection Contacts](#)

Lead and Copper Consumer Notice Requirement for Nontransient Noncommunity PWSs

Beginning in 2019, the Noncommunity Drinking Water Protection program began implementing the Consumer Notice portion of the Lead and Copper Rule. The federal rule requires all nontransient noncommunity public water systems to provide notice of their water supply's lead monitoring results to persons served by the water system. MDH's drinking water program has been notifying affected nontransient systems when they sample for lead and copper; the information is sent by postal mail with the results.

Thus far, both the posting of the Consumer Notice (lead and copper testing results) and the returning of the completed certification form to MDH by the affected PWSs has been accomplished in a timely manner. We thank you for that and all the work you do to provide safe water and maintain the water system's compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act!

Private to Public Well Conversion: The Well Next Door

Are you considering opening a business in your home with its own well, or buying a cabin next door to expand your resort that already qualifies as a public water system? If you want to use the existing well on that property, consider locating the well construction record. There may be unforeseen costs associated with well code requirements regarding converting a private water supply well to a public water supply well.

The Minnesota Well Code (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725) requires that any existing domestic, industrial, or other private water supply wells must meet the current Well Code construction standards for a public water supply well in order to be used as a public water supply well. After August 4, 2008, all public water supply wells have to be constructed with full-length grout to provide sealing of the annular space between the well casing and the borehole. Since the full length grouting requirement does not apply to private water supply wells, there is a good chance

the existing well you want to use may not meet the Well Code requirements. This means the well would need to be reconstructed or a new source of water provided for the building.

Even if the cabin next door has only one bedroom it could still qualify as a public water system (and require a water supply meeting public water standards) based on the total population served by the resort or

business. Before you add an existing water supply well to your system, try to find information on the well construction. Once you have located the well information, contact your Minnesota Department of Health Drinking Water Sanitarian to determine if the well could be converted to public water supply well. The sanitarians are familiar with the requirements and can guide you through the process.

Lead in Minnesota Water Report

The Minnesota Legislature directed MDH to conduct an analysis to determine the scope of the lead problem in Minnesota’s water and the cost to eliminate lead exposure in drinking water. In this report, MDH assessed the scope of the lead problem by looking at the extent of lead in drinking water infrastructure as well as factors that allow lead to get into drinking water. A report has been released showing that removing all lead from drinking water infrastructure could cost just over \$4 billion, but the benefits to public health and the economy could reach more than \$8 billion. You may view the full report at [Lead in Minnesota Water \(PDF\)](#)



Minnesota Rural Water Association Resources and Training Opportunities

For Nontransient Noncommunity PWSs

For more information on the courses and other events, visit [Minnesota Rural Water Association: Training Resources](#)

Class D Training

Date	Location
August 27, 2019	Detroit Lakes
October 30, 2019	Maple Grove

Class E Training

Date	Location
May 22, 2019	Monticello
July 17, 2019	Ridgeway
August 13, 2019	Walker
October 10, 2019	Two Harbors
November 20, 2019	Cologne
December 3, 2019	Cohasset
December 17, 2019	Elbow Lake

MRWA publishes a magazine and newsletters with valuable information. Please visit the MRWA Publication page for the **Today** magazine and **E – Source Small Systems Bulletin**.

- [Minnesota Rural Water Association: MRWA Publications](#)

Online Course

GROUNDWATER AND WELL CARE FOR NON-COMMUNITY PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS

presented by WaterOperator.org | taught by Steve Wilson

WaterOperator.org's FREE online course can now be taken for **2 hours continuing education credit** in the states of Alabama, California, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. See state-specific details of CEU pre-approval. Course CEU Instructions.

The course helps noncommunity public water systems with a groundwater well better understand how to care for their water supply. By understanding the basic science of wells and following best practices to maintain and protect water supplies, well owners will obtain the knowledge to extend well life, while ensuring safe drinking water. **WaterOperator.org** will continue to apply for pre-approval in more states in 2019.

The course takes approximately 2 hours to complete and includes 6 lessons, 6 videos, 7 quizzes, a survey, and a course exam plus additional resources. It is taught by Steve Wilson, groundwater hydrologist and 30-year veteran of the Illinois State Water Survey. He authored the course curriculum in collaboration with the Rural Community Assistance Partnership and funding from the U.S. EPA.

MDH Resources

Just a reminder of the location of the many valuable resources that you may find on the MDH website. The Drinking Water Protection website will link you to many factsheets and forms as well other related and interesting topics.

- [Drinking Water Protection](#)



Request for Emails – Thanks!!

The Noncommunity Drinking Water Protection program continues to gather email addresses so we can communicate more efficiently with you and keep you better informed in areas that relate to your public water supply. If you have an email address, we would appreciate you sharing it with us. You can do this by sending your email address and public water system ID (PWSID) or system name to health.noncommunitycompliance@state.mn.us.

References in this Issue

- Noncommunity Drinking Water: Safe drinking water wherever you go
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDjwc8vnGIA&feature=youtu.be>
- Start-up Procedure for Seasonal Public Water Systems (PDF)
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/ncom/startup.pdf>
- Restaurants, Resorts, Campgrounds (Transient)
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/noncom/transient.html>
- Drinking Water Protection Contacts
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/org/index.htm>
- Lead in Minnesota Water (PDF)
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/leadreport.pdf>
- Drinking Water Protection
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/dwp.html>
- Groundwater and Well Care for Non-Community Public Water Systems
<http://wateroperator.thinkific.com/courses/groundwater-and-well-care-for-non-community-public-water-systems>
- Course CEU Instructions <https://uofi.app.box.com/s/5659jyo96vsnjufk2s8xm3mtqg0h74my>
- Rural Community Assisatnce Partnership (RCAP) <https://rcap.org/>
- Minnesota Rural Water Association: Training Resources
<http://www.mrwa.com/training.html>
- Minnesota Rural Water Association: MRWA Publications <http://www.mrwa.com/pubs.html>

Contact Information

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*To obtain this information in a different format,
call: 651-20-4700. Printed on recycled paper.*