Groundwater in the Geneva Lake Area

Groundwater is a very important resource in the Geneva lake area. Most residents of the Linn Sanitary District get their drinking water from the groundwater through private wells. Subdivision wells serve their residents with groundwater. Even the area's cities and villages get their drinking water from the groundwater.

Groundwater also is a very significant source of water to Geneva Lake. Studies have shown that groundwater moves towards the lake on all sides of the lake except for a small area on the east end of the lake near the outlet. Groundwater contributes about one-third of the annual water that enters Geneva Lake.

In the Geneva Lake area there are two principle sources of groundwater, the shallow sand and gravel aquifer (0 ft. – approximately 200 .ft.) that over lies the bedrock aquifer. Most private wells draw their water from the shallow aquifer. That shallow aquifer is also the main source of groundwater that supplies Geneva Lake.

Because of its importance to both the public health and to Geneva Lake, it is vital to monitor the groundwater's quality. Testing private wells is one way of assessing the groundwater quality.

LINN SANITARY DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 454 • LAKE GENEVA, WI 53147 • 262-245-4532

PLEASE OPEN AND READ FOR MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON THE 2014 WELL TESTING PROGRAM.

LINN SANITARY DISTRICT

P.O. Box 949
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http://www.townoflinn.com/Sanitary.htm

PRIVATE WELL TESTING NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014

FOR OUR HEALTH-
-AND GENEVA LAKE'S PROTECTION-

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO TEST YOUR DRINKING WATER.

Residents of the Linn Sanitary District are being offered a volunteer private well testing program during the summer of 2014. Residents are strongly encouraged to take part in this important opportunity. Participants will have their well tested for nitrates and bacteria at a reduced rate of $10. If arsenic is suspected to be a problem due to depth of the well or past test results, a field test for arsenic will be conducted. Based upon the field test results, suggestion for follow-up testing will be made.

Samples will be collected by trained crews from George William College and Walworth County Public Health. The preferred location for the sampling will be the kitchen faucet. If that is not possible, an outside faucet could be used to collect a sample but the results may not be as representative of what you're drinking as a kitchen faucet sample.

Samples will be analyzed for nitrates and bacteria at the Walworth County Public Health lab in Elkhorn. Results would be returned to the homeowner in a timely manner.

HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS GREAT OPPORTUNITY?

If you are interested in having your well tested complete the enclosed post card and return it to the ***Geneva Lake Well Testing Program, P.O. Box 914, Williams Bay WI. 53191.*** You can call **262-245-4532** and leave the same information with our staff.

Sometime during late May or early June somebody from our office will contact you to set up a date to meet you at your well to sample the water from your kitchen faucet. At that time we will also discuss well care and future sampling. We ask that you be ready to pay the $10 fee per well at the time of sampling. Sampling will be done during June and July during the week, if possible.

Results will be returned to you by mail. If any results exceed the drinking water standards you will be notified immediately.

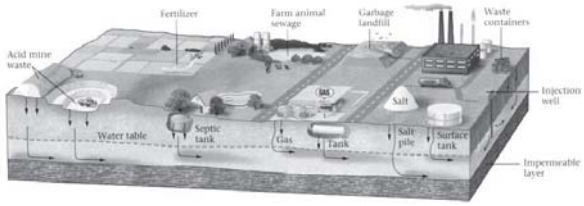
FOR MORE INFO ON WELL TESTING VISIT

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resource at:
http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Wells/privateWellTest.html

Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center - Water Testing and Private Wells
http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/watershed/Pages/GWWell.aspx

WHY TEST MY WELL?

The best response to "why test my well" is, if you don't, nobody will. Groundwater can be contaminated by natural and man-made sources. Nitrates and bacteria are common in the natural environment but we do not want them in our water. Wells should be constructed as closed systems that do not let surface contaminates into the well. However, land use activities can pollute the groundwater. Those pollutants can travel significant distances to your well. Even if your well is a closed systems the source of water may be contaminated and thus you may be drinking contaminated water. If your well has not been used over the winter it is a good idea to flush the system and test it before using it.



The case for arsenic testing is a bit different. The source of the arsenic is not surface contamination but it is naturally occurring in the deep aquifer. Deep groundwater can pick up the arsenic and be delivered to your faucet by your well system. Wells deeper than 175 ft. should be tested for arsenic.