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Environmental Services Section

WELL SURVEY SAMPLING INFORMATION

1) **General**: The Well Survey sampling kit consists of (2) two containers:

   (1) 1 quart sized plastic bottles for inorganics analyses
   (1) Sterile whirlpak container for bacteria analysis

2) **Sampling Container Preparation**:

   Write name and sampling date on bottle label and white area on sterilized whirlpak baggie. Use ink pen, being careful not to puncture the baggie.

3) **Site Selection**:

   Sample sites/water spigots should be chosen carefully to obtain a representative sample of well water. However, precautions must be taken to choose a spigot that will not contaminate the sample. Spigots to be **avoided** include:

   1) Spigots that are not used on a regular basis, with possible visible algae growth.
   2) Spigots with leaking packing nuts or cracks.
   3) Spigots with non-removable aerators, screens, or filters.
   4) Spigots connected to plumbing in or around bathrooms.
   5) Spigots that come **after** a whole-house softener or filter system.

   The kitchen sink spigot is usually the best choice. However, for single lever faucets make sure cold water **only** is run. All aerators, screens, and filters should be removed or placed in bypass prior to sampling. New wells, or wells that have not been used recently, should be run before sampling to flush stagnant/contaminated water from the system.

4) **Sampling Procedure**:

   Once you have chosen your sample point, turn the water on and let it run for about five minutes, or longer for little used spigots or wells. The water velocity should be reduced to a pencil sized stream prior to sampling and adjusted to avoid water from running around the threaded portion of the spigot head. Once the water velocity has been established, fill the 1 quart bottle all the way to the top with no air space and securely replace the cap. The whirlpak sample baggie should be filled by tearing off the perforated top and use the paper tabs to open the baggie with care taken to avoid contact with the baggie lip. The whirlpak should then be filled without touching it to the spigot and then closed with a twirling motion flipped end over end using the weight of the water and then secured shut by twisting the wire tabs together. Place samples on ice and return to the laboratory as soon as possible. **Bacteria samples must be analyzed within 24 hours from sample collection.**