



Stamford Water Quality – Board of Representatives

Susan Nabel, Chair

Gail Okun, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, May 15, 2014
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Democratic Caucus Room, 4th Floor Government Center, 888
Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT

The Stamford Water Quality Committee met at the above date and time. In attendance were Chair Nabel, Vice Chair Okun and Committee Member Reps. Savage and Silver. Absent or excused was Committee Member Rep. Day. Also present were Anne Fountain and Jim Federici of the Health Department.

Chair Nabel called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. WQ29.001	REVIEW; update on status of City well water testing program 03/06/14 – Submitted by Rep. Nabel	Report Made

The City of Stamford Well Water test was first established by Ord. # 1130 in Sept. 2011; amended 2/2013 and in July 2013 as #1161, effective January 2014. Director Fountain reported on the results of the city Well Water Quality testing program as expanded in 2014. The previous test given by the city was for the pesticides dieldrin and chlordane. The State Department of Public Health recommended that the test sampling also include arsenic and uranium, and that test was begun in January 2014. The charge to the taxpayer for the well water test in both versions has remained stable at \$100. per household.

Results on the 2013 testing program (pesticides) are included in the Health Department report [attached](#).

Results for the 2014 test thus far are that 235 wells have been tested. 173 results have been obtained.

- 2 wells showed results for arsenic, both below the State actionable level

- 123 wells (71%) showed results for uranium;
 - 26 of those 123 (15%) are above the actionable level for uranium
- 11 (6.4%) wells showed results for pesticides; 9 for dieldrin and 2 for chlordane
 - 5 of those 11 (2.9%) were above the actionable level

The City Department of Health expects to test over 270 wells during the next month; 494 households are on the waiting list. A total of 800 households thus far have signed up for this version of the well water test. The Health Department will be sending out a letter shortly informing the public of the availability and benefits of this test.

Director Fountain advised the committee that remedies for the uranium levels and pesticide levels are recommended to the homeowners and information on them is included when the letter reporting the test results is mailed. Remediation is suggested but is up to the homeowner. Remedies include a reverse osmosis filter which can be installed in the kitchen only (uranium is only of concern in drinking/cooking water; not bathing, etc.). An ionization filter is also available for pesticide contamination.

It was of concern to the Health Department that filter companies do not at this time include a post-test of water quality to ensure that the remedy is working. The committee discussed including opening up the ordinance to include post-testing. It was also suggested that consumers be educated to suggest to the filtration suppliers that they include a post-test as part of the maintenance of the system they install.

The committee also discussed the possibility of a city ordinance that would require contractors to include testing for pesticides, uranium and arsenic when a new well is drilled or when there is a need to re-drill on an existing property.

Director Fountain agreed to work on a draft of a suggested ordinance for discussion at the next meeting and to also provide the committee with a report on what surrounding communities require for water testing with new construction.

Chair Nabel adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Nabel, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).