

WAINSCOTT CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE



October 16, 2017

Supervisor Larry Cantwell
East Hampton Town Board
Town of East Hampton
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

Re: PFOS & PFOA in Wainscott Private Well

Dear Larry,

The WCAC would like to thank the Town of East Hampton (“Town”) and the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) for responding to our request to test private wells near East Hampton Airport and nearby sites which are zoned for industrial uses. The request for further testing by the Wainscott Citizens’ Advisory Committee (WCAC) was in response to increasing concerns expressed by Wainscott residents about potential contamination of the sole source aquifer.

In light of the recent Water Advisory (see Appendix A) with regard to Perfluorinated Compound (PFC) contamination of a private well located in Wainscott, the WCAC request the continued and full co-operation of the Town and SCDHS.

The co-operation of the Town and SCDHS is necessary for the WCAC to inform properly Wainscott residents of the need to take adequate precautions against ingesting any water contaminated with PFC’s. It is also necessary for Wainscott residents to understand the nature, extent and implications of PFC contamination, namely perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) and perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), and how best to mitigate the risks these contaminants pose to their health.

Within Wainscott, over ninety percent (90%) of resident families depend upon water drawn from their private wells for drinking, cooking, bathing, etc. (including the provision of drinking water for pets). Yet despite this high reliance upon private wells, there isn’t an established plan for regular monitoring of private well-water quality. The Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA) does not regulate testing for contamination of private wells. To ensure water quality is maintained, therefore, Wainscott residents file a request with the SCDHS to have their private well tested for contaminants. Regrettably, due to the limited resources of the SCDHS, there is a problem. From the time a resident applies to have their private well tested, in “most instances” it will take somewhere between 3 and 4 months before they receive the test results. If a Wainscott resident’s private well is contaminated, therefore, they will have been drinking from it for about 100 days before they receive the test results telling them not to drink the well-water. This is dangerous and unacceptable.

Furthermore, with the issuance of the Water Advisory, there is reason to anticipate a surge in requests for testing. Such a surge in requests will cause additional delays unless testing in Wainscott is made a priority through County and/or DEC action. This may include hiring additional staff if necessary. The Nature Conservancy received a report from one of its members who called the SCDHS on October 12 to request that her private well be tested. She was informed that the Water Advisory had been issued without coordination with the testing division, and there were unanswered questions such as whether a property owner near but outside the boundary line in the Water Advisory map would have to pay \$100 for the test or not. The Nature Conservancy member was advised to wait until she received a call back later the same day, or at the latest, the following day. No one returned her call.

Please note: SCDHS currently excludes testing for either PFOS or PFOA contamination when conducting private well testing (see Appendix B for sampling parameters).

The Environmental Sub-Committee (ESC) of the WCAC would like specifically to thank Councilwomen Bridget Fleming (Suffolk County Legislator), Senior Public Health Engineer Jason Hime (SCDHS) and Environmental Toxicologist, Amy Juchatzheld (SCDHS), whom attended its meeting on March 24, 2017. At this meeting, the Chairman of the ESC, Si Kinsella, first raised the issue of potential chemical contamination related to aircraft manufacturing, maintenance, and operations at East Hampton Airport. With reference to the Hannon Report, Mr. Kinsella asked whether private wells near East Hampton Airport had been tested for the three chemicals herein listed (below). The first two chemicals are the subject of this Water Advisory (dated October 11), but the third chemical was not addressed. Can you confirm whether private wells were also tested for trichloroethylene, please?

- 1) Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
- 2) Perfluorooctanesulfonate (PFOS)
- 3) Trichloroethylene (TCE)

During this same meeting, Mr. Hime made reference to Suffolk County Lead Hydrogeologist Ronald Paulsen who at the time was reviewing the SCDHS water quality test results database of water samples taken from private drinking water wells within Wainscott dating back to 1998. At this meeting it was agreed that SCDHS will assist the ESC in developing a program to test private drinking water wells, where such tests target contaminants identified as potentially problematic by Hydrogeologist Ronald Paulsen in his aforementioned analysis. The ESC is still waiting to hear from Mr. Paulsen.

With specific regard to this Water Advisory pertaining to PFC contamination, can you provide answers to the following questions, please?

1. Have all Wainscott residents who live in the affected area been notified?
2. What was the method of notification (e.g. regular mail, a notice placed in a prominent place on the resident's front door, private courier, etc.)?
3. How can a Wainscott resident who lives in the affected area correctly evaluate whether their activated carbon or reverse osmosis system is effectively removing PFOA and PFOS contaminants from their drinking water if they do not know the level of contamination? What if the combined contamination level of PFOA and PFOS, for example, exceeds the _____ level used to evaluate filter systems?

4. The SCDHS Advisory says that the Town will “provide bottled water to property owners in the private well survey area.” The Advisory does not specifically state that Wainscott residents within the affected area should not drink from their private wells.
Is the SCDHS advising Wainscott residents living in the affected area –
 - a. Not to drink from their private wells even if the water used for drinking is filtered (i.e. to drink only from bottled water)?
 - b. Not to provide drinking water drawn from their private well to pets?
 - c. Not to use water drawn from their private well to irrigate vegetable gardens or any plants from which they harvest food.
 - d. Not to swim in their swimming pool if it has been filled with water drawn from their private well?
5. What was the actual PFOA contamination level and the actual PFOS contamination level at the well which exceeded 0.07 ppb?
6. When were samples taken from private wells for testing?
7. How many private drinking water wells were tested?
8. Where are the private wells which were tested located in relation to –
 - a. East Hampton Airport
 - b. Montauk Highway
 - c. Former sand mine site (unknown industrial uses)
 - d. Georgica Pond
 - e. Wainscott Pond
 - f. Wainscott School
9. Where is the well located that exceeded the EPA’s standard of 0.07ppb?
(An approximate location that does not reveal the exact address is acceptable.)
10. What is the source and caused the PFC contamination?
11. Has the source and cause of the PFC contamination been removed?
12. For how long does SCDHS expect private wells within the affected survey area to remain unusable?
13. Do we know for certain that the East Hampton Airport was the sole source of the PFC contamination?
14. Is it possible that the source of the PFC contamination could be from nearby industrial uses or from within the former sand mine site? The former sand mine is approximately 71 acres in size and currently includes many varied uses (including a cement plant) and many varied past uses (e.g. furniture manufacturing and finishing). Please note that there are current uses within this site of which we are unaware due to the lack of an approved site plan. There are also most likely to be many unknown previous uses within this site for the same reason.
15. Can you provide a copy of the full test results for each well tested, please?
(It is acceptable if the exact address and name is redacted.)

16. If you're unable to provide a copy of the full test results for each well tested, is it required of the WCAC to submit a Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request?
17. How was the southern boundary of the affected area determined?
18. Can the Town/SCDHS confirm that there are no PFOA or PFOS contaminants outside the affected survey area as mapped in the Water Advisory, including in the area between the southern boundary and the Atlantic Ocean?

The Wainscott CAC looks forward to receiving more detailed information pertaining to this dangerous chemical contamination as a matter of some urgency.

In the meantime, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me via email (on [REDACTED]), or mobile (on [REDACTED]).

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]
Si Kinsella, on behalf of the
Wainscott Citizens' Advisory Committee

c/c: Peter Van Scoyoc, Deputy Supervisor
Kathee Burke-Gonzalez, Board Member
Sylvia Overby, Board Member
Fred Overton, Board Member
Town Board
Town of East Hampton
159 Pantigo Road
East Hampton, NY 11937

Wainscott Pond Residents
The Georgica Association
Friends of Georgica Pond Foundation
Wainscott Citizens' Advisory Committee (WCAC)
Wainscott CAC Environmental Sub-Committee (ES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 11, 2017
Contact: Grace Kelly-McGovern 631-854-0095, 631-219-9492

Water Quality Advisory for Private-Well Owners in Area of Wainscott

The US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) has identified two chemicals known as PFOS (perfluorooctane sulfonate) and PFOA (perfluorooctanoic acid) as emerging contaminants. These chemicals are part of a class of chemicals known as perfluorinated compounds (PFCs), which are currently unregulated by the federal government. PFCs have been used in a number of industrial and commercial products such as firefighting foam, as well as coatings that repel water, oil, stains and grease. Thus, people may be exposed to PFOS and PFOA through air, water, or soil from industrial sources and from consumer products.

Due to the potential for PFCs to cause environmental contamination, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation conducted a survey of facilities across the state that may have used products containing PFOS and PFOA. Since the East Hampton Airport indicated that it had used or stored products that may have contained PFOS and PFOA, the state requested that the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) sample drinking water supplies near the airport.

To assess the drinking water quality of properties served with private wells, SCDHS has begun a private well survey in the vicinity of the airport property. PFOS and PFOA have been detected in some of the private wells that have been tested so far. One private well had PFOS and PFOA detected above the USEPA lifetime health advisory level of 0.07 ppb. EPA's health advisory levels are established to protect even the most sensitive populations, including fetuses during pregnancy and breastfed babies, against potential adverse health effects. See EPA fact sheet on perfluorinated compounds for more information https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf.

The SCDHS would like to sample all private wells in this area at no charge to homeowners. The NYSDOH Laboratory will conduct the laboratory analysis of PFCs. If your property is served by a private well, and your residence is located in the area bounded on the north by the East Hampton Airport, on the west by Town Line Road, on the south by Montauk Highway extending toward Merriwood Drive and on the east by Daniel's Hole Road, please contact the SCDHS Office of Water Resources at (631) 852-5810 so that your well can be tested free of charge (see attached map).

As a precaution, the Town of East Hampton has offered to provide bottled water to property owners in the private well survey area described above. If you use a private well for your drinking water and live in the survey area you may contact the Town of East Hampton Purchasing Department at 631-324-4183 or email jcarroza@eamptonny.gov to receive bottled water.

If your home is connected to a public water supply, you do not need to have your water tested, as these supplies are routinely tested. Currently, the public drinking water supply in the area is below the US EPA lifetime health advisory level of 0.07 ppb.

Residents with general questions about health effects of perfluorinated compounds (PFCs) are advised to call the New York State Water Quality Hotline: 800-801-8092 (Monday - Friday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.).

Residents who are unsure if they are served by public water may call the Suffolk County Water Authority at 631-698-9500.

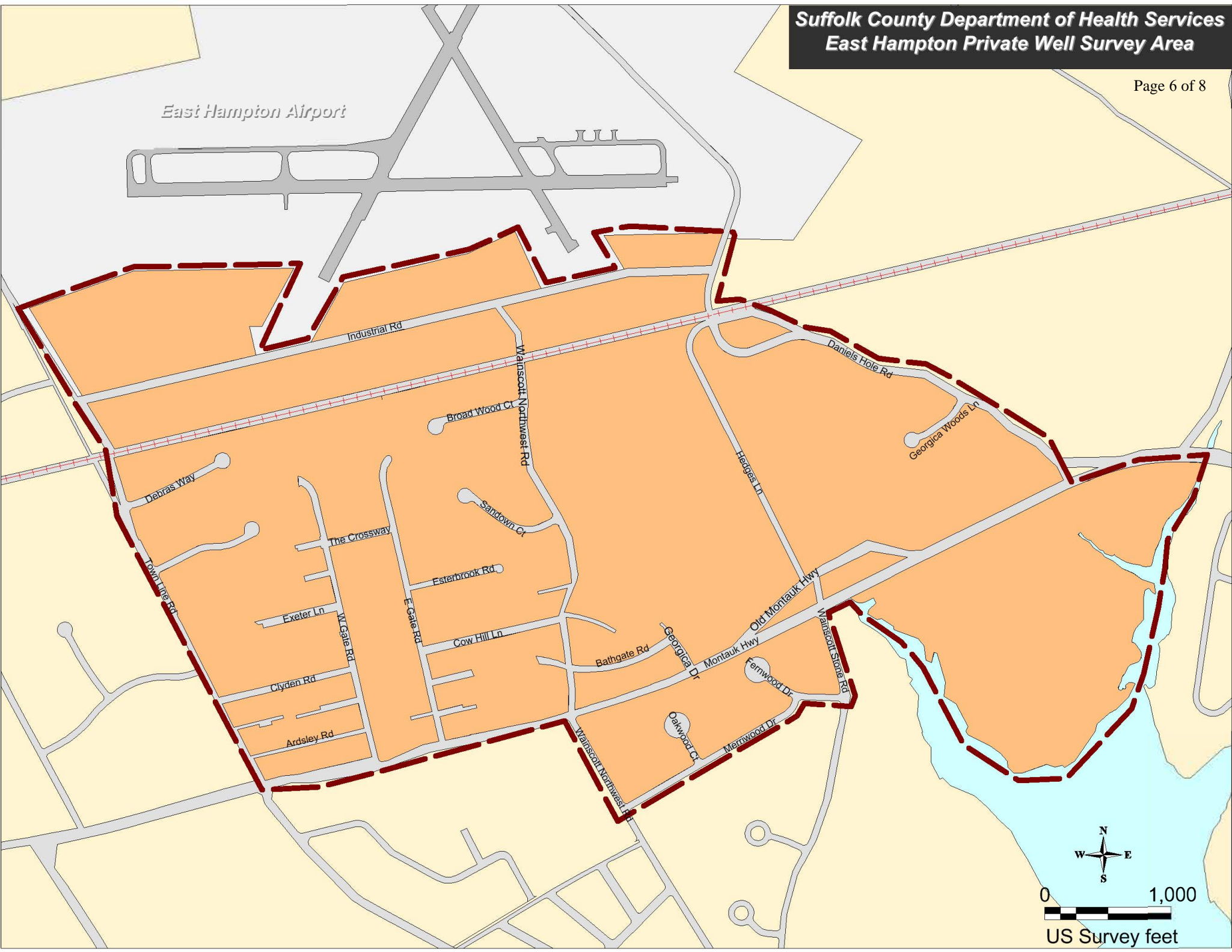
Residents with private wells who have questions about private well water in Suffolk County or who wish to have their wells tested may contact the SCDHS Office of Water Resources at 631-852-5810.

For additional information about PFCs, please visit the SCDHS website at: www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health/pfcwaterinfo

Follow us:

suffolkcountyny.gov, [Facebook.com/SuffolkCountyHealth](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkCountyHealth), [Twitter.com/SuffolkCoHealth](https://twitter.com/SuffolkCoHealth)

East Hampton Airport



Appendix B

Sampling Parameters				Sampling Parameters			
Contaminant	Sample Group	MCL	Unit	Contaminant	Sample Group	MCL	Unit
1, 2-dibromo-3 - chloropropane	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	0.20	ug/L	Gemfibrozil	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
1, 2-dibromoethane	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	0.05	ug/L	Germanium	METALS		ug/L
1, 4-Dioxane	DIOXANE	50.00	ug/L	Heptachlor	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	0.40	ug/L
17 alpha Ethynylestradiol	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Heptachlor epoxide	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	0.20	ug/L
17 beta Estradiol	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Hexavalent Chromium	STANDARD INORGANICS		ug/L
1-Naphthol	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L	Ibuprofen	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
2, 6-Dichlorobenzamide	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Imidacloprid	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
2-HydroxyAtrazine (G-34048)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Imidacloprid Urea	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
3-Hydroxycarbofuran	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L	Iron (Fe)	METALS	0.30	mg/L
4, 4-DDE	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L	Iron + Manganese (Combined, Calc)	METALS	0.50	mg/L
4, 4-DDT ,	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Lead (Pb)	METALS	15.00	ug/L
4,4-DDD	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Lithium	METALS		ug/L
4-Androstene-3 , 17-dione	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Magnesium	METALS	0.03	mg/L
4-Hydroxyphenytoin	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Malaoxon	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Acetaminophen	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Manganese (Mn)	METALS	0.30	mg/L
Alachlor	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	2.00	ug/L	Mercury (Hg)	METALS	2.00	ug/L
Alachlor ESA I Sul fonic Acid I	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Metalaxyl	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Alachlor OA (Oxaniilic Acid)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Methiocarb	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L
Aldicarb	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	3.00	ug/L	Methiocarb sulfone	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L
Aldicarb-Sulfone	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	2.00	ug/L	Methomyl	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L
Aldicarb-Sulfoxide	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	4.00	ug/L	Methoxychlor	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	40.00	ug/L
Aldrin	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Metolachlor	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
alpha-BHC	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Metolachlor ESA (CGA-354743)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Aluminum (Al)	METALS		ug/L	Metolachlor metabolite (CGA-37735)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Ammonia (NH3-N)	STANDARD INORGANICS		mg/L	Metolachlor metabolite (CGA-40172)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Antimony (Sb)	METALS	6.00	ug/L	Metolachlor metabolite (CGA-41638)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Arsenic (As)	METALS	10.00	ug/L	Metolachlor metabolite (CGA-67125)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Barium (Ba)	METALS	2,000.00	ug/L	Metolachlor OA (CGA-51202)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Beryllium (Be)	METALS	4.00	ug/L	Molybdenum (Mo)	METALS		ug/L
beta-BHC	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Monomethyltetrachloroterephthalate	DACTHAL PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L
Bisphenol A	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Nickel (Ni)	METALS	100.00	ug/L
Bisphenol B	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Nitrate	STANDARD INORGANICS	10.00	mg/L
Bromide	STANDARD INORGANICS		mg/L	Nitrite (NO2-N)	STANDARD INORGANICS	1.00	mg/L
Cadmium (Cd)	METALS	5.00	ug/L	Orothophosphate	STANDARD INORGANICS		mg/L
Caffeine	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Oxamy I	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L
Calcium	METALS		mg/L	Phenytoin (Dilantin)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Carbaryl	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L	pH-Lab	STANDARD INORGANICS		n/a
Carbofuran	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	40.00	ug/L	Picardin	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Chlorate	STANDARD INORGANICS		mg/L	Potassium	METALS		mg/L
Chlordane	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	2.00	ug/L	Propachlor ESA	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Chloride (Cl)	STANDARD INORGANICS	250.00	mg/L	Propachlor OA	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	5.00	ug/L
Chromium (Cr)	METALS	100.00	ug/L	Propamocarb hydrochloride	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Cobalt (Col)	METALS		ug/L	Propoxur (Baygon)	ALDICARB PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L
Copper (Cu)	METALS	1,300.00	ug/L	Selenium (Se)	METALS	50.00	ug/L
Dacthal	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L	Siduron	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Deisopropylatrazine (G-28279)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Silver (Ag)	METALS	100.00	ug/L
del ta-BHC	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Sodium (Na)	METALS		mg/L
Desethylatrazine (G-30033)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Specific Conductivity-Lab	STANDARD INORGANICS		umho/0
Dichlorvos	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Strontium	METALS		ug/L
Didealkylatrazine (G-28 273)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Sulfate (SO4)	STANDARD INORGANICS	250.00	mg/L
Dieldrin	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L	T. Alkalinity	STANDARD INORGANICS		mg/L
Diethylstilbestrol	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Tebuthiuron	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Diethyltoluamide (DEET)	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Tellurium	METALS		ug/L
Dinoseb	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	7.00	ug/L	Testosterone	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Diuron	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Tetrachloroterephthalic acid	DACTHAL PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L
Endosulfan I	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Thallium (TI)	METALS	2.00	ug/L
Endosulfan II	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	5.00	ug/L	Thorium (Th)	METALS		ug/L
Endosulfan Sulfate	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	50.00	ug/L	Tin	METALS		ug/L
Endrin	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	2.00	ug/L	Titanium (Ti)	METALS		ug/L
Equilin	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Total Aldicarb (calc)	ALDICARB PESTICIDES		ug/L
Estriol	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Trichlorfon	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L
Estrone	HERBICIDE METABOLITES	50.00	ug/L	Uranium	METALS	30.00	ug/L
Fluoride	STANDARD INORGANICS	2.20	mg/L	Vanadium (VI)	METALS		ug/L
gamma-BHC (Lindane)	CHLORINATED PESTICIDES	0.02	ug/L	Zinc (Zn)	METALS	5,000.00	ug/L

Appendix B ... continued ...

Current testing of private wells exclude the following –

1. Perfluorooctane Sulfonate (PFOS)
2. Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
3. Diazinon (OP)

Samples Groups are as follows –

- a) STANDARD INORGANICS
- b) VOLATILE ORGANICS
- c) SEMI-VOLATILE ORGANICS
- d) ALDICARB PESTICIDES
- e) CHLORINATED PESTICIDES
- f) HERBICIDE METABOLITES
- g) DACTHAL PESTICIDES
- h) DIOXANE
- i) METALS
- j) SURFACTANTS
- k) BACTERIOLOGICAL