Water Well: How it works

Follow these steps to get clean drinking water in Kewaunee County

1. If you think your water may be contaminated with E. coli bacteria, get your well water tested. There are three ways to arrange for testing:
   - New, first-time mothers will be contacted by the County Health Department and offered a chance to have their well water tested for free.
   - Homeowners can obtain a test kit from the Health Department, Land and Water Conservation Department, or private companies.

2. Report test results to the Health Department or the Land and Water Conservation Department:
   - Results of free, paid or private tests are reported to the homeowner.
   - To be eligible for "Water Well" assistance, testing must be completed by a certified laboratory.*
   - Homeowners should report a positive E. coli result to the Health Department or Land and Water Conservation Department.
   - Only those who report results will be eligible for the "Water Well" assistance.
   - It is up to the homeowner to decide whether to forward the report to the County Health or Land and Water departments, or the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

   ** The laboratory must be certified under Ch. ATCP 77 Wis. Adm. Code.*

3. When the Health Department or Land & Water Conservation Office receives a report and test results from a private residence in the county indicating it is contaminated with E. coli:
   - The Health Department or Land & Water Conservation Office will notify the owner and provide information so the owner can contact DNR. The county agency accepting the intake call will notify other county agencies per the Kewaunee County Well Contamination Event Protocol. The county protocol will be initiated.
   - The Health Department or Land and Water Land and Water Conservation Department will:
     - Advise the homeowner not to drink the water.
     - Advise the homeowner to contact the DNR to report the contamination.
     - Provide information needed for the homeowner to contact Peninsula Pride Farms to arrange home delivery of safe water as soon as possible.

HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES

Testing: Homeowners must have their water tested for E. coli.

Reporting: If the test for E. coli is positive, they must report results to the Health Department or Land & Water Conservation Office. To be eligible for the Water Well program, homeowners also must report results to the DNR.

Soft water: To operate, the water treatment system requires "soft water" – water without an appreciable quantity of dissolved minerals, such as iron. The homeowner may be required to install a water softener at their own expense if they have "hard water" and do not already have a properly functioning softener.

- Peninsula Pride Farms will not be responsible for treating hard water.

Partial system cost: Homeowners pay 50% (estimated at $750) of the water treatment system cost.

Extended service costs: Homeowners assume service costs after 12 months.

Well replacement: If an inspection reveals that the well is damaged or broken, the homeowner may be encouraged to replace it at their own expense.

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4. Regardless of the suspected source of the E. coli, from agriculture or non-agriculture sources, Peninsula Pride Farms will:

   - Arrange to have Culligan deliver water to the residence.
   - Pay for water delivery service for up to three months or until any well defects are corrected. Peninsula Pride Farms will be invoiced directly for the bottled water service.
   - Contact Champion Pump to arrange for a complete well inspection paid for by Peninsula Pride Farms.

5. Champion Pump will inspect the well and send the inspection report to the homeowner/landowner, and the Land and Water Department.

   - If the well is broken (cracked casing, broken well cap, etc.), Champion Pump will notify the owner, so the owner can repair any defects at their own expense.
   - They will not be eligible for further assistance from Peninsula Pride Farms if the problem is fixed.
   - Some homeowners may be eligible for needs-based financial assistance from the DNR to replace their wells
   - If the well is not broken and the homeowner wishes to apply for a water treatment system, Champion Pump will contact the DNR.

6. The DNR will review the request for a residential water treatment system and evaluate it based on applicable statutes and administrative codes.

   - The DNR may conduct its own inspection and investigation of the source of E. coli.
   - Upon approval for water treatment, the DNR will notify the homeowner. Upon request from the homeowner, Peninsula Pride Farms will be notified and will arrange for installation of a Viqua VH410 in-home ultraviolet ("UV") water treatment system, to be professionally installed by a Culligan representative.
   - The water treatment system will be installed by Culligan. For the water system, Peninsula Pride Farms will pay for:

     - Installation costs: a maximum of $1,000, including a pre-filter. (Estimated costs are $700-$800).
     - Treatment system cost: One half of the cost of the Viqau VH410 water treatment system. (Estimated total cost is approximately $1,495. The homeowner will be required to pay half.)
     - The first 12 months of Culligan service: Up to $200 in service costs, including any necessary lamp replacement (estimated at $180). The homeowner will assume ongoing costs after 12 months.
     - Removal of the treatment system: If the homeowner does not want to keep the treatment system or pay for any necessary Culligan service after one year, Peninsula Pride Farms will pay for its removal.
     - The Peninsula Pride Farms Water Well program does not include well replacement. If the well does not receive DNR approval for water treatment, homeowners may elect to replace the well at their own expense. Some homeowners may be eligible for needs-based financial assistance from the DNR to replace their wells.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Kewaunee County Health Department
810 Lincoln St.
Kewaunee, WI 54216
Phone: 920-388-7160
Website: http://www.co.kewaunee.wi.gov/index.asp?locid=194

Kewaunee County Land & Water Conservation Department
625 Third Street
Luxemburg, WI 54217
Phone: 920-845-9700
Website: http://www.co.kewaunee.wi.gov/category.asp?linkcatid=1568&linkid=2262&locid=192

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