



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION

### EHS Circular Letter # 2009-35

To: Local Directors of Health  
Chief Sanitarians

From: Ray Jarema, PE, Section Supervisor (Engineering), Private Well Program

Date: May 18, 2009

Subject: Lake & Other Surface Water Supply Sources

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The purpose of this Circular Letter is to reinforce this Department's position as it relates to surface waters (Lakes, Rivers, etc.) that are utilized as domestic water sources. There are many lake area communities that have pre-existing homes that utilize lake water as the building's water source. Typically, these homes are seasonal cottages and the lake water is utilized for toilets, sinks etc, however, for obvious health reasons it is not utilized for human consumption. Bottled water is typically used for drinking water. Lake water sources could not be utilized for new construction, as the surface water would not constitute an approved water supply for building code purposes. New buildings that need a water supply must be served by an approved water supply well or public water supply, and approved subsurface sewage disposal system or public sewer.

A number of local health officials have contacted this Department about homeowner requests to replace lake sources with water supply wells. This Circular Letter is to remind Local Directors of Health of the following wording that is included in Public Health Code (PHC) Section 19-13-B51m:

#### 19-13-B51m. Well permits

- (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) below no water supply well permit shall be given until it has been demonstrated to the satisfaction of the director of health that public sewers are available or a subsurface sewage disposal system can be installed on the lot in compliance with Sections 19-13-B103a to 19-13-B104d, inclusive of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies.

Based on the above regulation, it is clear that any request for a property, which does not have an existing private water supply well, to replace an existing lake water source with a new private water supply well would not only necessitate identification of a well site that meets the separation distance requirements in PHC Section 19-13-B51d, but also would require the identification of a code complying sewage disposal system area in the event public sewers are not available.

cc: Suzanne Blancaflor, M.S., Chief, Environmental Health Section, DPH  
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