## Private Well Maintenance Recommended

Spring Is A Good Time of Year For Annual Well Check-up

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Kathleen McGinty reminds Pennsylvanians with private drinking water wells that spring is a good time to make sure wells are in proper working order. and to have well water tested.

"Now that the winter snows have melted, it is a good time to check in and around wells to make sure everything is OK," Acting Secretary McGinty said. "It is also a good idea to have well water tested once a year, and it is easy to make testing your water a springcleaning routine."

Properly constructed private water supply systems require only a little routine maintenance. These simple steps will help to protect your health, well system and investment:

• Be aware of changes in your well, the area around your well, or the water it provides.

An annual water test, including a bacterial test, is recommended. But drinking water should be checked any time there is a change in taste, odor or appearance, or anytime a water supply system is serviced.

Contact a DEP regional office for a list of commercial certified drinking water laboratories in Pennsylvania, or look up "water testing" or "laboratories" in the yellow pages of the telephone listings.

- Always use licensed or certified water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed, a pump is installed or the system is serviced. Keep hazardous chemicals, such as paint, fertilizer, pesticides and motor oil, far away from your well.
- Periodically check the well cover or well cap on top of the casing (well) to ensure it is in good repair.
- When landscaping, keep the top of your well at least one foot above the ground. Slope the ground away from your well for proper drainage.

- Take care in working or Co.) - Acting Secretary of the mowing around your well. A damaged casing could jeopardize the sanitary protection of your well. Don't pile mulch, leaves or other materials around your well.
  - Keep records on your well, and keep them in a safe

struction report as well as the annual water well system maintenance and water testing results.

to the end of its serviceable life (usually an average of 30 years), have a qualified water Directions for disinfecting well contractor properly de-

place. These include the con- commission your well after constructing your new system.

Because spring is also a time of year when flooding can occur in Pennsylvania, • When your well has come residents should be prepared to clean and disinfect drinking water wells following a flood. wells and springs, along with

other flood cleanup tips, can be found on the state's Website, PA PowerPort, at www.state.pa.us, PA Keyword: "DEP flood recovery."

Other tips on private water well drilling and maintenance can also be found on the state's site, PA Keyword: "DEP private wells."

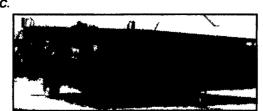
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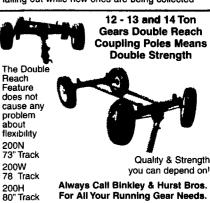
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