
ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, New Hampshire 03301 • (603) 271-3503 • www.des.nh.gov

DWGB-21-6

2020

Constructing Wells within the Service Area of a Public Water System

This document summarizes the state requirements associated with the construction of a potable or non-potable water supply well within the service area of an existing public water system. It is important to note that municipalities may have adopted local regulations that pertain to the location of water supply wells (non-potable and potable) and/or may have attached conditions to local subdivision and/or site plan review approvals that stipulate if and where on-site wells may be located on a particular parcel. This fact sheet does not include any information about local requirements, which in some instances may be more stringent than the state requirements summarized in this document.

Constructing a non-potable water supply well within a service area of a public water system — A water supply well developed on a lot within the service area of a public water system for non-potable use or a geothermal well must comply with the well location and construction requirements stipulated in New Hampshire Code of Administrative Rules Part We 600 – Standards for the Construction, Maintenance and Abandonment of Wells.

Constructing a potable water supply well on lots: 1) Connected to a community sewer system; and 2) Located within a service area of a public water system — Potable water supply wells may be constructed on lots where wastewater is disposed of off-site, if the construction and location of the well complies with the requirements stipulated in We 600. The rules include setback requirements to property lines and known contamination sources.

Constructing a potable water supply well on lots: 1) With on-site wastewater disposal to septic systems; and 2) Located within a service area of a public water system — Small lots that do not conform to current regulations and that were **established prior to 1967** can receive approval for a two-bedroom septic system and an on-lot potable water supply well provided that the septic system meets the applicable setback requirements to wetlands, surface water, and seasonal high groundwater. NHDES' Subsurface Bureau will provide a standard condition pertaining to the construction and location of a potable water supply well that will be part of the Septic System Construction Approval. For lots that fit the scenario described above, the well must be 75 feet from the septic system effluent disposal area.

Lots established **after 1967** typically were approved with a stipulation stating whether the lot would be supplied by an on-lot well or by connecting to a community water system. If an owner of a lot that was approved with a stipulation that the lot would be served by a community water system wants to utilize a on-lot private well, then a new subdivision application would need to be submitted to NHDES

demonstrating that: 1) The lot is capable of meeting the wastewater loading requirements for a four-bedroom home; 2) There is sufficient land area for the sanitary protective well radius on the lot or that easements on adjoining lots will be obtained for the sanitary protective radius of the private well; and 3) The well meets the siting requirements stipulated in We 100-We 1000.

Pursuant to RSA 362:4, IV and V, NHDES has no authority to require that a lot connect to a public water system if the property owner can adhere to the requirements described in this document.

For More Information

Please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at (603) 271-2513 or dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov or visit our website at www.des.nh.gov.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of January 2019. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.