



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Ground Water Rule Compliance

Sample Tap and Sample Tap Location for Single Well Public Water Systems

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Mitchell E. Daniels, Jr.

Governor

Thomas W. Easterly

Commissioner

100 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (317) 232-8670

Toll Free: (800) 451-6027

Description:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) promulgated the final Ground Water Rule (GWR) in October 2006, and it will become effective on December 1, 2009. The GWR applies to public water systems that use wells, and sometimes springs, to provide ground water as a drinking water source. Public water system requirements will be affected, including conducting regular sanitary surveys, source monitoring, corrective actions, treatment and public notification. The Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is in the process of developing a State specific rule to implement and clarify areas in the federal GWR.

Environmental and Public Health Benefits:

- Protecting the public health in a public water supply is based on layers of protection from the source to the tap. The GWR improves protection by requiring monitoring to detect viral and bacterial contamination in ground water sources of drinking water and is estimated to provide a 23% increase in protection from waterborne viral illnesses.

IDEM's Role:

- IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy.
- IDEM's Office of Water Quality has the primary responsibility for implementing the national Safe Drinking Water Act, in Indiana. IDEM's Drinking Water branch assists owners/operators of public water systems in understanding federal rules and meeting their requirements.

Public Water Supplies Role:

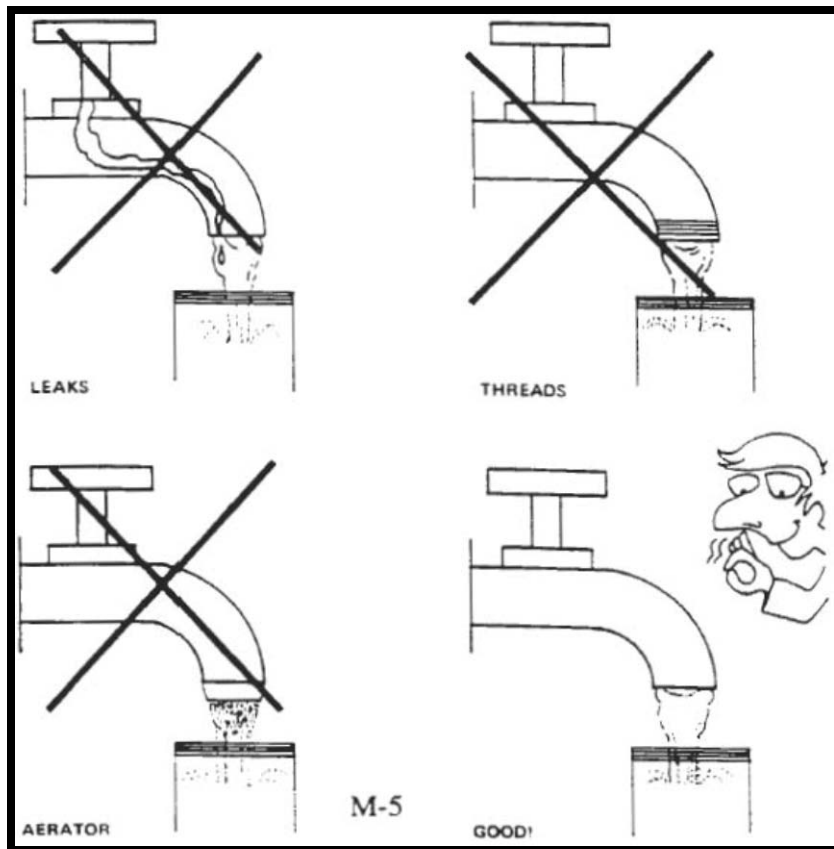
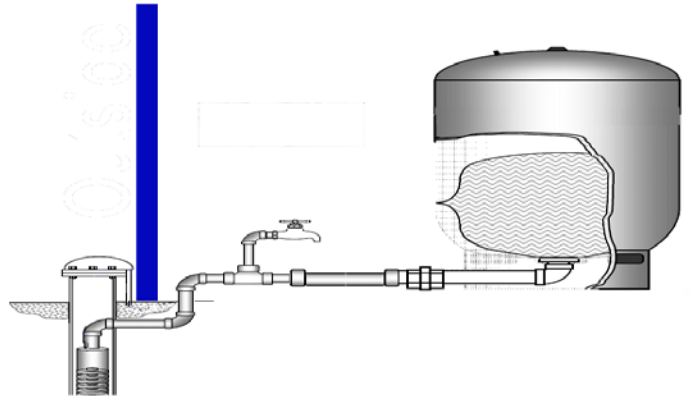
- Install a sample tap at each well, if one is not already installed. The GWR requires each well in a well field to have a tap for collecting samples. Samples must be collected at a point representative of the groundwater source, prior to any pressure tank or treatment.
- The GWR works in conjunction with the Total Coliform Rule (TCR) to detect microbial contamination in drinking water. The GWR requires a sample to be collected from the source when a total coliform distribution system sample is unsatisfactory. This GWR "triggered" source sample must be collected at the well(s) within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving an unsatisfactory total coliform distribution system sample, and must be analyzed for a fecal indicator (such as, E. coli). If a sample isn't collected from the source within twenty-four (24) hours, the system will receive a monitoring violation.



Sample Tap and Sample Tap Location for Single Well Public Water Systems

Location of sample taps must be at a point:

- of positive pressure
- of relatively constant flow rate
- that is readily accessible
- a minimum of eighteen (18) inches above ground or floor level
- before any treatment



Sample Tap Must Be:

- Without leaks
- Down-turned
- Smooth-nosed
- Without interior or exterior threads
- Without a screen, aerator, washer, filter, hose attachment, purification device or other connected appurtenance
- Maintained in a clean condition

For More Information

If you have questions about the Ground Water Rule, please call IDEM's Drinking Water Branch at (800) 451-6027.