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DPHHS/FCSS Guidance Document

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Program: Retail food, Public Accommodations	Guidance Document : Circular FCS1-2012
Subject: Nonpublic water supply	Version: 1

The purpose of this guidance document is: This document provides guidance regarding the requirement of continuous disinfection for some shallow wells, or those influenced by surface water, and serving licensed public establishments. . These non-public water systems are vulnerable to contamination from pathogens and may require treatment to provide a safe water supply. With public water supplies (PWS), the designs of systems are reviewed by DEQ. For non-public systems, the designs are reviewed by the local sanitarians.

Rule Requirement: (ARM 37.111.1) and (ARM 37.110.2).

Body: Circular FCS 1-2012 is currently referenced in the Public Accommodation rules (ARM 37.111.1) and Retail Food Establishment rules (ARM 37.110.2). The following are excerpts from the Circular:

5.1 Disinfection Required

5.1.1 Continuous disinfection is required where the well casing is perforated within 25 feet of the ground surface.

5.1.2 Continuous disinfection is required where the water source is an aquifer with a seasonal high water table within 25 feet of ground surface.

5.1.3 Continuous filtration and disinfection is required for all surface water sources.

7.1 Deviations Allowed

A deviation from the standards established in this circular may be granted by the regulatory authority, on a case-by-case basis.

When a deviation from continuous disinfection is requested by the owner of a licensed establishment with a non-public water supply, they must use the process as outlined in Chapter 7 of the Circular. It is our recommendation that before a deviation is granted, the water must be tested for coliform bacteria. If the sample results are negative then disinfection is not required. If results are positive for coliform bacteria and/or fecal bacteria then disinfection may be required. The local health authority will determine what, if any, disinfection is required and who may collect water samples for testing. Confirmed fecal positive samples should result in the immediate inactivation of the water source. The local health department will need to be involved in determining the treatment required and determination of what is necessary for reactivation of this source. The local health department may require the following actions prior to reactivation:

1. Elimination of the source of contamination,
2. Connection to a new source of water, or
3. Disinfection designed in accordance with DEQ Circular DEQ-3, Chapter 4.

For more information, please contact DPHHS-FCSS at 406-444-2837 or visit our website: www.fcsc.mt.gov