

**Water Test Requirements for Rockland County**

**Smith Labs charges \$295 including going to the home to collect the sample**

Each water sample shall be analyzed for the following parameters:

1. Total coliform bacteria;
2. Either fecal coliform or Escherichia coli (e-coli) if the sample tests positive for total coliform bacteria;
3. Chloride;
4. Nitrate;
5. pH;
6. Arsenic;
7. Iron;
8. Manganese;
9. Sodium;
10. All Principal Organic Contaminants (POCs) listed in NYSDOH Subpart 5-1, Table 9D;
11. Methyl-tert-butyl-ether (MTBE);
12. Vinyl Chloride.

**Water Test Requirements for New Jersey**

**Basically this is the same price and requirements as Rockland County. There are different requirements depending on the county.**

**Total Coliform  
\*Fecal Coliform  
or E.coli  
Nitrate  
Iron  
Manganese  
pH  
VOCs  
Lead  
Arsenic  
Mercury  
Gross Alpha  
Particle Activity**

**Water Test requirements Dutchess Department of Health would require:**

Bacteriological Parameters

Total Coliform, Escherichia coli.

Inorganic Parameters

Alkalinity	Cyanide	Nitrite
Antimony	Hardness	pH
Arsenic	Iron	Selenium
Barium	Lead	Sodium
Beryllium	Manganese	Sulfate
Cadmium	Mercury	Thallium
Chlorides	Nickel	Turbidity
Chromium	Nitrate	

Principal Organic Chemicals

- EPA method 502.2 with a detection limit of 0.5 ug/l or less. MTBE detection limit is 0.10 ug/L.

**The cost to test these chemicals including lab collection is \$585. Some of the additional inorganic chemicals the Dutchess County Department of Health wants us to test are not life threatening. In fact some of the chemicals, according to the EPA, have not been detected or have a slight chance of being detected in groundwater in NY\*. Some of these, such as hardness, can be tested for free with a visit from a company like Culligan. Why does Escherichia coliform need to be tested if the total coliform test is negative? The only reason to do the Escherichia test would be if the total coliform test was positive. One needs to question why the Dutchess County Department of Health is demanding these items be tested for an additional cost of \$290-almost twice the cost to test life threatening contaminants!**

\*see listing on attached paperwork

**The Question of Education**

Education is important but will not necessarily convince residents and homebuyers to test.

- 1) Residents living close to the Hopewell Precision Superfund site have not voluntarily tested their water.
- 2) Residents with major illnesses were sent information after requesting it from our website. To date, none have followed through on testing.

- 3) The Dutchess County Department of Health website has confusing and incorrect information regarding water testing.
- 4) The NYS Department of Health web site, according to our research, does not discuss chemical testing, only bacterial testing.

### **Recent Dutchess County Department of Health remarks to the Dutchess County Legislature during a committee meeting**

**During a legislature environmental committee meeting September 7, 2006, Mr Capowski from the Dutchess Department of Health, stated as fact that since 2004, after banning MTBE, there had been no new MTBE findings in any PUBLIC well. After discussion from the legislators, Mary Swartz, co-chair of this environmental committee, asked me if I had wanted to make a statement. I said that the department of health's remark was incorrect. I reminded everyone attending that 1 year earlier, September 2005, the Brettview Public Well in East Fishkill which served 290 homes had to be CLOSED because of MTBE contamination. I then reminded Mary Swartz that she represents the district where this well is located. The department of health left the meeting quickly before the press could ask them about this issue.**

**It seems that when a public well needs to be closed, even if it is for contamination, the well is taken out of their database and forgotten. How do you feel knowing the department of health forgot about residents you represent? Should a well be wiped off all databases because it was closed due to contamination? If I were not there would anyone have remembered about the Brettview well?**

### **HOW MANY OTHER WELLS HAVE BEEN FORGOTTEN?**

**The department of health also stated that because there have been no **new** MTBE findings, our waters are healthy. My question is this. How many public wells in the past contained MTBE, TCE, TCA, PCE and other contaminants? How many public wells currently contain these chemicals including levels below the Maximum Contaminant Level, MCL? Are private well owners near these public wells notified that they need to test their water? We all get our water from the same place.**

### **The NYS Disclosure Law**

**Anyone living with water contamination can sell their home without disclosing that anything is wrong with their home. And this is legal. All it takes is filling out a disclosure form and \$500. Maybe \$500 was a deterrent a long time ago, but now it is an easy out. Most residents living with contamination have high standards and would never sell their home without disclosing their contamination problem, but others with a private well would rather pay the \$500 than spend \$300 to test their water. Perhaps New York State legislators**

**need to change the price of non-disclosure. I think \$5000 would be a price that might keep sellers honest and ethical.**

## **WHAT ARE WE AFRAID OF?**

**People think that if their home has contaminated water they will have trouble selling their home and the value of their home declines.**