

## **Well Regulations** **Town of Dunstable**

These regulations are adopted pursuant to Chapter 111, Section 31 of the Massachusetts General Laws for the purpose of preserving the public health as it relates to the standards for wells within the Town of Dunstable.

- 1. No one shall engage in the construction, alteration, repair or decommission of a well without first obtaining a permit from the Dunstable Board of Health.**
  
- 2. Well construction permits shall be issued to individuals or companies who are licensed as well drillers by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, as required by 313 CMR 3.00 and Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 21, Section 16.**
  
- 3. Every well driller engaged in the construction, alteration, repair or abandonment of well (s) in the Town of Dunstable shall file a copy of their license or certificate issued by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with the Dunstable Board of Health.**
  
- 4. A plot plan shall be filed at the time of application for a well construction permit. The plot plan shall show:**
  - A. The property lines.**
  - B. All existing wells and septic systems with 200 feet of the proposed well.**
  - C. All recognized toxic waste sites, municipal landfills, automotive repair/junk yards within 600 feet.**
  - D. The location of the proposed well and its relation to the nearest foundation or building within 200 feet. If no such structure exists, a benchmark within 100 feet must be located.**

- 5. No well shall be constructed within 100 feet of a septic system or cesspool (50 feet from an associated sealed septic tank), including an expansion leaching area approved by the Dunstable Board of Health regardless of whether it is constructed or not.**
- 6. No well shall be constructed within 20 feet of a property line.**
- 7. The Dunstable Board of Health may deny permission to construct a well in a location with a significant risk, of polluted water as indicated by hydrological studies, even in locations at greater distances from sources of contamination than discussed in Sections 5 and 6.**
- 8. No well shall be constructed in an area with known water contamination.**
- 9. No well shall be sited in a low area with a potential for ponding of rainwater or surface run-off, including surface run-off from a failed leaching facility.**
- 10. All topographic and drainage changes on property must ensure that run-off is away from the well.**
- 11. Every new well shall be tested for water quality and quantity; the results of this analysis must be submitted to the Board of Health or its agent within 30 days of completion of construction of the well.**
- 12. A sample of water, whose drawing was witnessed by the Dunstable Board of Health or its agent, or whose drawing was taken by a certified agent of an approved water testing laboratory, shall be tested at an approved laboratory and shown to meet accepted standards of agencies of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the federal government and the Dunstable Board of Health, including:
  - A. Coliform bacteria**
  - B. Sodium**
  - C. Total nitrogen**
  - D. Heterotrophic plate count**
  - E. pH test**
  - F. Arsenic must not exceed a Dunstable Board of Health standard of 0.01 parts per million.****

**Other tests may be added or deleted according to local conditions.**

**13. If the water test for a new well indicates unacceptable water quality, the Dunstable Board of Health or its agent must be informed within 24 hours. The Dunstable Board of Health will advise the owner or well driller of the appropriate actions that must be undertaken, including the possibility of abandonment of the well.**

**14. A new well must demonstrate the ability to deliver 1200 gallons over a four hour period, and completely recover to its static water level within 24 hours.**

**15. Shallow wells that rely on an unconfined aquifer may be constructed only with special permission of the Dunstable Board of Health and only when in the opinion of the Dunstable Board of Health, such a shallow well would best serve public health interest.**

**16. The Board of Health or its agent shall investigate violations of these regulations or of any permit issued and may take such actions as it may deem necessary for the protection of public health. Whosoever violates these regulations shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00**

**17. The Dunstable Board of Health may waive one or more of these regulations if the owner of the property on which a well is to be constructed, altered, repaired or abandoned can indicate such a waiver would serve public health interests and would alleviate a hardship.**

**18. Each of the above adopted local regulations shall be construed separate so that if any regulation, sentence, clause, or phrase thereof shall be invalid for any reason, the remainder of that regulation and all other regulations shall remain in force.**

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**Robert Parkin, Chairman**

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**William Moeller, Board Member**

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**Maria Amodei, Board Member**

**Date Approved: December 15, 1992**

**Date Amended: April 16, 2001**

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