

INFORMATION SHEET
Well Abandonment Ordinance
(8.03)

The Village of Menomonee Falls adopted a Well Abandonment Ordinance to comply with Wisconsin Administrative Code NR811 (copy is enclosed with this packet). The purpose of this ordinance is to prevent contamination of ground water and to protect public health, safety, and welfare, by assuring that unused, unsafe, or non-complying wells or wells which may serve as conduits for contamination or wells which may be illegally cross-connected to the municipal water system are properly abandoned.

All private wells located on premises served by the municipal water system shall be abandoned in accordance with the terms of this ordinance and Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 811, within **one year of the date of connection** (new service connections), or **one year of notification** (pre-existing service connections) of that property to the municipal water system, **unless** a well operation permit has been obtained by the well owner from the Village of Menomonee Falls.

The Village of Menomonee Falls may grant a permit to a private well owner to operate a well for a period not to exceed five years providing the conditions listed below are met. An owner may renew a well operation permit by submitting information verifying the conditions listed below continue to be met. The Water Utility or its agent may conduct inspections or have a water quality test conducted at the applicant's expense to obtain or verify information necessary for consideration of a permit application or renewal. Permit applications or renewals must be made on forms provided by the Village Building Inspection Department. The following conditions must be met for issuance or renewal of a well operation permit:

- There are no cross-connections between the well pump installation and the municipal water system.
- The proposed use of the well and pump installation must be for outside use only.

The property owner is responsible for the work and costs of:

- Assuring that the well and pump installation meet or are upgraded to meet the requirements of Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 812. **A certified well contractor or pump installer must inspect the well to certify its compliance.** A well inspection form, supplied by the Building Inspection Department, must be completed with the application.
- The well construction and pump installation have a history of producing bacteriologically safe water as evidenced by at least **one sample**. No exception to this condition may be made for unsafe wells, unless the Department of Natural Resources approves, in writing, the continued use of the well. Tests can be conducted at the Village of Menomonee Falls Water Utility Laboratory or a facility of your choosing. For a complete list of certified laboratories, please go to www.menomonee-falls.org.

The fee for a well operation permit is \$35.00 and may be obtained by mailing a copy of your safe water test results with payment to the Village of Menomonee Falls Utilities Department. **The fee for a well abandonment permit is \$100.00** and must be paid to the office of the Village of Menomonee Falls Plumbing Inspector. All fees cover administrative costs and plumbing inspection costs.

All wells abandoned under the jurisdiction of this ordinance must be abandoned according to procedures and methods of Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 812. All debris, pump, piping, unsealed liners, and other obstructions, which may interfere with sealing, must be removed prior to abandonment.

The owner of the well, or the owner's agent, must notify the office of the Plumbing Inspector at least **48 hours prior to commencement of any abandonment** activities. The Plumbing Inspector must observe the abandonment of the well. The well owner to the Department of Natural Resources must submit a well abandonment form, supplied by the Building Inspection Department within ten days of the completion of the well abandonment.

Any person who violates any provision of the Well Abandonment Ordinance will be subject to a penalty of:

- **First Offense – Penalty:** Forfeit not more than \$500.00, together with the costs of prosecution, and in default payment of such forfeiture and costs of prosecution shall be imprisoned in the County Jail of Waukesha County until said forfeiture and costs are paid, but not exceeding 90 days.
- **Second Offense – Penalty:** Forfeit not more than \$1,000.00, together with the costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs of prosecution, shall be imprisoned in the County Jail of Waukesha County until said forfeiture and costs are paid, but not to exceed six months.