

June 20, 2003

PIM #98-02

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Directors
Environmental Health Managers
Division of Food and Environmental Services Staff

FROM: Gary L. Hagy, Director
Division of Food and Environmental Services

SUBJECT: Approved Water Supplies

For several years there has been confusion and inconsistencies in the field regarding what constitutes a waterworks and what constitutes an "approved water supply" that so many of our regulations require. This is particularly true in the food program where the term "approved water supply" is actually defined.

The Implementation Manual for the Non-Community Water Program has been revised and should provide clarification for non-community water supplies. However, some water supplies that serve permitted establishments do not meet the definition of a waterworks. This **PIM** should eliminate some of the confusion.

Please insert this document in your **PIM** manual and distribute copies to all environmental health staff in your district. Please note that the **PIM** is effective March 1, 1998.

If you have any questions, please contact Gary L. Hagy.

Program: All Environmental Health Programs

Subject: Approved Water Supplies

Objective: Establish criteria for approved water supplies that are not waterworks.

Authority: The authority for issuing this PIM is as follows:

***Rules and Regulations of the Board of Health, Commonwealth of Virginia,
Governing Restaurants***

1. Part One Definitions (12 VAC 5-420-10) ;
2. § 15.1 Water Supply, General (12 VAC 5-420-1230).

Regulations Governing Transient Lodging and Hotel Sanitation in Virginia

1. § 3 Water Supplies (12 VAC 5-430-30).

Regulations for Summer Camps

1. § 2 Water Supplies (12 VAC 5-440-20).

Rules and Regulations Governing Campgrounds

1. Article 8 Water Supplies (12 VAC 5-450-80).

***Regulations Governing Tourist Establishment Swimming Pools and Other
Public Pools***

1. Part II, Article I, Section A, Water Supplies (12 VAC 5-460-40).

***Rules and Regulations Governing the Construction and Maintenance of
Migrant Labor Camps***

1. § 4.04 Requirements for Water Supplies (12 VAC 5-500-320).

Background: The regulations listed above require the permitted establishment to have “an approved water supply.” In cases when the water supply does not meet the definition of a “waterworks” (as defined in the *Code of Virginia* and the *Waterworks Regulations*) there are not clearly defined criteria for what an approved water supply is. The intent of this document is to define criteria for approved water supplies that are not waterworks.

Interpretation: For the purpose of our environmental health regulations, a water supply serving a permitted establishment falls into two categories, either it is a waterworks or it is not. In almost all cases, the regulations we enforce require that the permitted establishment have an approved water supply as a condition of the permit. For water supplies that are not waterworks, the water system should be evaluated to determine if its construction complies with the *Private Well Regulations* and sampling should be conducted to determine the bacteriological quality of the water.

Procedure: Only those facilities meeting the definition of a waterworks, as interpreted by the Office of Water Programs (i.e., they serve drinking water) shall be classified and permitted as waterworks.

Any regulations administered by the Division of Food and Environmental Services that require a water supply to be "an approved water supply" will require the water supply to comply with the *Waterworks Regulations* only if the establishment meets the definition of a waterworks. If the establishment does not meet the definition of a waterworks, the water supply will be evaluated for compliance with the construction criteria of the *Private Well Regulations* and a bacteriological sample history should be obtained that shows satisfactory results.

As a recommendation, the water supply should be tested in the same manner (i.e., the same number of samples) as required by the *Waterworks Regulations* for a waterworks.

Responsibility: The district manager is responsible for the implementation of this PIM by district environmental health staff.

Effective Date: March 1, 1997

Approved by:

Director
Division of Food and Environmental Services

Endorsed by:

Director
Office of Environmental Health Services