

**Connecticut Water Company**

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**ConnecticutWater**



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Dear Watershed Property Owner:

**Information About Public Water Supply Watershed Inspections**

As you may be aware, Connecticut Water is a public water utility that provides drinking water to about 104,000 customers or over 280,000 people in 59 communities in the state. Our water comes from a combination of wells and reservoirs and we take a number of steps to protect those water sources and treat and monitor the water delivered to our customers.

We are reaching out to you, because you own property that is located within a watershed area or an area that drains into one of our public drinking water sources. As such, we would like to inform you of our Watershed Inspection Program and how you as a property owner can help protect these drinking water supplies. Please see the frequently asked questions (FAQs) on the reverse of this letter for more information about this program or visit our website at [www.ctwater.com/watershed](http://www.ctwater.com/watershed).

There are approximately 4,000+ watershed properties throughout the state that Connecticut Water is required by state health department regulations to inspect.

- Section 19-13-B102(b) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies requires water utilities to perform an annual inspection of their watershed areas and to submit an annual report to the Department of Public Health (DPH).
- Section 25-51 of the Connecticut General Statutes authorizes water utility inspectors to enter and inspect premises located within public drinking water supply reservoir watershed areas.

Since we inspect our watershed properties at various intervals – either on an annual, bi-annual, or tri-annual cycle, we may be inspecting your property this year. The inspection involves a visual evaluation of your property by our watershed inspectors for any conditions that could potentially impact the water quality of the water supply. You do not need to be present for the inspection, but we wanted you to be aware of the requirement.

Our employees always have company ID's and travel in vehicles with the company logo. The chief elected official in your town and the local police department are notified when we will be conducting inspections. Feel free to call us at 1.800.286.5700 or send us an e-mail at [watershed@ctwater.com](mailto:watershed@ctwater.com) if you have any questions or contact your local police if you have concerns if someone is on your property that you are not sure is from Connecticut Water.

We thank you for your cooperation in this important matter.

# Watershed Inspection Program FAQ

## **Q: What is a public drinking supply watershed?**

A watershed is the area of land that drains surface water (rainfall/snowmelt) to a common basin such as a stream, river, lake or reservoir. Water companies are required to inspect watershed areas where the surface water drains to a lake, river, or reservoir whose water is used to supply people with their drinking water.

## **Q: What are watershed inspectors looking for?**

The watershed inspectors look for anything on the property that has the potential to pollute the public drinking water supply. Inspectors note things such as the presence, contents, size, location, and/or condition of:

- sanitary system (sewer or septic)
- above-ground and underground storage tanks
- chemicals used and stored on the property
- stormwater management system (catch basins, detention areas, drywells, municipal system tie-ins)
- floor drains

Inspectors also make note of the number and type of large animals, the existence of nearby ponds or watercourses, and other conditions which could contribute to water quality problems such as manure piles, trash or debris dumping, improper disposal or spillage of chemicals, erosion, etc.

## **Q: What happens if a problem is found?**

Issues sometimes discovered include septic system failure or improper storage of chemicals. If we discover a problem, the property owner will be notified in writing and be given a reasonable time to correct the problem. We will also report the problem to the local town health department if it is not resolved.

## **Q: Do I need to be home for the inspection to take place?**

No. Only the outside grounds will be checked during an inspection.

## **Q: Will I be notified of the date of the inspection at my property?**

Given that the number of inspections to be conducted and that we want to find the property in its typical condition, we do not notify you of an exact date for an inspection. All of our inspectors have company ID's and travel in vehicles with the company logo.

Feel free to call us at 1.800.286.5700 if you have any questions or contact your local police if you have concerns if someone is on your property that you are not sure is from Connecticut Water.