

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

WELL WATER TESTING

(No.)
CODE 355



DEFINITION

Testing for physical, biological and chemical characteristics of groundwater in wells or spring developments.

PURPOSE

To determine the quality of a groundwater supply for the following intended uses:

- irrigation,
- livestock,
- fish and wildlife habitat,
- aquaculture enterprises,
- or other agricultural uses.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This standard applies to water supplies that are used or have potential to be used on farms or ranches.

This practice does not apply to groundwater for human consumption, nor wells for monitoring groundwater hydrology or contamination associated with animal waste storage or treatment installations.

CRITERIA

Identify the specific use of the water and the water quality concerns.

Determine the required tests and applicable standards based on the planned use of the water.

Collect and analyze water samples in accordance with established procedures. Specific parameters, sampling procedures, and laboratory analyses may be specifically required by local, State, Tribal, or Federal laws and regulations. Contact the testing entity for specific guidance. Water sample analysis shall be performed by laboratories that have been certified by Florida Department of Health.

Obtain interpretation of test results and recommendations for remedial actions, as necessary, from a source knowledgeable of the testing procedures and objectives.

Evaluate and avoid or minimize impact to cultural resources, wetlands and Federal and state protected species to the extent practicable during planning, design and implementation of this conservation practice in accordance with established National and Florida policy, General Manual (GM) Title 420-Part 401; Title 450-Part 401, Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26, National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Florida Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6, National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH), National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM), and the National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH).

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the following items in planning water supply testing:

- Location and depth of supply, aquifer characteristics, geology, and history of site in relationship to sources of potential contamination such as surface water, septic system, chemical storage facilities, landfills, roads, and animal waste storage or

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service or download it from the electronic Field Office Technical Guide.

treatment facility, or naturally occurring sources of contamination.

- Water supply construction practices used such as dug, drilled, or cased well, or spring development.
- Using a computerized total farm record-keeping system for ease of data input, analysis, and retrieval.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Prepare plans and specifications for water testing to be consistent with this standard to achieve the desired results.

Specify guidelines describing process of collection, storage, transport, testing samples, and reporting test results. As a minimum, the plans and specifications shall include the following:

- Location of water well to be tested.
- Contaminants to be tested.
- Frequency of testing.
- Guidelines describing process of collection, storage, transport, testing, and reporting.
- Location of utilities and notification requirements.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Records on water testing information will include:

- Sample site, location, and depth
- Remotely sensed or in-situ records of water conditions within the well (pH, conductivity, turbidity, etc.),

- Date and time water sample taken,
- Name and title of person who collected sample,
- Standard collection procedure followed,
- Water test analysis date,
- Name of laboratory performing the analysis,
- Tested contaminants,
- Schedule of additional testing at required frequency according to applicable standard,
- Records to evaluate trends and the effects of remedial action to produce water of sufficient quality for the intended purpose,
- Weather data on date the sample was taken,
- Observations on well condition, and
- Other records as required.

REFERENCES

Chapter 62-520, FAC, "Ground Water Classes, Standards, and Exemptions"

General Manual (GM)

Title 420-Part 401

Title 450-Part 401

Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26

National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook

National Environmental Compliance Handbook

National Food Security Act Manual

National Planning Procedures Handbook

Florida Supplements to Parts 600.1 and

600.6

National Water Quality Handbook Parts 614 and

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