



MDH Fact Sheet on Benefits and Costs of a Community Public Water System

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A Community Public Water System (CPWS) is defined under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) as a water system that serves at least 15 homes or 25 year round residents.

There are approximately 1,000 CPWSs in Minnesota, with the largest being Minneapolis and the smallest typically being manufactured home parks, housing developments and apartment buildings.

There are both benefits and costs for homeowners connected to a CPWS. The draft fact sheet is intended to describe what a prospective homeowner should consider if changing from private well use to a CPWS.

Benefits of a CPWS:

- Source water protection plans and action items
- Regular inspections and site visits by MN Dept. of Health (MDH) engineers
- Certified water operators
- Annual water quality report
- Regular monitoring for 100+ contaminants
- Water quality that meets the SDWA
- Requirement for consistent pressure and volume
- Convenience of having someone else manage their water supply

Costs of a CPWS:

- Treatment may be required, including disinfection
- Requirements associated with meeting the SDWA
- Some homeowners prefer the option of managing their own water system

Planning and Budgeting for Homeowners:

Costs to use a CPWS

- Service connection
- Service connection repair
- System billing (includes water quality testing)

Costs to use a private well

- Well repair and replacement
- Repair/replacement of pump and pressure tank, and energy use
- Water quality testing

Additional information:

If settlement funding is used to connect a home to a public water system, the private well is required to be sealed, unless the MPCA finds the well to be useful for conversion to a monitoring well for continued monitoring of the plume.

The MN Well Code also requires that a well not in use (within or outside a Special Well and Boring Construction Area) be sealed, unless MDH determines a well maintenance permit may be allowed, with an annual fee of \$175. A maintenance permit will not be approved by the MDH if the well is contaminated or if the well is located, constructed, or maintained in a manner that is a safety or health hazard.

According to the MN Plumbing Code, if a public water supply is accessible, the water distribution shall be connected to it unless otherwise permitted by the Authority Having Jurisdiction. In addition, the Plumbing Code does not allow cross connections.

Local units of government may have additional requirements.

Thank you.

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