



Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Resource Protection – Drinking Water Program

Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GWUDI)
Criteria for Determining Exemption
Factsheet for Non-Community Public Water Systems

INTRODUCTION

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection’s Drinking Water Program prepared this factsheet to help non-community public water systems (PWS) determine if their groundwater sources meet exemption criteria and therefore would not be classified as a GWUDI sources. Sources that are classified as “non-GWUDI” are exempt from meeting the requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR). In order to be considered “exempt” from treatment, the PWS must discuss requirements with the MassDEP regional office. MassDEP staff will either complete a field verification form or require the PWS to complete and submit the form. Following the review, a determination will be made. All PWSs with groundwater sources that do not meet the exemption criteria as determined by MassDEP, must conduct microscopic particulate analyses (MPA) to determine if the groundwater source is GWUDI. Additional details are provided below.

SAND & GRAVEL WELLS at non-community systems shall be considered exempt if one of the following criteria is met:

1. The well must be located 100 feet or more horizontally from a surface water feature and not located within the 100-year floodplain; *if the well is within the 100 year floodplain, the well should be evaluated at the next sanitary survey for flooding or construction issues.*

OR

2. If the well is 100 feet or less from a surface water feature, **ALL** of the following conditions must be met:
 - a) The well must be 50 ft or more in depth.
 - b) The well has a sanitary seal **or** the well has no sanitary seal but a MassDEP sanitary survey determines that the well is not subject to flooding, and the height of the well casing is a minimum of 18 inches above the ground or as the MassDEP directs. (*Routine DEP enforcement will ensure compliance with sanitary seal requirements.*)
 - c) No bacteriological violations occurred within the last three years for the system and well **or** if there were violations, they were corrected and/or not attributed to surface water infiltration.

BEDROCK WELLS at non-community systems shall be considered exempt if one of the following criteria is met:

1. The well must be greater than 100 feet or more horizontally from a surface water feature.

OR

2. If the well is 100 feet or less from a surface water feature, **ALL** of the following conditions must be met:
 - a) The well must be 50 ft or more in depth.
 - b) The well has a sanitary seal **or** the well has no sanitary seal but a MassDEP sanitary survey determines that the well is not subject to flooding, and the height of the well casing is a minimum of 18 inches above the ground or as the MassDEP directs. (*Routine DEP enforcement will ensure compliance with sanitary seal requirements.*)
 - c) No bacteriological violations occurred within the last three years for the system and well **or** if there were violations, they were corrected and/or not attributed to surface water infiltration.

SPRINGS

All springs must conduct MPA testing.

DUG WELLS

Dug wells are similar to sand and gravel wells and are evaluated using the same criteria.