

Pre-Drill Water Supply Sampling Facts

Purpose: This document provides answers to some basic questions that may be asked by private and/or public water supply owners regarding pre-drill water supply sampling programs conducted in conjunction with planned oil and gas drilling operations. It is offered for use as a reference document to serve as a tool for continuous improvement in our communications and stewardship with the public.

Pre-drill water supply sampling and surveys are recommended practices of the Marcellus Shale Coalition. They also serve to address and complement regulatory requirements.

1. What is Pre-Drill Water Supply Sampling?

The purpose of Pre-Drill Water Supply Sampling is to collect water quality data for a given area prior to an oil and gas operator's drilling activities. This service is provided at no cost to the property owner.

2. Why is it important to perform Pre-Drill Water Supply Sampling?

Pre-Drill Water Supply Sampling provides important information to water supply owners on their water quality. The sampling provides a snapshot of water quality to establish baseline conditions prior to performing oil or gas drilling related activities. Water supply owners are strongly encouraged to participate in the program.

3. What happens if I refuse sampling?

The oil and gas operator will document the refusal and may send an acknowledgement to the water supply owner confirming that access was refused. The water supply owner's rights may be impacted if you refuse sampling.

4. What will be included in the Pre-Drill Water Supply Survey?

A Pre-Drill Water Supply Survey form will request information regarding water sources on your property or that you use (such as potable wells, springs, streams, ponds, cisterns, etc.).

5. What's my role?

You will be requested to provide basic contact information (e.g. name, address, phone number, etc.) and assistance in identifying water sources on your property and their use. You are also responsible for providing safe access (i.e., control of dogs, livestock, etc.) for the sampling technician to collect samples.

6. Who will collect the water samples?

Independent, third-party sampling personnel contracted by the oil and gas operator or designee will collect the samples.

7. What water sources will be included?

Potential water supplies that are within a certain radius of the oil and gas development activities may be sampled. Some examples of water supplies that may be evaluated include: wells, springs, and ponds used for domestic or agricultural purposes. An oil and gas operator may choose to collect additional samples. Sample collection activities will be coordinated with the landowner.

8. What water quality tests will be performed?

An independent laboratory accredited by the appropriate regulatory agency will analyze samples based on an operator's specified list of parameters. A typical list of parameters that may be analyzed as part of a Pre-Drill Water Supply Sampling program includes:

Alkalinity	Xylene
Ethylene Glycol	Aluminum
pH (field and/or lab)	Arsenic
Specific Conductance	Barium
Total Dissolved Solids	Boron
Total Suspended Solids	Calcium
Chloride	Chromium
Sulfate	Copper
Bromide	Lead
Hardness	Lithium
Nitrate as N	Iron
MBAS/ Surfactants	Magnesium
Turbidity	Manganese
Dissolved Methane	Potassium
Dissolved Ethane	Selenium
Dissolved Propane	Sodium
Benzene	Strontium
Toluene	Vanadium
Ethylbenzene	Zinc

Additional information regarding water testing can be found at the MSC's ["Tips on Understanding Your Water Test Results"](#)

9. Why this list of parameters?

The list of analytical parameters includes both typical indicators of water quality as well as potential indicators of drilling activity. In other words, the data will not only indicate general pre-drilling water quality, but it will also set a baseline for a number of selected substances that are typically associated with oil and gas activities. An operator may also choose to modify parameter lists based on operation-specific knowledge or State Regulatory Agency (SRA) requirements.

10. Do I get a copy of the water quality test results?

Yes, the oil and gas operator or their designee will provide the test results to you upon request.

11. How do I interpret the test results?

See the MSC's ["Tips on Understanding Your Water Test Results"](#)

12. How do I know I can trust these results?

Only independent, properly trained technicians and accredited laboratories will be employed for collecting and analyzing samples.

13. Who should be contact with questions?

If you have questions related to your testing results, you may contact the Water Systems Council – Wellcare Hotline at (888) 395-1033 or your state regulatory agency. In addition, see the MSC’s [“Tips on Understanding Your Water Test Results”](#)