
RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH


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Presentation to the Special Legislative Commission to Study and Provide Recommendations on the Water Supply Planning for New Housing Developments in Rural Communities

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Amy Parmenter, Chief Administrator
RIDOH Center for Drinking Water Quality
Amy.Parmenter@health.ri.gov

Public Water Systems (PWS)

What is a Public Water System?

A system for the provision to the public of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances, if such system has at least fifteen (15) service connections or regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) individuals daily at least sixty (60) days out of the year.

RIDOH Public Drinking Water Regulations

216-RICR-50-05-1 (Section 1.2(A)(103))

Public Water Systems (PWS)

What is a Public Water System?

216-RICR-50-05-1

1.3 Coverage

A. This Part applies to any PWS unless a PWS meets all of the following conditions:

1.The system consists only of distribution or storage facilities (and does not have any collection or treatment facilities);

2.The system obtains all of its water from a PWS to which this Part applies; and

3.The system does not sell water to any person.

Community PWS

Section 1.4(H). Connection to another public water supply. A new public water supply shall not be approved for use at any facility if another community public water supply is reasonably accessible to such facility as determined by the Director, and permission to connect can be obtained from the authority having jurisdiction.

New wells (Section 1.4(A)):

- **Site plans stamped by a P.E.**
- **Well construction plans stamped by a P.E.**
- **Full suite of testing**

Community PWS

New wells (Section 1.4(A)) (cont.):

- "**Protective Radius".** The land w/in 200 ft (bedrock well) or 400 ft (stratified drift well) must by owned or otherwise controlled (by easements) by the PWS owner and kept free of potential sources of contamination.
- **"Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)".** Site plans must show potential sources of contamination within 1,750+ ft.
- **An assessment of financial viability for the PWS to maintain compliance.**

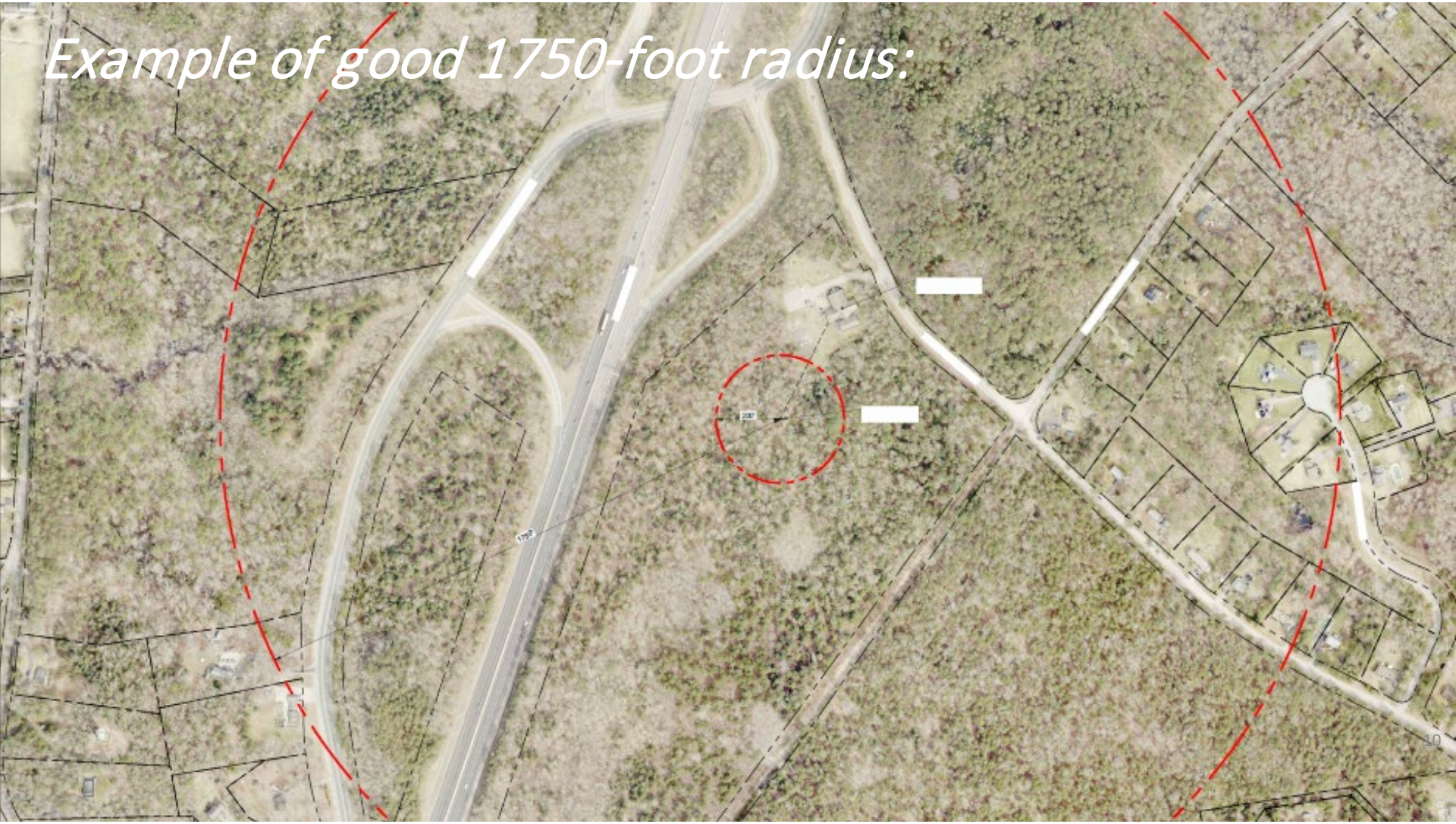
Example of issues within 200-foot radius:




Example of good
200-foot radius:



Example of issues within the 1750-foot radius:


Example of good 1750-foot radius:

Requirements to maintain a Community PWS

Routine sampling (including sampling plans) & reporting – bacteria, nitrate/nitrite, lead/copper, chemicals, radionuclides, PFAS, disinfection byproducts (if disinfect)

Emergency Response Plan

Annual Consumer Confidence Report

Certified operator

Routine RIDOH inspections

Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manual

Cross Connection Control Plan

Funding for Community PWS (DWSRF)

- **Eligible projects**
  - Those that will facilitate compliance w/the Public Drinking Water Regulations
    - Includes projects to extend the water lines of an existing PWS to an area served by contaminated private drinking water wells
- **Ineligible projects**
  - The purchase of land for source water protection
  - Projects primarily intended to serve future growth or needed mainly for fire protection

Amy Parmenter
Chief Administrator
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https://health.ri.gov/drinking-water-quality