



Transient Non-community Sanitary Surveys and Annual Site Visits

Inspections of water systems help ensure drinking water is safe for human consumption. Two Federal rules linked with the Safe Drinking Water Act require inspections. The Ground Water Rule (GWR) requires all Transient Noncommunity (TN) water systems using a ground water source to conduct sanitary surveys. The Wisconsin Revised Total Coliform Rule agreement requires an annual site visit for TNs that are approved to sample annually for coliform bacteria.

Sanitary Surveys are inspections that provide a full review of the water system and water system management. An initial survey is conducted at all new TN water systems. Existing TN water systems are required to have a survey at least every five years. For an example of a TN Sanitary Survey form [click here](#).

Annual Site Visits are shorter inspections that are required in the years a sanitary survey is not done at TN's that have a reduced sampling schedule for coliform bacteria. The increased inspection schedule is applied to better monitor risks for coliform contamination. Risks for coliform contamination that are found are given a due date to correct the issue in a short period of time. For an example of a TN Annual Site Visit form [click here](#).

WI Department of Natural Resources and Contracted County staff inspect TN water systems. Both a sanitary survey and the annual site visit review the 5 physical elements of a water system. These include:

1. SOURCE

The most common source of drinking water for TN water systems is ground water. A DNR or county staff member will look at the well casing, the sanitary conditions, and location of the well relative to potential contamination sources. Well construction information is useful to have available as part of the review.



Well casing and well cap



Well height – current code 12-inch minimum



Well screen and conduit seal check

2. PUMPS, PUMP FACILITIES & CONTROLS

Information gathered on the well pump is reviewed, along with a visual review of the pump electrical wiring, and well discharge type as part of the survey. It is helpful to share information on the pump size, year of installation, and model number if it is available.



Electrical control box



Well pump pressure switch box, pressure gauge and source sample faucet



Above ground discharge & controls on discharge line



Hand pump

3. STORAGE

The type of water storage, location, and condition of the equipment are examined.



Pressure tanks



4. TREATMENT

A review is completed of treatment equipment installed on the water system and maintenance practices for the equipment.



Water softener



Sediment filter



Chlorination injection system and pre-treatment devices

5. Distribution System

Portions of the plumbing system that are accessible during the inspection are reviewed for backflow protection, and sanitary conditions.



Faucet with built-in vacuum breaker



Manufactured air gap for water treatment backwash



Dual check valve

In addition to the above-mentioned physical elements of the water system, a sanitary survey further evaluates the following three items.

6. System Management & Compliance

The compliance history of the water system and the ability of the water system representative to respond and resolve system issues is assessed.

7. Monitoring, Reporting, & Data Verification

The water sampling results are reviewed for timeliness in completing requirements and analyzing contamination trends. The sampling plan locations are viewed, and documentation is updated.

8. Operator Compliance

The responsible water system contacts and the ability of these individuals to respond to water system requirements is evaluated.

Most Transient Non-community water well and pump systems must meet construction requirements of Wisconsin Administrative Code Ch. NR 812, Well Construction and Pump Installation. NR 812 is the primary well code referenced in both Sanitary Surveys and Annual Site Visits. For additional NR 812 information [click here](#).

Requested Actions and Recommendations

Issues identified during a Sanitary Survey/Annual Site Visit are assigned one of four categories based on the severity of the issue. These categories include:

Significant Deficiencies/Sanitary Defect indicate noncompliance with one or more Wisconsin Administrative Codes and/or *pose an immediate health risk to consumers*. Examples include absence of a well seal, a malfunctioning treatment system installed to remove a contaminant that could harm people, or a failing septic system located in the area of the well.

Deficiencies are problems in the drinking water system that have the potential to cause serious health risks or represent long-term health risks to consumers. These deficiencies may indicate noncompliance with one or more Wisconsin Administrative Codes.

Recommendations are made to address problems in the water system that may hinder a public water system from consistently providing safe drinking water to consumers.

Non-conforming features are system features that met code requirements at the time of a drinking water system's construction, but do not meet current code. These are not considered deficiencies; however, they will need to be corrected in the future when the system completes any major upgrades. If the department determines that a health risk exists due to the non-conforming feature, the department may require a correction sooner.

Sanitary Survey/Annual Site Visit reports will include actions or recommendations to resolve issues. Required actions will include a due date by which the work is to be completed.

Well, pump, and plumbing corrective action work should be completed by contractors with the appropriate state required well drilling, pump installing, or plumbing licenses.

For a listing of licensed well drillers [click here](#).

For a listing of licensed pump installers [click here](#).

How can I prepare for a Transient Non-community sanitary survey or annual site visit?

Once your site visit is scheduled you can do the following to be prepared for an inspection of your facility:

- Review the Top 10 Common Issues Identified During an Inspection.
[Click here](#) for the Top 10
- Provide access during the site visit to the well, pump area, storage tanks, water treatment equipment, and distribution sample sites.
- Provide updates for owner and sampler contact information. Contact information includes name, address, phone, and email.
- Provide well construction information if the water system is new or if a new well was constructed.
- Review water treatment maintenance records.
- Existing systems may review the water sampling site plan that lists sample locations for coliform bacteria and nitrate.
- Existing systems may review the system water sampling history.
- Existing system may review any past water system deficiencies that have not been completed and if possible complete the work prior to the site visit.
- Existing systems may review public notice requirements that have not been completed and take action to complete the notice.

[Click here](#) to access the Wisconsin Drinking Water System web site to review the system water sampling history, deficiencies and public notice requirements.

[Click here](#) to access directions on using the Drinking Water System.