

## **GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION INFORMATION**

### **Presence of Oil**

Ground water can be contaminated by crude oil as well as refined petroleum products. Crude oil may enter ground water by a surface spill or pipeline leak at a producing oil and gas well. Crude oil may also enter an aquifer from an abandoned and improperly plugged oil well.

Refined oil may contaminate ground water from a variety of sources including leaking underground heating oil tanks, underground gasoline storage tanks or when motor or transmission oil has been discarded on the ground surface. In addition, some water well pumps contain a mineral oil for cooling which can leak into the water as the pump deteriorates. Well pumps currently being installed are water cooled to avoid this problem.

It is possible that what appears to be an oil sheen, may actually be the effect of iron oxidation. To determine if this is the case, collect a water sample with a visible sheen in a clear container. Disturb the oily sheen with a pointed object, such as a pencil. If the sheen breaks up into angular pieces that do not rejoin, the sheen is caused by iron oxidation. If the pieces of disturbed sheen are rounded and reunite, the sheen may be caused by oil.

Answers to the attached questionnaire will help the Division determine the source of your water well contamination problem.

## GROUND WATER CONTAMINATION QUESTIONNAIRE

### Presence of Oil

1. When did you first notice oil in your water supply?
2. What are the indications that you have oil in your water supply?
  
3. Where have you detected the oil?
  - water well
  - faucet
  - toilet tank
  - other (*explain:*) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Does oil appear all the time or only occasionally?  All the time;  Occasionally  
If occasionally, when do you notice it?
  
5. Is the oil dark like motor oil or light like vegetable oil?  Dark  Light
  
6. Has your water well pump been inspected since the oil appeared?  Yes;  No  
If yes, by whom? (list name, address, and phone number)
  
7. Are there any oil and gas wells near your residence?  Yes  No  
If yes, where are these wells in relation to your water supply? (distance and direction)
  
8. Are there any fuel tanks buried near your residence?  Yes  No

If yes, where are they located and when were they installed?

9. Has anyone disposed motor oils on or near your property?  Yes  No  
If yes, please describe.

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Signature

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Date