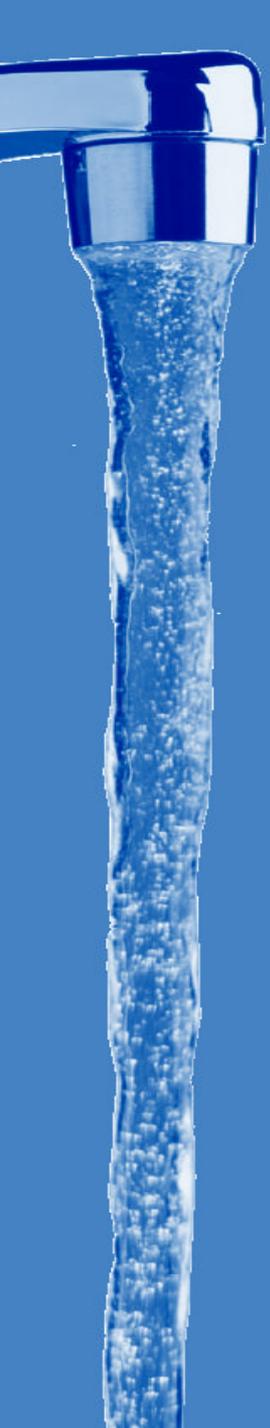


# The New England Private Well Initiative

*Focus Area of New England Regional Water Program*

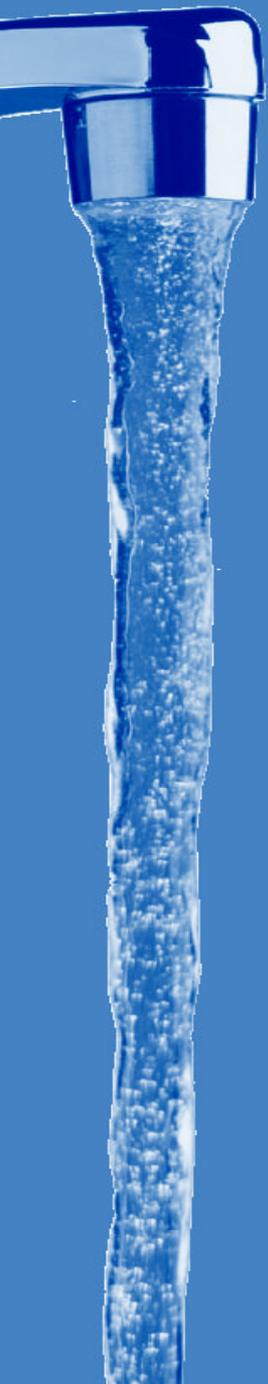
Alyson McCann, Water Quality Program Coordinator  
University of Rhode Island  
College of the Environment & Life Sciences  
February 2006

A close-up photograph of a chrome faucet with water flowing out in a steady stream. The water is clear and has a slight white foam at the top. The background is a solid blue color.

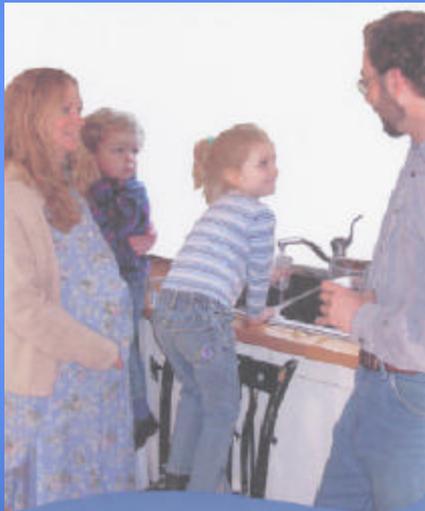
# New England Regional Water Program

## 7 Focus Areas

1. New England Private Well Initiative
2. New England NEMO
3. Sustainable Landscapes
4. Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring
5. River and Stream Restoration
6. Reducing Phosphorus Impacts with Manure Management
7. Nutrient and Pesticide Management on Organic Farms



New England Private Well Initiative, 2001

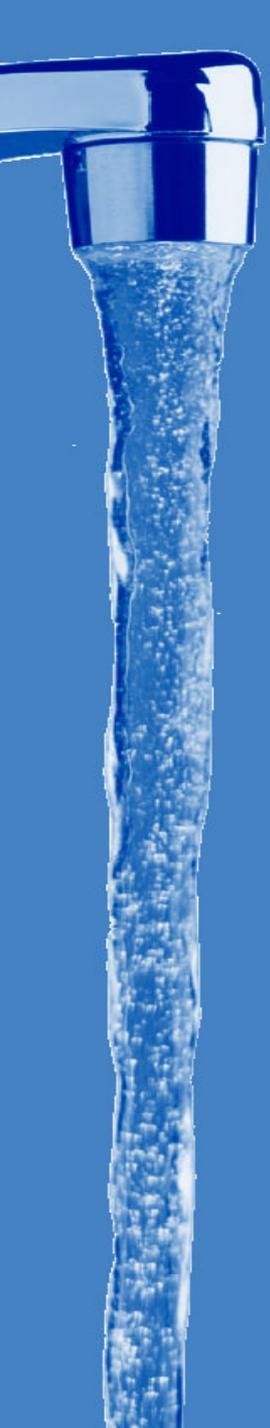


Many Maine wells have too much  
Arsenic • Radon • Uranium

**Protect your family. Test your well.**

- Follow the **Well Testing Schedule** inside.
- Find a Maine lab certified for well water testing on the back page.

# Protect Your Family Test Your Well



# Partners

- New England Regional Water Quality Program
- US EPA - New England
- Water Systems Council
- American Groundwater Trust
- RCAP Solutions
- New England State Drinking Water Agencies

Connecticut Dept. of Public Health

Connecticut Dept. of Environmental Protection

Maine Dept. of Human Services

Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection

Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection

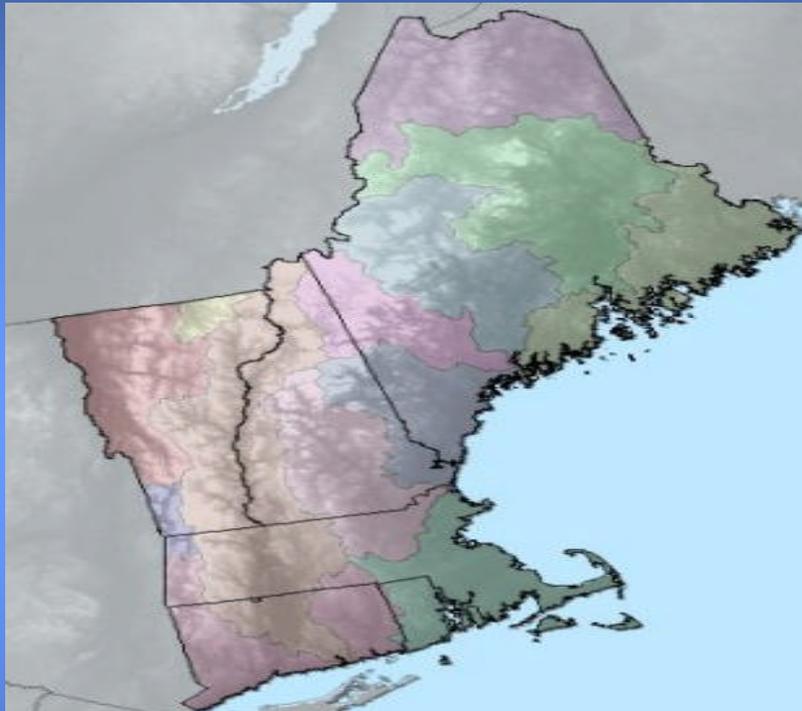
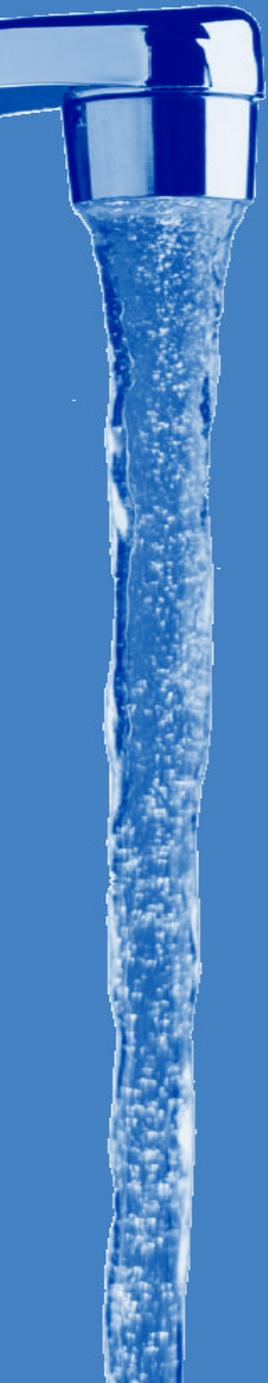
New Hampshire Dept. of Environmental Services

Rhode Island Dept. of Health

Rhode Island Dept. of Environmental Management

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

# Situation

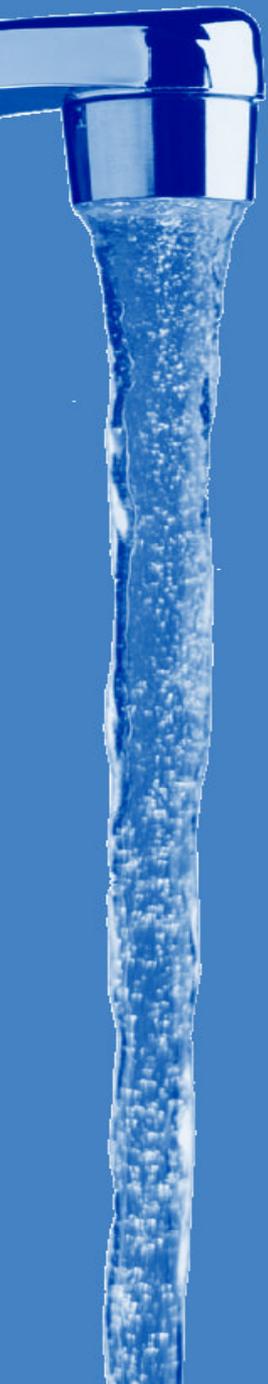


- 20% of New Englanders rely on private wells
- Owners are responsible for drinking water quality
- Regulatory protection is minimal, yet regulations & property laws are changing
- Naturally-occurring and man-made contaminants present, i.e.
  - Arsenic
  - Radon
  - MTBE

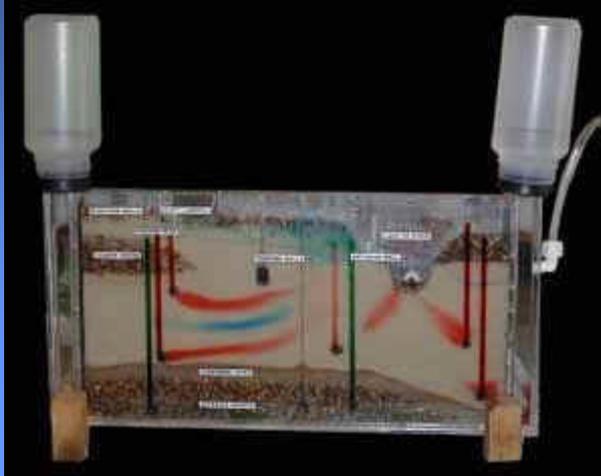
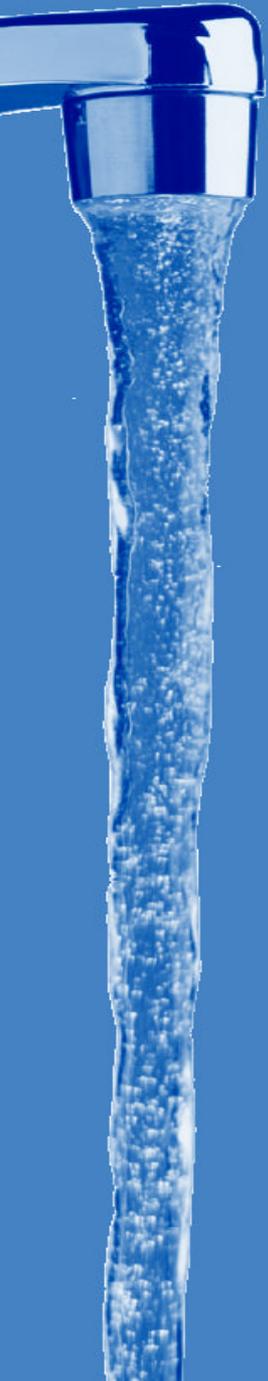
# MTBE presence in New Hampshire Wells.

J. Ayotte. USGS; 2004.

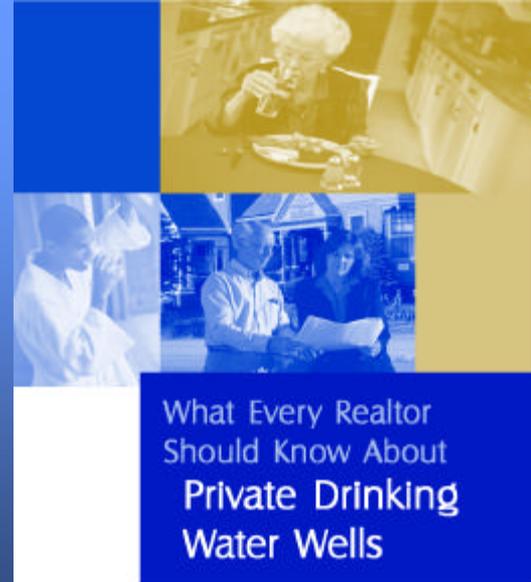
Well Class	N	Percent $\geq$ 0.2 $\mu\text{g/L}$
Public	120	40 %
Private	103	21 %



# Focus Area Outputs



- Workshops & Trainings
- Distribution of Materials



What Every Realtor  
Should Know About  
Private Drinking  
Water Wells

# Focus Area Outputs



PLUS Accompanying:

- Poster
- Youth Activity Cards



**2005 New England Private Drinking Well Symposium**

**November 14, 2005**  
**Sheraton Harborside**  
**Portsmouth, New Hampshire**

**Who Should Attend**

- University researchers and educators who lead water quality and quantity programs.
- Extension professionals working on water quality and quantity education.
- Federal partners including USEPA, NRCS, ARS, USGS, and other water agencies.
- State and local water agencies and organizations.
- Private organizations interested in private drinking water well protection research and education.

# Focus Area Outcomes

## Short and Medium-term Outcomes

- New & strengthened partnerships –  
education, government, industry
- Enhanced research partnerships
- Education of private well owners &  
behavior changes -  
testing, contaminants, & treatment



# Focus Area Outcomes

## Long-term Outcomes

- Improved drinking water quality
- Increased protection of human health



# What's Next?

- Healthy Homes funding: video for educational TV & website development
- Continue to offer professional trainings with WSC & EPA
- Enhance our partnerships with professional audiences – realtors & industry
- New England Private Well Symposium: 2007

