

Board Statement on Public Health Benefits of connection requirement

Intent and Purpose: The Water Utility Board of the City of Madison finds that it is in the public interest to establish a comprehensive program for all residences and businesses to maintain an operating connection to the City's potable water supply system and to that end declares the purposes of requiring connection to be as follows:

- (a) to ensure that the water quality at every tap of Madison residences (owner occupied and rental properties) and businesses meets the water quality standards specified by the US EPA under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act;
- (b) to reduce the potential for contamination common to urban areas, and known to exist in the subsurface in Madison, to unknowingly persist in private water wells; such contaminants include legacy industrial and commercial chemical and petroleum constituents, and pathogens from leaky sanitary sewers
- (d) to eliminate the potential for cross-connection between privately maintained water wells and the aquifers underlying the City that are the source of groundwater to Water Utility wells
- (e) to guard against the common misunderstanding that well water that passes total coliform tests and contains less than 10 milligrams per liter of nitrate nitrogen is necessarily high quality drinking water free of contamination; such water is not known to be free of contamination common in urban settings