

WATER UTILITY BOARD STATEMENT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY BENEFITS OF A WATER SERVICE 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 Madison'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 surface and subsurface contamination common to urban areas, and known to exist 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;
- c) to eliminate the potential for cross-connection between privately maintained water wells and the aquifers underlying Madison that are the source of groundwater to utility wells;
- d) 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; and
- e) to support the utility in its mission to provide service at a reasonable cost that is equitably borne by its customers. Within the utility's service area, the board considers it an obligation of citizenship to connect to the system to share in the cost of building and operating a system which serves all, not least by providing sufficient water to fight fires.

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