

For Immediate Release

August 13, 2010

Colts Neck Health Department- Advises Water Conservation by Residents

Hot weather, infrequent rain and understandably higher than normal water use have all contributed to a decline in ground water levels and the failure of a number of domestic water wells. In many cases this has required the lowering of the pump within the well or the replacement of the pump with one that is more powerful to pump from the greater depth. In some cases, where the well itself has been damaged, an entire new well must be drilled. Costs can range from a few hundred dollars to over 10 thousand dollars if a new well is required.

At this time, the NJ Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has not put any water restrictions in place for our area. In order to try to avoid well problems, there are some simple common sense steps that can be taken. These include:

1. Limiting or eliminating lawn watering. Twice a week in the morning or evening for 30 minutes should be enough. Without watering, if the lawn is allowed to turn brown and go dormant, grass will typically revive when it rains and cooler weather comes.
2. Target watering to flowers and shrubs with hand watering.
3. Use grey water and rain barrels to collect in systems for watering.
4. Install a rain sensor to prevent needless watering.
5. Consider installing a drip irrigation system in gardens.
6. Use mulch in gardens to help limit evaporation.
7. Landscape with native plants that are more drought resistant.
8. Run washing machines and dishwashers only with full loads.
9. Turn off faucets while shaving and brushing teeth.
10. Install high efficiency, low water use bathroom and kitchen fixtures.
11. Fix leaking pipes and dripping faucets.
12. Use a broom to clean driveways and walkways instead of a hose.

By employing simple conservation measures we may be able to avoid both individual well problems and community wide water restrictions.

If you have any questions contact the Colts Neck Health Department at 732-462-5470 or go to the NJDEP web site www.njdrought.org for a wealth of other conservation tips.