



Free Drinking Water Well Assessment



Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) will be offering well assessments for selected well owners, who are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act.

When: RCAC will coordinate timing with the well owner.

Where: At well location.

Well Assessment Includes:

- Visual well assessment to identify the potential threats to your well, including:
 - Potential sources of well contamination, including nearby agriculture and septic systems.
 - Visual in-person inspection of your well, including inspection of proper sanitary seals, well cap screen and casing to reduce the risk of well water contamination.
 - Review of well construction relative to state standards to note any concerns.
 - Evaluation of water source to identify potential vulnerability.
 - Additional helpful information to ensure well water safety and reliability.
- RCAC low interest loans are a possible available resource upon approval.
- Technical Assistance Providers can help recommend feasible solutions for identified issues.

What we need during the time of the well assessments:

- The well owner needs to be present and available to answer questions.
- Well Log if available. RCAC can help contact the county or state for this information if needed.

Due to the limited well assessments, selection will be made based on the geology and geography of the surrounding area of the well. Priority will be given to the first sets of candidates. Available in CA, NM, AZ and NV.

For more information about how to properly care for your well and best practices for maintaining and protecting your well water, please visit Privatewellclass.org and for more information about RCAC, please visit rcac.org.

Contact Information

To learn more about the Individual Well Program and to register for the well assessment, please contact:

Thi Pham, RCAC Project Coordinator
(916) 447-2854 ext.1038 • tpham@rcac.org

Or you can fill out the card attached below and fax it to (916) 447-2878 or mail it to the following address:
*3120 Freeboard Drive, Suite 201
West Sacramento, CA, 95691*

RCAC will contact you to set up a convenient assessment time.

Individual Well Program is carried out as part of the EPA/RCAP "Improving Water Quality through Training & Technical Assistance to Private Well Owners" Project.

Individual Well Assessment Request Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Well Log Available: Yes No Well Depth (feet): _____

Name of Well Driller (if available): _____

Common Questions and Answers

1. Who will have access to the well assessment information?

The assessment is confidential, and a copy will only be shared with the person requesting the assessment. The only people that will have access to the assessments are the RCAP staff and University of Illinois staff working on this project. All private well owners information gather during the well assessment will be kept confidential and given back to well owners for their future reference. The data will only be reviewed and evaluated in aggregate, to assess common issues well owners face. This evaluation will help target future programs where the assessments suggest there is the most need

The well owners will receive a copy of all information accessed and gathered during the well assessment so they can better understand their water source and help them ensure that their well drinking water is reliable and safe. The information will not be shared without the well owner permission, other than internally among RCAC staff and its team.

2. How will the well owners be selected for the well assessments?

RCAC will be offering well assessments for well owners, who are not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Due to the limited 120 well assessments between the four states, selections will be made from the interest based on priority and diversity of the well assessment.

3. Is there a fee for doing the well assessment?

No, there is no fee. This program is provided to well owners nationwide as part of a grant to the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP), the national affiliate of RCAC. The grant allows RCAC to cover all travel and assessment costs.

4. How can I register for a well assessment?

If a well owner is interested in the well assessment, he/she should contact the lead project coordinator of the Individual Well Program, Thi Pham. To contact Thi, please call (916) 447 – 2854, extension 1038 or email at tpham@rcac.org, or mail/fax the Individual Well Assessment Request Form to RCAC. RCAC will then notify the selected well owners to schedule a well assessment date and time.

5. Is the well assessment available to wells that are on tribal land? What about non-communities systems? Is the well assessment limited to rural areas?

Yes, assessments are available to tribes and non-community system, as long as the private well is not regulated by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). The Individual Well Program is not just limited to rural areas, but it is available to all drinking wells not regulated by the SDWA.

6. What is the purpose of a well assessment? Why should a well owner do the well assessments?

A trained professional will perform an in-person visual inspection to identify for well vulnerability based on well specification, nearby threats and contamination sources, such as underground storage tanks in close proximity to the well and inspect to see if the well is constructed according to the state well construction standards. The purpose of the well assessment is to improve and protect the private well owners' health by educating the well owners on proper well maintenance and preventive measures to reduce the risk of well's drinking water contamination. RCAC will have follow-up Technical Assistance Providers (TA's), who can help recommend feasible solutions for identified issues.

7. What kind of information will you need during the well assessments?

RCAC needs basic information about the well, such as well depth. If the well owner has a well log available during the time of the well assessments, RCAC can make sure that the well assessments are more specific to the well. If the well owner does not have a well log, RCAC can contact the county, state or the well driller to assist the well owner' in getting access to his/her well log.

8. Will RCAC well assessments inspect possible contamination from septic tanks issues?
Yes, our well assessment will cover septic tanks maintenance and contamination issues. RCAC will also give the well owner additional resources to find out more information about contamination issues in his/her area.

9. Will RCAC provide water testing? What if the water isn't safe to drink?

No, the well assessment does not include water testing. The well assessment tool will cover proper water sampling techniques and how to find information on certified water testing facilities in the well owner's area but does not include sampling as part of the assessment.

10. What does the well owner have to do during the well assessment?

The well owner just needs to be present to answer some basic questions. All well assessment activities will be done by a trained RCAC professional.