

Agenda Item Number:

**ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: September 24, 2014

Agenda Item Subject: Fee Increase for Well Water Testing

Attachment(s): NC State Public Health Laboratory memorandums, Cost Analysis, Proposed Fee Schedule, Fee Comparison for Private Labs and Adjacent Counties

Staff or Board Member Reporting: Alan Clapp

Purpose: Action
 Information only
 Information with possible action

Summary Information:

The recent legislative session and approved state budget allowed the NC State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) to raise fees for testing water from existing wells. The fees charged are to be comparable to the fees charged for a new well sample kit mandated since 2008. In August the NCSLPH sent 2 memorandums on the details of the new laboratory fees (attachments 1 and 2). The NCSLPH fee includes the bottle for the test, the lab test and copy of the results. The local health department is tasked with collection of the samples and assuring the samples reach the laboratory in time and in temperature. The new fees are effective September 1, 2014.

This action requested is for the Orange County Board of Health to raise the current fees for water sampling to be commensurate with the new costs of these services. Water sample fees were last raised in September 2005 to also cover the increase in lab cost at that time. For background, G.S. 87-97 Permitting, Inspection and testing of private drinking water wells mandates the local county well program. Chapter 130A-39 empowers the local board of health to impose fees for services.

§ 130A-39. Powers and duties of a local board of health.

g) A local board of health may impose a fee for services to be rendered by a local health department, except where the imposition of a fee is prohibited by statute or where an employee of the local health department is performing the services as an agent of the State. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a local board of health may impose cost-related fees for services performed pursuant to Article 11 of this Chapter, "Wastewater Systems," for services performed pursuant to Part 10, Article 8 of this Chapter, "Public Swimming Pools", for services performed pursuant to Part 11, Article 8 of this Chapter,

"Tattooing", and for services performed pursuant to G.S. 87-97. Fees shall be based upon a plan recommended by the local health director and approved by the local board of health and the appropriate county board or boards of commissioners. The fees collected under the authority of this subsection are to be deposited to the account of the local health department so that they may be expended for public health purposes in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act. (1901, c. 245, s. 3; Rev., s. 4444; 1911, c. 62, s. 9; C.S., s. 7065; 1957, c. 1357, s. 1; 1959, c. 1024, s. 1; 1963, c. 1087; 1973, c. 476, s. 128; c. 508; 1977, c. 857, s. 2; 1981, c. 130, s. 2; c. 281; c. 949, s. 4; 1983, c. 891, s. 2; 1985, c. 175, s. 1; 1989, c. 577, s. 2; 1991 (Reg. Sess., 1992), c. 944, s. 10; 1993 (Reg. Sess., 1994), c. 670, s. 2; 1995, c. 507, s. 26.8(c); 2006-202, s. 6; 2007-182, s. 2.)

In calculating these increased fee recommendations, staff calculated the average costs for: 1) staff time, 2) vehicle use and 3) courier services. The average cost for these items is \$37 (see attachment 3). The recommended fee therefore, is the cost the state lab charges for testing plus this \$37. We then rounded up or down to make a fee that was divisible by 5 so that making change would be quicker and easier.

Most counties are still working on increasing their fees in response to this change; however we were able to get well testing fees from Chatham County (see attachment 4). Their costs are higher than ours, but their fees are slightly lower reflecting a subsidy from the county.

Staff recommends that the BOH approve these new fees effective January 1, 2015.

Recommended Action: Approve
 Approve & forward to Board of Commissioners for action
 Approve & forward to _____
 Accept as information
 Revise & schedule for future action
 Other (detail):



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health

Pat McCrory
Governor

Aldona Z. Wos, M.D.
Ambassador (Ret.)
Secretary DHHS

Penelope Slade-Sawyer
Director

TO: Environmental Health Specialists
North Carolina Local Health Departments

FROM: Dr. Scott Zimmerman, Director
NC State Laboratory of Public Health 

CC: Cindy Price, Manager
Environmental Sciences Unit

DATE: August 13, 2014

As many of you are aware, the recent legislative session granted the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) the authority to increase the fee for testing of water from existing wells, comparable to that charged under the New Well program. Historically, NCSLPH was only authorized to charge for the collection kits and the mailing cost for existing wells, with appropriations covering the costs associated with personnel, materials and overhead. NCSLPH appropriations have been reduced significantly in recent years, and at this time NCSLPH is strategically developing a model focused on financial sustainability. This fee increase will help with material and some overhead costs as we work towards this goal.

This new fee will become effective on kits ordered starting September 1, 2014 in order to provide local health departments with the opportunity to modify fee schedules. As with the current New Well program fees will be prorated based on the number and type of analyses to be performed, and the fee schedule will be available by August 15, 2014. As a result of these changes there will be a wider selection of test kits, so please review the NCSLPH website closely to assure that the correct kits are ordered. As the NCSLPH Mailroom works to incorporate these changes into our ordering system, please limit your orders between now and September 1 to emergency needs only.

We look forward to continuing our work with all the local health departments in North Carolina. Please feel free to call me at 919.807.8990 or Cindy Price at 919.807.8845 if you have questions.





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TO: Environmental Health Specialists
North Carolina Local Health Departments

FROM: Dr. Scott Zimmerman, Director 
NC State Laboratory of Public Health

DATE: August 20, 2015

Thank you for your many comments and concerns related to the SFY15 NCSLPH Well Water Testing Fee Schedule. In response to your correspondence, NCSLPH has assembled information that is attached to this memorandum to clarify the new fee schedule and associated testing panels that have been developed.

Effective SFY15, NCSLPH will maintain one (1) Well Water Testing Fee Schedule that is comprised of various options for testing through clearly defined panels. The SFY15 Fee Schedule will be applied to all Well Water testing (i.e., both existing well and new well water testing) and there will be one (1) Well Water sampling kit per panel for both existing and new well water sampling. The Full Well Water Panel includes the Inorganic Chemistry analytes, including nitrate/nitrite, and the Total Coliform/*E. coli* test performed in our Microbiology laboratory. The fee for this testing is \$74.00 and is the first listing on the Fee Schedule.

Since some health departments are staffed with certified laboratories to perform the microbiological testing and/or Nitrate/Nitrite analyses, two new panels have been added, one with the Inorganic Chemistry analytes plus Nitrate/Nitrite and one without. These new categories are under the Inorganic Chemistry laboratory group on the fee schedule.

New sample submittal forms have been created and will correspond with the various test panels on the fee schedule; these forms will be shipped as part of the kit. The components of the kits will vary based on the selected panel, but will be a combination of the containers currently in use, including 100 mL sterile bottle, cubitainers, plastic tubes, VOA vials, amber bottles, and where applicable ice packs.

Every effort is being made by our staff to make this transition as smooth as possible. Please feel free to contact Cindy Price, Environmental Sciences Manager, at 919.807.8845 or at cindy.price@dhhs.nc.gov if you have questions.

Thanks.

Enclosures



State Laboratory of Public Health

Environmental Sciences well-water testing FY15 fee schedule

Category	FY15 Fee
Full Well Panel	
Inorganic Chemistry and Microbiology	\$ 74
Microbiology	
Total Coliform/ <i>E. coli</i> , P/A – Enzymatic	\$ 23
Total Coliform/ <i>E. coli</i> MPN - Enzymatic	\$ 26
Fecal Coliform, MPN (Quantitray) – Enzymatic	\$ 26
Fecal Coliform/Fecal Streptococcus – MTF	\$ 45
Enterococcus, MPN (Quantitray) – Enzymatic	\$ 26
Iron Bacteria	\$ 28
Sulfur/Sulfate – Reducing bacteria	\$ 35
Pseudomonas – MTF or MPN (Quantitray) Enzymatic	\$ 26
Heterotrophic Plate Count	\$ 20
Inorganic Chemistry	
Inorganic Panel (Metals, Anions, Nitrate/Nitrite)	\$ 65
Inorganic Panel (Metals, Anions)	\$ 60
Metals Panel	\$ 55
Individual Metals (1 – 3 maximum from above, plus Uranium)	\$ 40
Anions – Fluoride, Chloride, and Sulfate	\$ 25
Disinfection By-Products – Bromide, Bromate, Chlorite, Chlorate	\$ 25
Fluoride – Physician, Dentist	\$ 25
Nitrate/Nitrite	\$ 25
Arsenic speciation	\$ 25
Organic Chemistry	
Pesticides	\$ 74
Herbicides	\$ 74
Petroleum Products	\$ 74
Volatile Organic Chemicals	\$ 74
All Laboratories	
Other testing	Contact Environmental Sciences laboratory management 919-733-7308

State Laboratory of Public Health – Environmental Sciences Unit

Well-water testing profiles

Full Well Panel – Microbiology and Inorganic Chemistry

Category	Description
Full Panel	Alkalinity, Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Calcium, Chromium, Nitrate/Nitrite, Chloride, Copper, Fluoride, Hardness (Total), Iron, Lead, Manganese, Magnesium, Mercury, pH, Selenium, Silver, Sodium, Sulfate, Zinc, Total Coliform/ <i>E. coli</i>

Microbiology

Category	Description
Total Coliform/ <i>E. coli</i> , P/A	Presence/Absence testing using an enzymatic procedure.
Total Coliform/ <i>E. coli</i> MPN	Enzymatic procedure using the Quantitray system.
Fecal Coliform, MPN (Quantitray)	Enzymatic procedure using the Quantitray system. This method does not determine the number of Total Coliform present in the sample.
Fecal Coliform/Fecal Streptococcus – MTF	Cultural methods using serial dilutions.
Enterococcus, MPN (Quantitray) – Enzymatic	Enzymatic procedure using the Quantitray system.
Iron Bacteria	Centrifugation followed by a microscopic examination.
Sulfur/Sulfate – Reducing bacteria	Presence/Absence testing for sulfur bacteria and for sulfate-reducing bacteria. This method requires a 30-day incubation period.
Pseudomonas – MTF or MPN (Quantitray) Enzymatic	Quantitative determination of the number of Pseudomonas present in a sample using either the Quantitray MPN or cultural MTF.
Heterotrophic Plate Count	Direct plating of multiple sample dilutions.

Other testing: Contact Environmental Sciences laboratory management 919-733-7308

P/A = Presence/Absence

MPN and MTF = Most Probable Number and Multiple Tube Fermentation – quantitative techniques

Inorganic Chemistry

Category	Description
Full Inorganic Panel	Alkalinity, Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Calcium, Chloride, Chromium, Nitrate/Nitrite, Copper, Fluoride, Hardness (Total), Iron, Lead, Manganese, Magnesium, Mercury, pH, Selenium, Silver, Sodium, Sulfate, Zinc
Inorganic Panel without Nitrate/Nitrite	Alkalinity, Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Calcium, Chloride, Chromium, Copper, Fluoride, Hardness (Total), Iron, Lead, Manganese, Magnesium, Mercury, pH, Selenium, Silver, Sodium, Sulfate, Zinc
Metals panel	Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Calcium, Chromium, Copper, Iron, Lead, Manganese, Magnesium, Mercury, Selenium, Silver, Sodium, Zinc
Individual metals	1 – 3 maximum from above, with the addition of Uranium to the sample selection
Anions	Fluoride, Chloride, and Sulfate
Disinfection By-Products	Bromide, Bromate, Chlorite, Chlorate
Fluoride only – Physician, Dentist	Fluoride
Nitrate/Nitrite only	Nitrate, Nitrite
Arsenic speciation	Arsenic ⁺³ and Arsenic ⁺⁵ – Total arsenic must have been previously determined and found to be ≥ 10 ppb.

Other testing: Contact Environmental Sciences laboratory management 919-733-7308

Organic Chemistry

Category	Description
Pesticides	Chlorinated pesticides, Nitrogen-phosphorous pesticides or Glyphosate
Herbicides	Chlorinated acid herbicides
Petroleum Products	Petroleum Analysis and VOC scan
Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOC)	Volatile Organic Compounds

Other testing: Contact Environmental Sciences laboratory management 919-733-7308

2015 Water Sample Cost Analysis

FY 2013/2014 Costs:	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Per Sample</u>
EH Technician salary:	\$39,218.00	\$32.17
Vehicle and Mileage:	\$2208.73	\$1.81
Courier Cost*:	<u>\$3276.39</u>	<u>\$2.69</u>
Total:	\$44703.12	\$36.67

FY 2013/2014 Samples Collected:

Total:	1219
Bacteriological:	514
Other:	705

Cost per sample for FY13/14: \$36.67 (\$37)

*The state courier picks up water samples at the courier box in front of the Whitted Building in Hillsborough and delivers to the NC State Public Health Laboratory in Raleigh.

Lab fee increase for private drinking water well sampling

	Current CCPHD Fee	Current lab cost	Lab cost 9/1/14	Proposed CCPHD Fee
Bacteriological	\$33	\$3.09	\$23.00	\$55
Inorganic	\$33	\$3.15	\$65.00	\$98
Sulfur	\$33	\$3.15	\$35.00	\$70
Iron Bacteria	\$33	\$3.15	\$28.00	\$60
Nitrate/nitrite	\$33	\$7.55	\$25.00	\$60
Pesticide	\$70	\$23.99	\$74.00	\$150
Petroleum	\$70	\$28.66	\$74.00	\$150
Full Panel (inorganic, total coliform, nitrate/nitrite, sulfur, iron bacteria, pesticide, petroleum)		\$73.95	\$74.00	\$100

Estimated Cost to CCPHD for Sampling

	Current CCPHD Fee	Current lab cost	Salary for time	Avg. Courier Cost	Estimated cost/sample	Future cost for sampling
Bacteriological	\$33	\$3.09	\$66	\$3.58	\$72.67	\$92.58
Inorganic	\$33	\$3.15	\$66	\$3.58	\$72.73	\$134.58
Sulfur	\$33	\$3.15	\$66	\$3.58	\$72.73	\$104.58
Iron Bacteria	\$33	\$3.15	\$66	\$3.58	\$72.73	\$97.58
Nitrate/nitrite	\$33	\$7.55	\$66	\$3.58	\$77.13	\$94.58
Pesticide	\$70	\$23.99	\$66	\$3.58	\$93.57	\$143.58
Petroleum	\$70	\$28.66	\$66	\$3.58	\$98.24	\$143.58
Full Panel (inorganic, total coliform, nitrate/nitrite, sulfur, iron bacteria, pesticide, petroleum)		\$73.95	\$66	\$3.58	\$143.53	\$143.58

Cost for sampling calculated using 3 hour on average for sampling and follow up X \$22 avg salary /hour = \$66 + courier (gas not included)

Total yearly cost for courier for sampling \$1492.06/416 total samples mailed = \$3.58/sample avg.

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Proposed Water Sample Fees September 2014

Category	New Lab Fee Schedule (9/1/14) (\$)	Old Lab Fee Schedule FY13/14 (\$)	Increase In Sample Kit (\$)	Orange County Current Fee (\$)	Orange County Proposed (\$)	Private Lab options: ENCO/Water Work, PACE (\$)
Microbiology:						
Total Coliform P/A	23	3.09	19.91	25	60	50/125/21
Total Coliform MPN	26	3.09*	22.91	25	65	
Fecal Coliform	26	3.09*	22.91	25	65	50/
Fecal Coliform/Streptococcus	45	3.09*	41.91	25	85	
Enterococcus, MPN	26	3.09*	22.91	25	65	
Iron Bacteria	28	3.09*	24.91	25	65	
Sulfur/Sulfate - Reducing	35	3.09*	31.91	25	75	
Pseudomonas – MTF or MPN	26	3.09*	22.91	25	65	
Heterotrophic Plate Count	20	3.09*	16.91	25	60	
Inorganic Chemistry:						
Full Inorganic Panel	74	3.15	70.85	35	110	450/350/75
Metals Panel	55	3.15*	51.85	35	95	/350#
Individual Metals	40	3.15*	36.85	35	80	15 per metal/350#
Anions – Fl, Cl, Sulf	25	3.15*	21.85	35	65	/350#
Disinfection By-products	25	3.15*	21.85	35	65	
Fluoride – Physician, Dentist request	25	2.80*	22.20	No charge	25*	
Nitrate/Nitrite	25	7.55	17.45	25	65	50/350/20
Arsenic Speciation	25	3.15*	21.85	35	65	
Organic Chemistry:						
Pesticides	74	23.99	50.01	75	110	750/350/70
Herbicides	74	23.99	50.01	75	110	750/350/74
Petroleum products	74	28.26	45.74	75	110	150/350#
Volatile Organic Chemicals	74	26.91	47.09	75	110	100/350/66
New Well Full Well Panel	74	73.95	.05	100	Included in well permit	
Existing Well Full Well Panel	74			100	110	
		* Currently by request				# All inclusive – 103 items

ENCO: Cost includes bottle and test. Homeowner must collect sample and drive to lab. No field collection services.

WaterWorks, Inc.: All inclusive- kit, take sample, drive to lab, water test

Pace Analytical: Cost includes containers, mailing empty container and test. Courier service offered at \$15/sample. No field collection services.

Full Sample suite includes: Coliform Bacteria, Nitrate/Nitrate and Inorganic Panel