

TOWN OF KILLINGWORTH HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

Uranium Testing Recommended

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The Killingworth Health Department recommends that residents test their well for uranium. Uranium is a naturally occurring element that has no smell or taste. Recently, more private wells in Killingworth have been found to have elevated levels of uranium above the 30 micrograms per liter maximum contaminant level. New wells are now required to be tested for uranium prior to approval for use.

It is recommended that a well be tested for uranium every five years. There are a number of State approved laboratories in the area that will perform uranium testing for under \$100 with results usually available within four or five days.

The State Health Department has found that uranium is naturally present in bedrock across the state. When a drinking-water well is drilled into bedrock containing uranium, the uranium can get into the water. The amount of uranium in a well can vary from location to location and the only way to know the level in your well is to test.

The chemical properties are of greater concern than radioactivity. Most uranium is eliminated from the body. However, a small amount is absorbed and carried through the bloodstream. Drinking water with elevated uranium can affect the kidneys over time.

Treatment is available should an elevated level be found. Treatment can be done either for the whole house or at individual faucets used for drinking, cooking etc.

Additional information, including a link to State approved laboratories, can be found on the Killingworth Health Department web page, <http://www.townofkillingworth.com/offices/health.html> or the State Health Department Private Well Program web page, http://www.ct.gov/dph/cwp/view.asp?a=3140&q=400544&dphNav_GID=1828&dphPNavCtr=#48151.

Please contact the Killingworth Health Department at (860) 663-1765 x223 should you have any questions or need any additional information.

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