



Title: Well Contamination (Salt) Policy	Internal/ External
Department: Public Works and Engineering	Policy Number PWE-010
Approval Date: March 04, 2014	Implementation Date: March 05, 2014

BACKGROUND:

The following policy is a reformatted version of the Well Contamination (Salt) Policy as adopted by Council on October 07, 2003 M03-297.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to outline the conditions by which the Town will investigate complaints of salt contamination in private wells.

DEFINITIONS: n/a

POLICY STATEMENT:

The Town of Paradise shall investigate complaints of salt contamination in private wells using the Department of Health Guidelines. Inspection cost for wells that are not maintained or properly constructed to industry standards will be borne by the property owner. The details of inspection and replacement are outlined below.

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES:

The Town of Paradise will investigate complaints of salt contamination in private wells as per the following conditions:

1. Any well contamination claim received after June 30th of any year shall not be accepted by the Town.
2. The Town shall test the well for a period not exceeding two years from the date of the first written complaint.
3. The Town will test well water samples for salt and other contaminants using the Department of Health Guidelines. If it is found that contaminants other than salt are found in the water

from the well, the Town will immediately reject the claim, cease further water testing and notify the property owner accordingly.

4. In addition to the above conditions, the Town shall reject the following claims:
 - a. Dug wells:
 - i. Where the Department of Health has recommended a drilled well,
 - ii. Where it is determined that the dug well is not constructed to industry standards i.e proper casing, cover, etc.
 - iii. Where in the opinion of the Chief Administrative Officer and Director of Public Works and Engineering, the well has not been properly maintained.
 - b. Drilled wells:
 - i. Where it is determined that the well is not properly constructed,
 - ii. Where it is determined that the drilled well is not constructed to industry standards i.e. proper casing, cover, etc.
5. The Town shall have the well inspected in order to determine construction and maintenance standards for a particular well. If it is found that the well has not been properly maintained or constructed to the necessary standards, all inspection cost shall be borne by the property owner.
6. Where the Town determines after a period of monitoring (not to exceed two years as set out above in paragraph 1), that a well has been permanently contaminated, which contamination has resulted solely from the Town's activities, the Town's liability shall be limited to the following:
 - a. Regardless of the type of well on the affected property, where municipal water services are available, the property owner shall be required to connect the affected property with municipal water services at their own cost and the Town will not be responsible for any costs associated with same;
 - b. If there is a dug well on the affected property, and municipal water services are **not** available:
 - i. Where the Town determines that a replacement dug well will alleviate the contamination, the Town shall pay the direct replacement costs of a dug well (materials, equipment and labour only) to a maximum cost of \$1, 000.00,
 - ii. Where the Town determines that a replacement dug well will **not** alleviate the contamination, the property owner shall only be entitled to compensation if they agree to the installation of a drilled well, and the Town will compensate the property owner as set out in paragraph 6(c) for drilled wells,

c. If there is a drilled well on the affected property, and municipal water services are **not** available:

i. The Town shall pay for the direct replacement costs of a drilled well (materials, equipment and labour only) so as to provide, as reasonably possible, safe drinking water in accordance with the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines in relation to salt contamination. The Town shall **not** provide for costs associated with water softening or filtration systems.

d. No other claims or costs shall be considered

7. In respect of any compensation paid under the terms of this policy, the property owner will be required to sign an acknowledgement before receiving compensation or drilling a new well indicating that the property owner has reviewed and accepts the terms of the well replacement policy.

8. Following completion of a replacement well, and after the water has been tested and approved as being safe for drinking in accordance with the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines in relation to salt contamination, the property owner shall sign a release and acknowledge confirming that they have received compensation and satisfaction for the well contamination claim.

REVIEW

This policy will be subject to review as required by the Department of Public Works and Engineering.

Chief Administrative Officer: *Robert Cumby* Date: *March 14/14*