

*The following statement is from Dale Hammes, General Manager, Loudoun Water, addressing the Virginia Department of Health's determination on November 23, 2010, that one of Raspberry Falls' wells, PW-1, is under the direct influence of surface water (GUDI).*

Loudoun Water works closely with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) to put strict protocols in place to assure that all drinking water it supplies to its customers is safe to drink. As a result, the drinking water delivered to Raspberry Falls residents always has been, and continues to be, safe.

VDH's determination that Well PW-1 in Raspberry Falls is Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water, or GUDI, is another example of the regulatory process is working to the benefit of Loudoun Water and our customers. Because the well is located in a karst area, Loudoun Water, in compliance with VDH regulations, has closely monitored the quality of the untreated water. We have consistently tested, and continue to regularly test, Raspberry Falls' untreated water. In fact, we voluntarily test the untreated water four times more frequently than what is required by VDH. We also test the untreated water after significant rain events when the possibility of a well being determined GUDI is at its highest.

Once Loudoun Water was informed by VDH of a possible GUDI determination regarding PW-1 on November 16, 2010, it was immediately taken out of service. Loudoun Water was officially informed of the GUDI determination on November 23, 2010. It is important to note that the determination that PW-1 is under the direct influence of ground water (GUDI) is based upon six months of testing of untreated water samples. All treated drinking water samples taken during the six-month timeframe showed no bacteria. In its letter notifying Loudoun Water of its GUDI determination, VDH states, "Our records indicate there has never been a positive distribution system coliform sample since establishment of this public waterworks. In addition, [Loudoun Water] improved the disinfection process at Well PW-1 in the Fall of 2009 by ensuring that 4-log inactivation of viruses was achieved in accordance with the recently established Groundwater Rule."

GUDI determinations are specific to each well. Raspberry Falls' other well, PW-2, is currently in service and is also being tested four times more frequently than what is required by VDH. Test results continue to confirm that the well is an acceptable ground water source and not GUDI. PW-2 will provide enough water for usage this winter.

Loudoun Water is continuing to move forward rapidly with planned improvements to the Raspberry Falls water system and is reviewing all of the options detailed in VDH's letter officially notifying Loudoun Water of the GUDI determination. We are planning to bring a new well currently under construction, known as Well F, on-line by spring 2011 to replace PW-1 and help meet elevated demands.

We will continue to keep the residents informed about PW-2's and Well F's progress on a consistent basis. Updates will be provided via email and through the Raspberry Falls page on our website, where residents will find a valuable resource of information detailing Loudoun Water's work to ensure the community is continuing to receive safe drinking water.

Dale Hammes

General Manager

Loudoun Water