



# CATTARAUGUS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
Cattaraugus County  
Health Department

Established 1923

Kevin D. Watkins, M.D., MPH, Public Health Director

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## Water Testing Recommendations for Residential Wells Neighboring Gas Well Development Sites

### What do I need to know?

Water quality testing is important for new drinking water wells in addition to periodic evaluation of existing wells. Ideally, well water should be sampled *before* the start of any oil/gas well development in the area to obtain a baseline. All samples should be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the NYSDOH Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP) for testing potable water. A current listing of ELAP laboratories may be accessed at <http://www.wadsworth.org/labcert/elap/elap.html> OR by contacting the Cattaraugus County Health Department.

Please see attached **fact sheet** from the New York State Department of Health for what to pay attention to in your water.

### Who should I contact?

For general questions and clarifications about water quality and testing please contact:

Timothy Zerfas, Water Resource Specialist  
Cattaraugus County Health Department (CCHD)  
phone: 716-701-3388  
Email: [tdzerfas@cattco.org](mailto:tdzerfas@cattco.org)

### Who does water testing in our area?

- **CCHD Laboratory:** The CCHD laboratory can test for bacteriological contamination and nitrate (total approx. cost \$62). This can be conducted annually for anyone served by an individual water well. phone: 716-373-8055
- Brockway lab in Pennsylvania with the “pre-drill package”: phone: 814-265-8749; email: [analytical@windstream.net](mailto:analytical@windstream.net); website: <https://www.asibrookway.com/services/>
- Erie County Public health Lab Website link: phone: 716-858-7690; website: <http://www2.erie.gov/health/index.php?q=service-community>
- Erie County Public Health Lab fee schedule: <http://www2.erie.gov/health/sites/www2.erie.gov.health/files/uploads/pdfs/ecphlenvttesting.pdf>

**Lab Courier Service in WNY.** Test Assured Network (*mobile private well water sampling and delivery to several laboratories*) used by many of our public water systems for compliance monitoring, this is an “independent lab courier”. Contact: Fran Conner. Ph: (607) 760-9779; email: [Enviroguy2001@yahoo.com](mailto:Enviroguy2001@yahoo.com)