



State of Louisiana
Department of Environmental Quality



August 30, 2002

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

LOW LEVEL CONTAMINATION DETECTED IN MARKSVILLE PUBLIC WATER WELLS

Private Well Owners Urged to Have Water Tested

(Baton Rouge) -- The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is providing notice that low-level contamination has been detected in the public supply water wells of the City of Marksville. Routine sampling conducted by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) identified the presence of a contaminant in two of five drinking water wells used by the City's public supply. The contaminant has been identified as Tetrachloroethylene. Tetrachloroethylene is a compound commonly associated with the dry cleaning process.

According to DHH, the water provided to the customers of the water system does not present a health risk to the customers of the Marksville system.

The level of Tetrachloroethylene found in one of the wells meets the safe drinking water standards established by EPA for drinking water supplies. A second well showed levels of contamination above the established standard. No contamination was found in the three remaining three wells. However, because the extent of groundwater contamination is not yet known, DEQ and DHH are urging owners of private wells drawing from the aquifer to have their water tested.

As there is no comprehensive inventory of private water wells in the area described below, officials are also asking citizens who have or may know of the existence of private water wells to notify DEQ by calling 1-800-263-5376. The area is bounded by LA Highway 1 to the southwest, N. Lee Street to the west, Tarleton Street to the north and S. Preston Street to the east.

DEQ is in the process of identifying the cause of contamination and will conduct a survey in the area to determine the source(s).