

# **Interventions to Prevent Contaminants in Drinking Water**

OSTLTS Generic Information Collection Request  
OMB No. 0920-0879

## **Supporting Statement – Section B**

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**Program Official/Project Officer**

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## Section B – Information Collection Procedures

### 1. Respondent Universe and Sampling Methods

Data will be collected from 14 programs in multiple states through interviews of 30 environmental health staff at state, local, and/or tribal agencies who are government employees and conduct outreach to private well owners, or their delegates. Over the past 11 years, NGWA has developed a network of about 200 national, state, and local organizations comprised people familiar with well owner awareness programs. NGWA will use this network of contacts to identify programs that 1) measure results, and/or 2) have been established for several year, and thus may be more likely to have a historical perspective on well owner behavioral change with respect to the program. The programs targeted for the current data collection are similar in terms of audience (private well owners); information collected will build upon the previously conducted data collection (*Effective Educational Campaigns for Private Well Owners*, OMB 0920-0879, approved 5/29/14).

We will select programs that measure both program activities *and* program results. Examples of program results might include 1) measurement of change in well owner behavior as a result of the program (i.e., a well owner gets a water test as a result of the program, then based on the test result, the well owner acts to mitigate any health risks revealed by the test), or 2) measurement of well owner engagement in the program (i.e., getting a water test as a result of the program versus not getting a water test as a result of the program).

The interviews, which will be done by telephone and in-person, break down as follows:

- One group of program managers will be selected from 12 smaller, local programs (i.e., a county) to explore issues related to limited resources. To allow for some geographic distribution a total of 24 outreach program managers in multiple states will be interviewed by telephone. Our intent is to interview two people per program assuming one person may not possess the knowledge to answer all the questions about a program. The programs selected will be ones aimed at persuading private well owners to get standard (as defined by local public health authorities) testing of their well water and treat it if necessary.
- The other group of program managers to be interviewed in-person will be selected from regional (i.e., multiple counties, statewide) programs, as these programs may face different challenges including cooperation across state lines. A total of six program managers will be interviewed. As these are larger geographic programs, and likely more complex, three program managers will be interviewed from each of the two programs. Arsenic and nitrates are high priority contaminants that tend to manifest regionally and are thus better addressed by larger, more complex outreach programs. As such, one of these programs, to be selected from the northeastern United States, will be aimed at persuading private well owners to test their water for arsenic and treat it if necessary. The other program, to be selected from southern California, will be aimed at persuading private well owners to test their water for nitrate and treat it if necessary.

## **2. Procedures for the Collection of Information**

Participants will receive via email a project overview fact sheet (see **Attachment D: Project Overview**) attached to an invitation to participate (see **Attachment E: Invitation Email to Participants**) from the National Ground Water Association, which is overseeing the information collection under contract with the CDC. This email will introduce the project and suggest a process for scheduling an interview. Those who do not respond within a week of the initial email will receive a reminder email (see **Attachment F: Reminder Email**).

As interviews are scheduled, participants will receive a confirmation email (see **Attachment G: Confirmation of In-Person Interview Email** or **Attachment H: Confirmation of Telephone Interview Email**) as well as an Outlook invitation that immediately feeds into their online calendars. The interviewer will ask permission to record the interview with the understanding that:

- Responses will be confidential
- NGWA will not share notes or transcripts outside of its data collection and analysis team
- Findings in project reports will not be identifiable by any individual respondent

## **3. Methods to Maximize Response Rates and Deal with Nonresponse**

Reminder and confirmation emails (see **Attachment F: Reminder Email** and **Attachment G: Confirmation of In-Person Interview Email** or **Attachment H: Confirmation of Telephone Interview Email**) will be the main method used to maximize response rates and follow up with non-responders. If there is no response within two days after a reminder email is sent, a telephone call will be placed to determine whether an individual is willing and able to participate in an interview.

## **4. Test of Procedures or Methods to be Undertaken**

The information collection instrument was pilot tested by three government personnel and two non-profit personnel involved in public outreach to private well owners. Feedback from this group was used to refine questions as needed, ensure accurate programming and skip patterns, and establish the estimated time required to complete the information collection instrument. In the pilot test, the average time to complete the instrument—including time for reviewing instructions, gathering needed information and completing the instrument—was about 50 minutes. Based on these results, the estimated time range for actual respondents to complete the instrument is 40-65 minutes. For the purposes of estimated burden hours, 60 minutes, is used.

## **5. Individuals Consulted on Statistical Aspects and Individuals Collecting and/or Analyzing Data**

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## **LIST OF ATTACHMENTS – Section B**

- D. Project Overview**
- E. Invitation Email to Participants**
- F. Reminder Email**
- G. Confirmation of In-Person Interview Email**
- H. Confirmation of Telephone Interview Email**