



Community Grant Outcome Report

Name: Northern Wisconsin Groundwater Consortium (NWGC)

Grantee: Taylor County Health Department

Academic Partner: n/a

Program: Development

Grant Duration: 01/01/2005 to 12/31/2005 (12 months)

Expenditures: \$25,000 of \$25,000 (100% expended)

Use of Funds: Build capacity; needs assessment

► **Description:** Develop state and local partnerships to study the correlation between geological formation, water well construction and elevated levels of arsenic and other contaminants in private drinking water and create a plan for continued environmental and health assessment, public education and policy development.

► **Results:** This purpose of this project was to assess private water drinking supplies for arsenic in five counties in northern Wisconsin. NWGC tested 324 wells across four counties, and did targeted tested in the fifth county. The project was able to identify wells that had contaminants; these required intervention through the DNR well water program. The NWGC Consortium also met and developed a plan for surveys related to information provided to participants on their private drinking water test results. NWGC sent two surveys to participants to ascertain knowledge about the well, safety of their drinking water supply, and knowledge about contaminants in their well and understanding of materials provided to them. NWGC submitted an implementation grant proposal to the WPP, but it was not funded.

► **Met Objectives:** Yes

► **Baseline Progress on SHP Objectives:** Yes – Environmental health

► **Academic Partner Role:** No academic partner

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** \$10,000

► **Dissemination:** None

► **Sustained:** Results from this project helped NWGC successfully lobby for a policy change at the state level – state now provides arsenic testing at no charge.