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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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AFTER THE FLOOD SAFETY INFORMATION FOR WELL OWNERS

Ocean County Health Department officials are warning residents with private wells, that flooding may have caused contamination of the well. "Drilled, driven or bored wells are best disinfected by a well or pump contractor, because it is difficult for the private owner to thoroughly disinfect these wells. If you suspect that your well may be contaminated, contact the Ocean County Health Department at 732-341-9700, ext. 7416, or the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) at 1-800-782-0160 or 1-877-927-6332.

The suggestions below offer flood precautions issued by State and local health authorities:

Well and Pump Inspection:

- *Flood Conditions at the Well* - Swiftly moving flood water can carry large debris that could loosen well hardware, dislodge well construction materials or distort casing. Coarse sediment in the flood waters could erode pump components. If the well is not tightly capped, sediment and flood water could enter the well and contaminate it. Wells that are more than 10 years old or less than 50 feet deep are likely to be contaminated, even if there is no apparent damage. Floods may cause some wells to collapse.
- *Electrical System* - After flood waters have receded and the pump and electrical system have dried, do not turn on the equipment until the wiring system has been checked by a qualified electrician, well contractor, or pump contractor. If the pump's control box was submerged during the flood all electrical components must be dry before electrical service can be restored. Get assistance in turning the pump on from a well or pump contractor.
- *Pump Operation* - All pumps and their electrical components can be damaged by sediment and flood water. The pump including the valves and gears will need to be cleaned of silt and sand. If pumps are not cleaned and properly lubricated they can burn out. Get assistance from a well or pump contractor who will be able to clean, repair or maintain different types of pumps.

For more information, please contact the above telephone numbers or a New Jersey Licensed well-driller. You can also visit the Ocean County Health Department website at www.ochd.org for information on what to do after the flood regarding well and pump inspections.

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