

*I am a concerned citizen
who has a son & friends on wells.*

Atkinson Water

Atkinson is a small town of about 6600 people. Atkinson has no surface reservoir or surface ponds for water. The people of Atkinson all depend on wells or the Hampstead Water Co for their water needs. Most private wells are between 300 and 400 feet deep. But some are even as shallow as 100 feet deep.

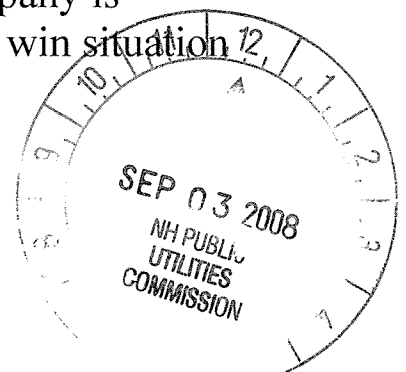
The people of Atkinson are scared and afraid that their wells will go dry, as some have done this summer even with all the rain we had.

Therefore, the people of Atkinson voted in September of 2007 to restrict the sale of water outside of Atkinson.

Now, the Hampstead Water Company has applied to be able to take an additional one hundred fifteen thousand gallons a day from Atkinson to use in Hampstead. And they want to be able to increase the amount of water withdrawn in 2010 to be able to sell *an additional* 100,000 gallons to other towns. This is in violation of the Atkinson Water Withdrawal Control Ordinance of September 2007.

Now, as I see it, if you take that amount of water from 840 feet below grade, the water at the 300-400 level will trickle down to fill the void at the 840 foot level. This will undoubtedly leave wells at the 300-400 foot level dry and unusable. This scares the people of Atkinson. They fear that their houses will depreciate in value without their wells.

The Hampstead Water Co will then come to them and offer to sell them water for a fee and The Hampstead Water Company is looking for a rate increase too. This seems to be a no win situation for the people of Atkinson.



There is nothing in this withdrawal for the town of Atkinson. There is no money involved. However, there will be roads dug up with delays and lots of dust to the neighbors. And state road, Rte 111, will need to be dug up causing more delays to travelers.

I understand the water company has already drilled five new wells in Atkinson to accommodate the ground water withdrawal increase. Is this putting the cart before the horse? To drill five new wells before you have the state approval to withdraw this amount of water? And who is monitoring all this?

If Hampstead Water Co needs water in Hampstead, let them drill for the water in Hampstead and not in Atkinson.

The Eagle Tribune of June 1, 2008, has a headline "Treading Water" "Towns worry about long term supply" "The state has told the town to look for new sources of water". This is in the town of Salem, our neighbor.

The Boston Sunday Globe of August 24, 2008 states that Lake Powell, which is a very large lake and straddles Utah and Arizona has been in a drought situation for the past six years. There the channel through Castle Rock Cut kept boaters away because of low water levels.

I think we all remember the terrible water shortage in the Atlanta area last fall.

water is becoming used up faster than it's replenished and is very valuable.
I ask that you give very serious thought to this application for the water withdrawal from Atkinson to be used in Hampstead *and any other Town* deny this request from the Hampstead Water Company.

Thank you.

Shirley B. Davis
9 Hickory Pond