



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROUNDWATER LEVELS SIGNAL END FOR PERC TESTING THIS SEASON

(LEONARDTOWN, MD) March 13, 2006 -- Due to declining seasonal groundwater levels, St. Mary's County Health Department Environmental Health Services division announced today that they have a limited number of days to continue scheduling perc tests in order to complete perc testing by mid April, when the "wet season" is expected to end. Lower than normal precipitation in Southern Maryland so far this year has contributed to a lower water table than expected, as observed through a network of monitoring wells. Seasonal conditions required for perc testing are expiring faster than normal, prompting staff to suspend testing earlier this year.

According to the health department, new applications received by March 21, 2006 are likely to make the cut-off. In addition, all previously scheduled perc tests will be conducted. Perc tests are expected to run until mid-April. Perc test applications that are not scheduled by the end of the season, will be placed on hold until the monitoring wells water levels return to adequate "wet season" levels. At that time, perc testing will resume. Applicants who submit applications, which are held until the 2007 "wet season," will be eligible for a refund. For more information, please contact Environmental Health Services at 301-475-4321.

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