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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information Contact:

Vicki Monks, Interim Public Information Officer

Oklahoma City-County Health Department

Office: (405) 425-4386

Cell: (405) 520-9902

Free bacterial testing of flooded private wells

The Oklahoma City-County Health Department (OCCHD) is offering free bacterial testing of water from private wells that may have been contaminated by flood waters. The free testing is available to anyone in Oklahoma City-County who suspects that flood waters may have inundated a wellhead or infiltrated well water.

“We strongly encourage everyone in the flooded areas to have their well water tested,” says OCCHD laboratory supervisor Brad Finkhouse. “Flood waters could carry a variety of contaminants and it’s important that people make sure their drinking water is safe.”

OCCHD is waiving the usual fee for well water bacterial testing as a community service to help people who are coping with the aftermath of the flood.

The free well water testing checks for levels of coliform bacteria, which is considered a good indicator of water quality. The presence of coliform may indicate contamination with sewage or with disease-causing germs.

Water testing kits are available at OCCHD’s main building at 921 NE 23rd Street. For questions, the direct phone number for the OCCHD water lab is 425-4340.

Additional information is also available at occhd.org

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also offers information on well water contamination at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/private/wells/faq.html>