

Missouri State Park Water Systems Reviewed for Water Tower/Tank Inspection

Summary of Sunshine Law Documents

October 2013

Knob Noster State Park Campground, Johnson County (PWS ID # MO1120159). A DNR Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) inspection report from 2011 states, “The standpipe was installed in 2001, and has not been inspected since installation. Water storage facilities should be inspected every three to five years to ensure structural integrity, interior and exterior paint quality, and protection of finished water quality. Storage tank inspections should be a planned expense that is budgeted for, scheduled, and performed routinely by the water system.” The system was provided a list of water tank inspectors, but there is no indication in the records produced under the Sunshine Act that such an inspection has ever been done. The report also documents the lack of security fencing around the water tower, a basic requirement to deter vandalism. A prior inspection report from 2008 documents the failure to obtain a tank inspection and the lack of fencing and states the need to correct both.

Lake Wappapello State Park, Wayne County (PWS ID # MO4120161). This is the only state park, of the five reviewed, where reference to a professional inspection of a water tower actually being conducted was found. It was performed, however, in 2007, outside of the five-year maximum. An inspection report from 2009 states, “It is recommended that planning begin now to arrange for the next inspection which should be performed within the next one to two years. It is also recommended that security fencing be installed around the storage facility.” Lack of security fencing is also mentioned in DEQ inspection reports of 2008 and 2013. Notes from the 2008 Compliance and Operational Inspection form indicate security fencing was “In budget,” but by 2013 it had still not been installed.

Bennett Springs State Park Well #1, Laclede County (PWS ID # MO5120148). This water storage tank is an in-ground concrete structure rather than the classic elevated tower, but comprehensive inspection was identified as overdue and signs of contamination were presented in the 2009 inspection report, “The public water system does not have an adequate tank interior inspection and cleaning program. Specifically, the only known inspection and cleaning of the concrete in-ground storage tank serving Well #1 took place after a potential tampering event that occurred in 2001, and as mentioned above, insects and spiders have since been observed inside the concrete in-ground storage tank under the access manhole hatch.” If macroscopic organisms such as insects and spiders are present on gross inspection, microorganisms such as *E. coli* and *Salmonella* could also be present. Of additional concern, the 2010 DEQ report contains the identical statement regarding the lack of adequate tank interior inspection and cleaning; this indicates no corrective measures were taken following the 2009 report. The 2010 inspection report was the most recent provided for this system, so the sanitary integrity of this water storage facility is in serious question.

Cuivre River State Park-Camp Derricotte, Lincoln County (PWS ID # MO6120159). Camp Derricotte had one of the worst records of the 2,800 public water systems in Missouri for compliance with the Total Coliform Rule in fiscal year 2012 (July 2011 through June 2012) when it incurred six health-based violations. This is a seasonal system listed as routinely open April through October. For five of the seven months it was open in FY2012, it exceeded the maximum contaminant level for total coliform bacteria; in September 2011 this system exceeded the standard for both total coliform and *E. coli* bacteria. DNR responded by budgeting \$100,000 to install chlorination, but failed to inspect the water tower. After new construction of permanent disinfection, major problems with the structural integrity of the existing water tower (circa 1938) were evident. As stated in a May 2012 e-mail between DEQ regional office staff, “Their tower still has a leak and drains down partially overnight, so they are fighting with that also.” PEER has received no record of a professional inspection of the water tower at Camp Derricotte being conducted within the 5-year scope of the Sunshine request.

Cuivre River State Park-Camp Sherwood, Lincoln County (PWS ID # MO6122659). This system incurred maximum contaminant level violations for total coliform bacteria in July and September 2011 and August 2012. So far in 2013 routine samples collected in May and July have tested positive for total coliform bacteria. With all source water samples testing negative, this suggests an on-going problem in the distribution system, with the water tower a prime suspect. The most recent DEQ inspection report from 2011 gives storage facilities a passing grade, “No sanitary defects noted..... The ladder is locked to prevent access to the tower. The tower is inspected two times per year by park staff.” There is no record, however, of a comprehensive inspection of the water tower by professionals.

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