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## For Immediate Release

### Well Water Users Provided Informational Brochure and Web Site

FAYETTEVILLE – Cumberland County property owners, whose property is located where public water is not available, are being mailed a brochure that will instruct them on how to find out if their well water is safe. Simultaneously, a new page on the Cumberland County website is being activated today, featuring a map of the various locations across Cumberland County indicating where various kinds of contamination are known to exist.

The informational brochure and website ([www.co.cumberland.nc.us/safewater](http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/safewater)) are the work of the Cumberland County Safe Water Task Force, formed in February to address the problem of contaminated water wherever it is discovered across Cumberland County.

Co-Chairs of the Task Force are Deputy County Manager Juanita Pilgrim and Jane Stevens, Director of the Environmental Health Division of the CC Public Health Department.

“The brochure and website are both very informative tools made available by the Safe Water Task Force,” Stevens says. “County-wide public water would be ideal. However, with funding not available, these tools give guidance to private well water users for

testing as well as a way to see on a map the known contaminated sites in Cumberland County.”

The Task Force has made progress in grappling with the massive challenge of finding a way to provide clean water to all residents of Cumberland County. The first task to be addressed was developing a protocol on communications among the various agencies that have responsibility for water. Communication among local and state agencies is improved, with the concerted effort to share information.

The engineering firm of Marziano & McGougan, in a limited partnership with Koonce, Noble & Associates, an engineering firm in Robeson County, has been engaged to prepare a study on how to get clean water to areas of the county that do not currently have access, a draft of which is expected to be complete in February 2009. Koonce, Noble & Associates, has also provided a preliminary report on the possibilities of extending water into Cumberland County from Robeson or Bladen County.

The Safe Water Task Force continues to address the challenge of providing clean safe water to all residents of Cumberland County. Funding a county-wide system remains a daunting prospect (voters defeated a bond referendum to address that issue in 1994), but the Task Force is studying ways that might facilitate delivery of clean water from adjacent counties. Harnett County, for example, provides water to northern Cumberland County. It is possible that clean water might be provided to the southern regions of Cumberland County by other adjacent counties.

In any case, the task is great but progress is being made. The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners is periodically updated on the Task Force’s progress. Citizens are invited to visit the website to see where in the county contamination is known to exist and urged to have their well water tested to insure it is safe to use.

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