




Raw Water

Is it a Public Health Issue of concern for Durham?

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DCo EH Division Director*

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The **“raw water”** movement has been around for several years — it had its roots in the raw food movement — but it’s been getting attention lately after companies started bottling and selling untreated spring water. **In** **September**, Doug Evans, the founder of Juicero, the startup that made that “smart juicer” **the internet loved to mock**, announced a five-day “water fast” in which he would only drink raw water.





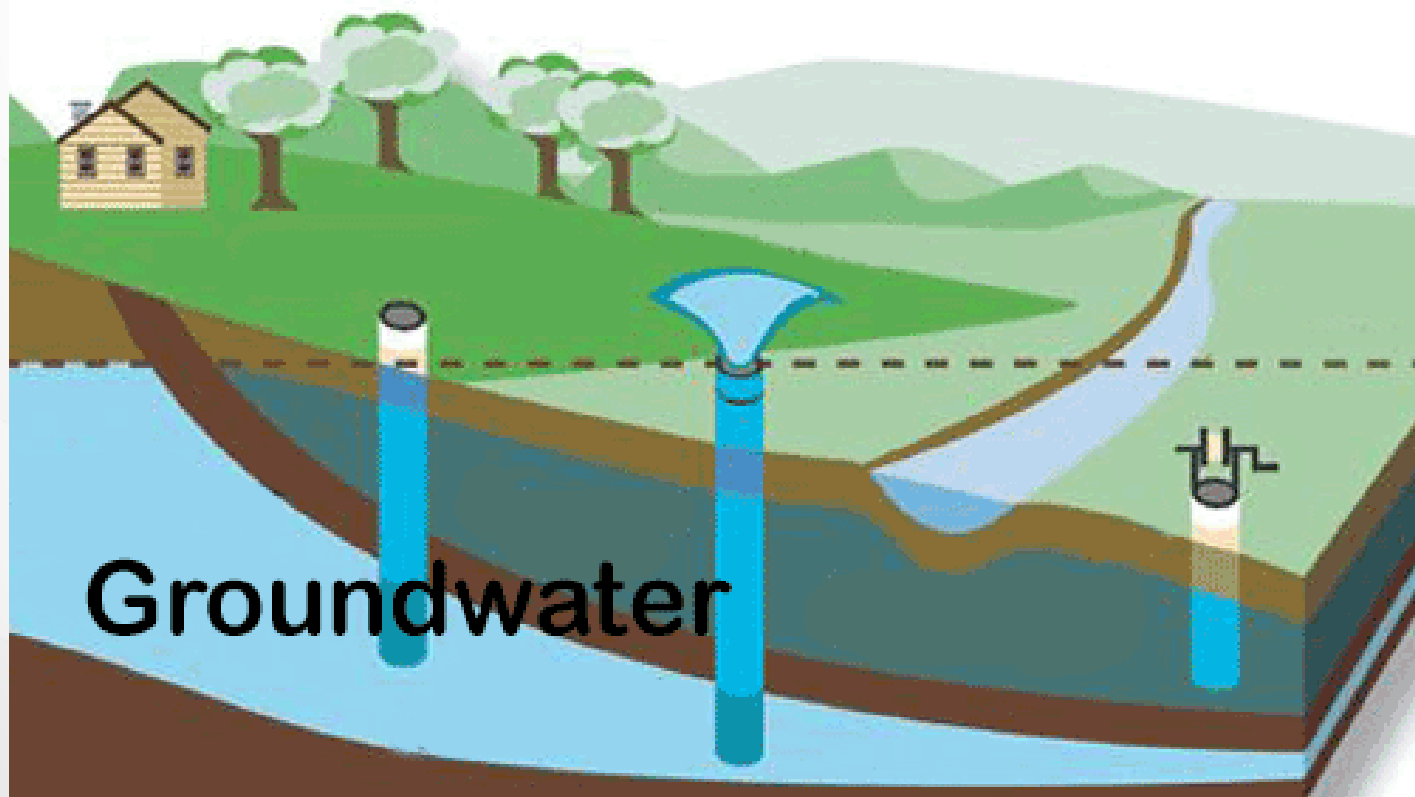
What is Raw Water?

Untreated, unfiltered water usually from

Springs

Wells?







Why?

“Raw” water proponents say it contains healthy and natural minerals that get stripped out when tap water or bottled water is filtered and treated. One “raw water” adherent [told the Times](#) that after making the switch, she noticed her “skin’s plumper” and she feels as if she’s “getting better nutrition from the food I eat.”

“Tap water? You’re drinking toilet water with birth control drugs in them,” Mukhande Singh, the founder of the Live Water startup, [told the Times](#). “Chloramine, and on top of that they’re putting in fluoride. Call me a conspiracy theorist, but it’s a mind-control drug that has no benefit to our dental health.”



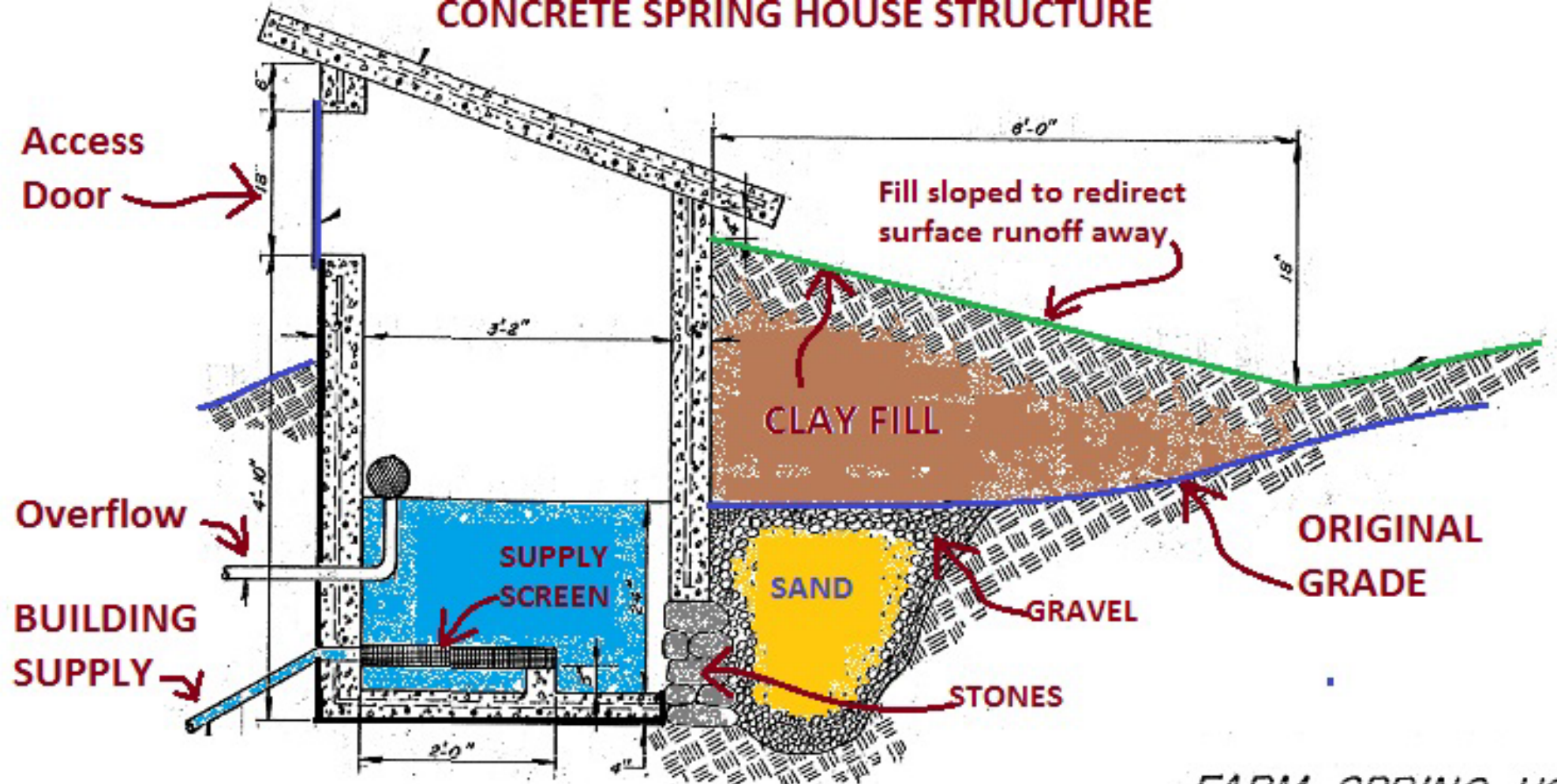


Springs as Water Supplies

For springs whose water emanates from a sufficiently deep source, contaminants generally enter the water supply from the surface or from groundwater close to the surface



CONCRETE SPRING HOUSE STRUCTURE



FARM SPRING HOUSE



DESIGN BY
DRAWN BY **PAM BENNETT**





untreated "living water" from Summit Spring in Harrison Maine



untreated "living water" from Summit Spring in Harrison Maine

In the 1800's Summit Spring water was sold as a healing tonic with claims that it relieved a host of common maladies, from arthritis, kidney disease, to nervous disorders. It was put up in 35 gallon spruce barrels and glass bottles and shipped by horse-drawn carriage, steamer, train, and ocean liner to major cities around the US and even to Europe. Summit Spring remains one of the oldest and most revered natural spring sources in North America. Included in the Myers, Suter & Co., Book of Cures, 1881. Summit Spring water sold in NYC in 1881, for .40 cents per gallon! That price today with inflationary adjustments, would be over \$100 per gallon.



North Carolina Food Code Manual

Adoption of the US Food and Drug Administration's 2009
Food Code Effective September 1, 2012

5-101.11 Approved System. DRINKING WATER shall be obtained from an APPROVED source that is: (A) A PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM; P or (B) A nonPUBLIC WATER SYSTEM that is constructed, maintained, and operated according to LAW. P





North Carolina Food Code Manual

Adoption of the US Food and Drug Administration's 2009
Food Code Effective September 1, 2012

5-101.13 Bottled Drinking Water.

BOTTLED DRINKING WATER used or
sold in a **FOOD ESTABLISHMENT** shall
be obtained from **APPROVED** sources in
accordance with 21 CFR 129 -
Processing and Bottling of Bottled
DRINKING WATER. P





Bill Lord

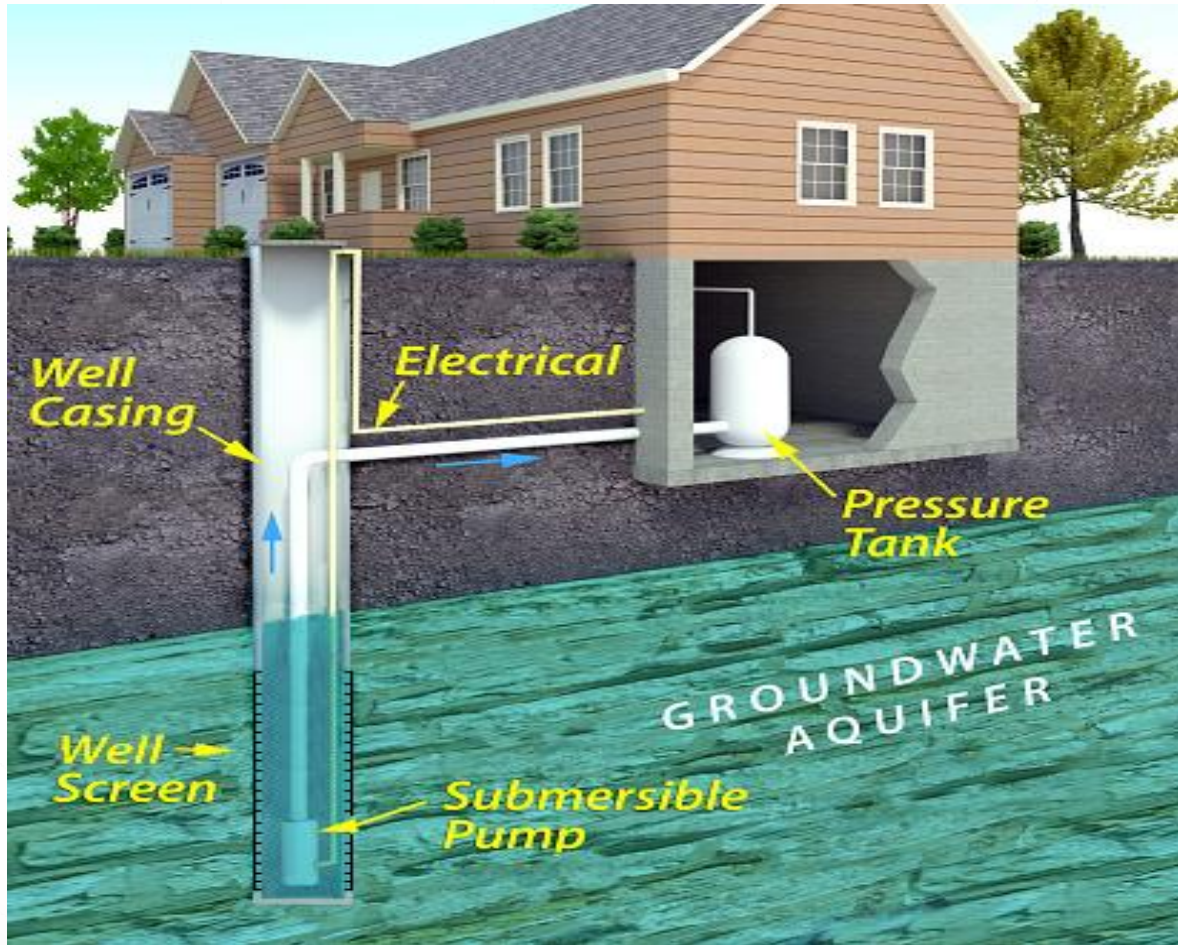
Area Specialized Agent, Water Resources

Serves 101 Counties Based out of Franklin County

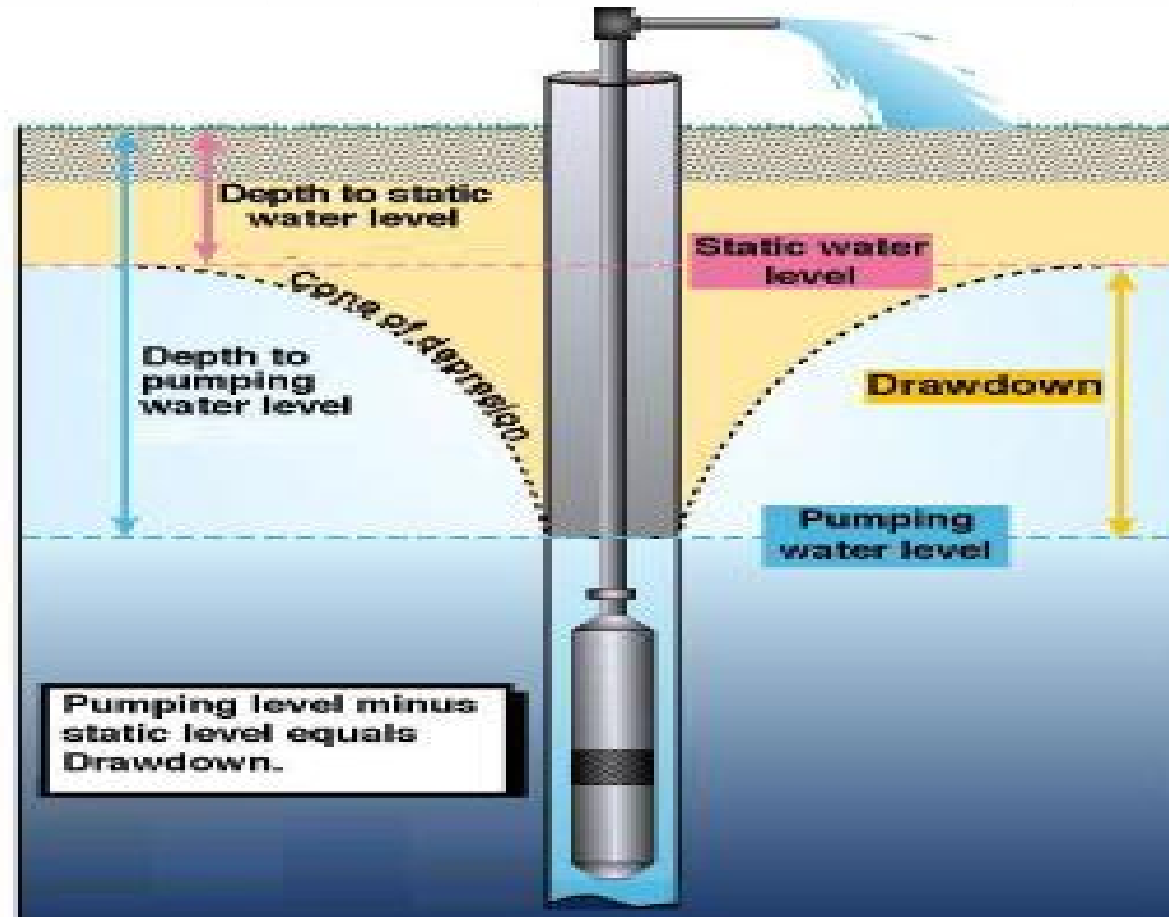
(919) 496-3344 (Office) william_lord@ncsu.edu

“I have no experience with raw water except I have been drinking well water all my life so I guess that is raw water. My personal opinion is that this is crazy, about like a pet rock. I have been sick all over the world from drinking raw water when no other choice was available”.





Drawdown





Springs & Wells as Water Supplies

Even if the original spring/well water is sanitary and of good quality it needs to be protected from surface-generated biological and chemical contaminants and runoff



WELL GROUT





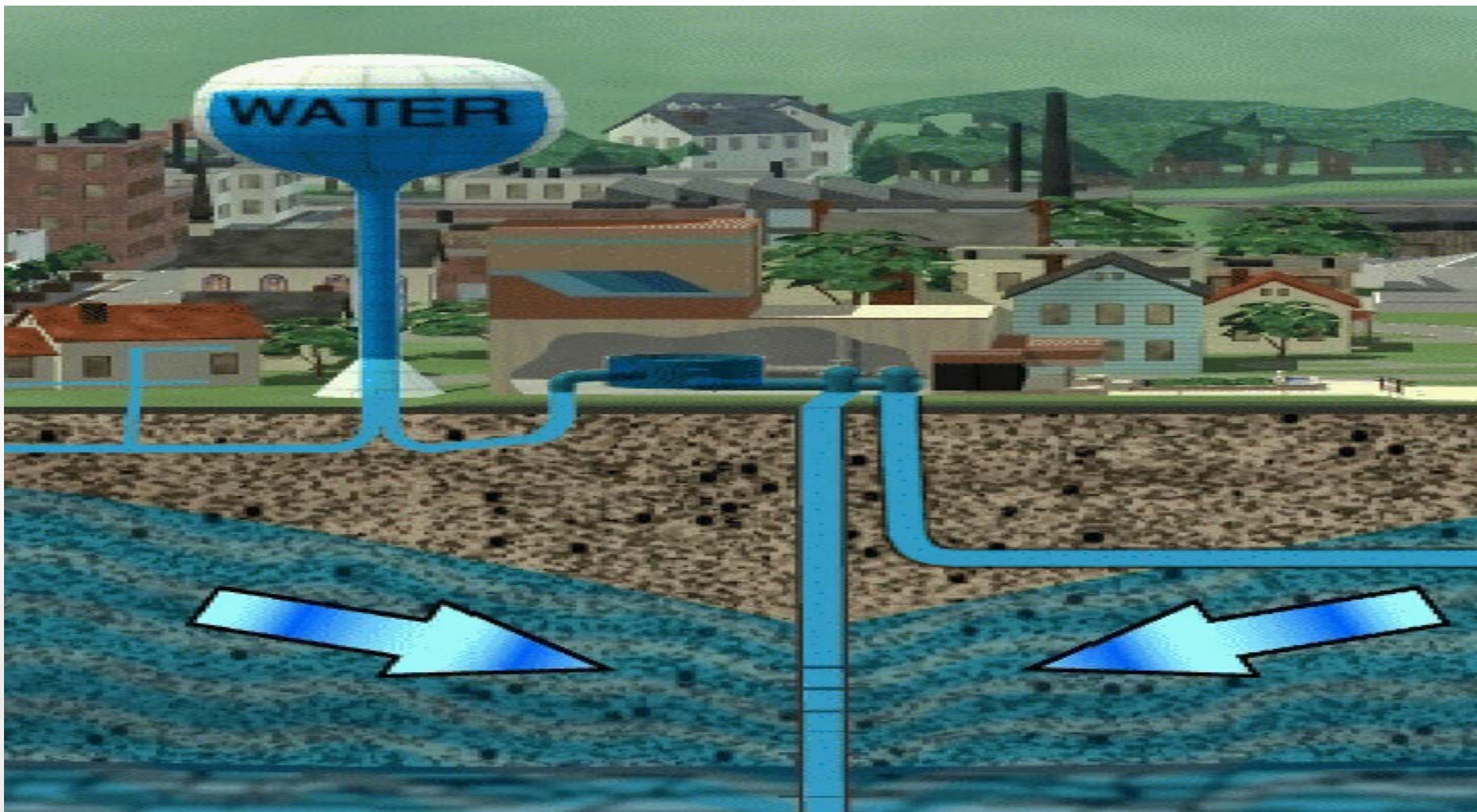
COMPLETED WELL HEAD WITH OPTIONAL SLAB



COMPLETED WELL IN DURHAM COUNTY



Community Wells





Recapping Why Raw Water?

The “raw water” trend — such as it is — fits into a larger movement that, first, embraces everything “natural” as healthy, and second, creates savvy entrepreneurs who find ways to make a lot of money from it. The Times article doesn’t offer much detail on how many people are embracing this fad and actually buying and drinking overpriced, untreated spring water. But unproven, unscientific “cures” are a growth market — and **debunkings often have little effect.**



Questions



Thank You!



Live. Grow. *Thrive.*