

**§ 87-97.2. Issuance of permit for property within service area of a public water system.**

(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-55(16), 153A-284, 160A-317, 162A-6(a)(14d), and 162A-14(2), a property owner may apply for, and be issued, a permit for a private drinking water well to serve any undeveloped or unimproved property located so as to be served by a public water system.

(b) Notwithstanding G.S. 130A-55(16), 153A-284, 160A-317, 162A-6(a)(14d), and 162A-14(2), a property owner of developed or improved property located so as to be served by a public water system may apply for, and be issued, a permit for a private drinking water well if the public water system has not yet installed water lines directly available to the property or otherwise cannot provide water service to the property at the time the property owner desires water service.

(c) Upon compliance with this Article, the property owner receiving a permit pursuant to subsection (a) or (b) of this section shall not be required to connect to the public water system for so long as the permitted private drinking water well remains compliant and in use. A property owner may opt to connect to the public water system if the property owner so desires. If the property owner opts to connect, the property owner may continue to operate the private drinking water well if that well is not interconnected to any plumbing connected to the public water system and that produces water that is used for irrigation or other nonpotable purposes only.

(d) Nothing in this section shall require a property owner to install a private drinking water well if the property is located so as to be served by a public water system and the public water system is willing to provide service to the property.

(e) This section shall not apply, and a public water system may mandate connection to that public water system, in any of the following situations:

- (1) The private drinking water well serving the property has failed and cannot be repaired.
- (2) The property is located in an area where the drinking water removed by the private drinking water well is contaminated or likely to become contaminated due to nearby contamination.
- (3) The public authority or unit of government operating the public water system is being assisted by the Local Government Commission.
- (4) Expired July 1, 2017, pursuant to Session Laws 2015-246, s. 3.5(j). (2015-246, s. 3.5(d).)