Reviewer’s report

Title: Public perceptions of drinking water: a postal survey of residents with private water supplies

Version: 1 Date: 1 February 2006

Reviewer: Patrick Levallois

Reviewer’s report:

General
The topic of this paper is important but there are some weaknesses which limit the validity of this study. First, sample size is very small which leads to a lack of precision in the estimation. Second, the low participation rate makes probable that there could be some selection bias in this sample. Results are presented too extensively. Discussion, while interesting is too long.

Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)
This study should be considered as a case report and as such should be very short (a few pages long). Background could be kept as it is but methods should be shortened, for instance, delete the questionnaire development section and reduce considerably the response rate and survey methodology. Results should be shortened, focusing on the most important results (mainly consumption profile and perception) Discussion should be considerably reduced. Limits of the validity of this study should be clearly stated and results should be briefly compared to those of others studies.

Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.
Patrick Levallois