Communities bordering but outside of city limits often lack municipal water services and rely on private wells. These communities may consider three options if their water is of substandard quality: municipal water main extension, well water treatment, or no action. The costs and health benefits of these alternatives were estimated for one census block with a population of 66 people bordering Raleigh, North Carolina. The results indicate that extending city water mains would be most expensive to the water utility (net present value = -$620,000, compared to $0 for the other options), but an optimal solution for the community from a convenience and health perspective. For the community, the net present value of connecting to municipal service is -$16,000, whereas the costs of household treatment and no action are -$10,000 and -$2,000, respectively. The results suggest that this community could benefit from annexation and extension of city water mains.

Committee:

Jackie MacDonald Gibson, Ph.D. (Advisor)
Greg Characklis, Ph.D.
Pete Kolsky, Ph.D.