

		West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources			
		MANUAL OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROCEDURES			
Section	Drinking Water	Date	December 1, 2008	Procedure #	DW-45
Subject	Responsibility For Construction and Abandonment of Water Wells			Page	1 of 2

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, Office of Environmental Health Services, developed this policy jointly with the Division of Environmental Protection, Office of Water Resources, to clarify regulatory responsibilities regarding permitting, construction, and abandonment of various types of water wells as defined in the [Water Well Regulations, 64 CSR 19](#), and the [Monitoring Well Design Standards, 47 CSR 60](#). The following three agencies have regulatory responsibilities for the construction, altering, or abandonment of various types of wells including, but not limited to, those listed below:

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING DIVISION (OEHS)

- * Public Water Supply Use Wells - For Community and Non-Community (Non-Transient and Transient) Public Water Supply Systems.
- * Exploratory/ Observation Wells - For determination of availability of drinking water supply for Community and Non-Community (Non-Transient and Transient) Public Water Supply Systems.
- * Heat Pump or Geothermal Well greater than 50 tons - Any well constructed to use the heat exchange properties of either groundwater or of geologic material penetrated by the well.

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

- ** Potable Water Wells -Any water well that provides potable water, other than a public water supply for human consumption.
- * Exploratory Wells - For determination of availability of potable water supply - Domestic (serving less than 25 individuals or less than 15 service connections).
- * * Heat Pump or Geothermal Well less or equal to 50 tons - Any well constructed to use the heat exchange properties of either groundwater or of geologic material penetrated by the well.
- * De-watering Wells - A well used to lower groundwater levels to allow for construction of footings, sewer lines, building foundations, dams, etc.
- * Industrial Use Water Wells - A well used in industrial processing, fire protection, washing, packing, or manufacturing of a product excluding food and beverages, or similar non-potable uses. This pertains to wells not on a contaminated ground water site like Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund Comprehensive Emergency Response Cleanup and Liability Act (CERCLA), Brownfield, and voluntary remediation sites.
- * Exploratory/Observation Use Wells - For determination of availability of production water supply for manufacturing, commercial and industrial facilities. This will pertain to a well(s) not on a contaminated ground water site like Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund Comprehensive Emergency Response Cleanup and Liability Act (CERCLA), Brownfield, and voluntary remediation sites.

- * Commercial Use Wells - A well that serves small businesses and facilities in which water is the prime ingredient of the service rendered.
Irrigation Use Wells - A well used to provide water for plants, livestock, or other agricultural processes.

OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES (DEP)

- ** Ground Water Monitoring Wells - Any cased excavation or opening into the ground made by boring, digging, driving, jetting, or other methods for determining the physical, chemical, biological, or radiological properties of ground water.
 - ** Ground Water Monitoring Observation Wells - Any monitoring well in which the screened interval intersects the water table.
 - ** Driven Point Wells - A well constructed by joining a drive point with lengths of pipe and driving the assembly into the ground with percussion equipment or by hand, without first removing material below the 10 foot depth.
 - ** Recovery Wells - A well intended and designed to capture and remove contaminants from the subsurface.
 - ** | Industrial Use Water Wells - A well used in industrial processing, fire protection, washing, packing, or manufacturing of a product excluding food and beverages, or similar non-potable uses. This pertains to a well(s) on a contaminated ground water site like Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA), Superfund Comprehensive Emergency Response Cleanup and Liability Act (CERCLA), Brownfield, and voluntary remediation sites.
 - ** Piezometer - A monitoring well sealed below the water table and installed for the specific purpose of determining the potentiometric surface or the physical, chemical, biological, or radiological properties of ground water or both.
 - ** Boreholes - Borings installed to obtain geologic or groundwater data.
 - *** Underground Injection Wells (UIC) - Wells or "holes" in the ground which are deeper than their widest surface dimension and are used to discharge or dispose of fluids underground. This does not supersede the local health department authority to issue septic system installation and construction permits.
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- * A West Virginia Certified Water Well Driller must be on site in direct charge of drilling, construction, altering or abandonment of this type well(s).
 - ** A West Virginia Certified Monitoring Well Driller must be on site in direct charge of drilling, construction, altering or abandonment of this type of well(s).
 - *** A West Virginia Certified Water Well Driller or a West Virginia Certified Monitoring Well Driller must be on site in direct charge of drilling, construction, altering or abandonment of this type of well(s).

References [47 CSR 60, Monitoring Well Design Standards,](#)
 [64 CSR 19, Water Well Regulations](#)

History Replaces DW-45 dated May 31, 2000

Attachments