



Well Disclosure History and Process

Minnesota Department of Health

Well Management Section
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www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells

Environmental Health Division

History and Description of Well Disclosure Process:

- Well disclosure was authorized by 1989 Ground Water Protection Act.
- Well Disclosure Certificates (WDC) have been required to be filed with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) since November 1, 1990.
- Well disclosure requirements are established in Minnesota Statutes, section 1031.235-236.
- Well Disclosure is a two-step process:
 - Well Disclosure Statement before signing Purchase Agreement.
 - WDC accompanies recording of deed.
- Well Disclosure Statement/Certificate identifies the location, number, and status of all wells on the property.
- By status, the well is “in use,” “not in use,” or “sealed” (by licensed well contractor and Well and Boring Sealing Record is on file at MDH).
- Statement is placed on deed for no well on the property or if the number and status of wells remain unchanged “from the previously filed WDC.”
- County recorder forwards WDCs to MDH by the tenth day of each month.
- MDH follows up with buyer for WDCs with “not in use” wells or unverified well sealing.

e-Well Disclosure Certificate:

- August 1, 2000 – Electronic Real Estate Recording Task Force is established, under the Office of Secretary of State.
- July 1, 2009 – e-Well Disclosure Certificate is rolled-out.

Program Statistics:

- As of April 1, 2012, MDH has processed 478,400 WDCs.
- The rate of WDCs being filed has varied from ~30-34,000 per year in the late 1990’s to ~9,000 in 2010 and 2011. The rate of e-WDCs being filed has increased from an average of 8 per month in 2009 and 2010, to 24 per month in 2011, and 70 per month in January - March 2012.
- MDH and delegated well programs have followed up on ~47,000 WDCs with a “not in use” well, an unverified sealed well, or other issue(s).
- As of April 1, 2012, over 250,000 wells have been sealed.
- Approximately 146 local agencies provide cost share and loans to promote well sealing activities.
- In 2006, the MDH, Well Management Section, was awarded the "Ground Water Protection Project Award" by the National Ground Water Association in recognition of Minnesota's successful well sealing efforts.

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