

Minnesota Well Management News



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New Fee Schedule – Effective July 21, 2011

The legislation passed by the Minnesota State Legislature during the recent Special Session and signed by Governor Dayton on July 20, 2011, included a new fee structure for a number of Well Management Section fees, including well construction notifications, well sealing notifications, permits, variance requests, and well disclosures. The legislation also established a new annual fee for representative certification. Fees for licenses/registrations, hoist/drilling machine registrations, and maintenance permits were not changed. The fees which were increased are:

Well Construction Notifications

Water-Supply Well	\$235
Dewatering Well	\$235
Dewatering Project (5 or more)	\$1,175

Permits

Elevator Boring	\$235
Ground Water Thermal Exchange Device	\$235
Vertical Heat Exchanger (Heat Loop)	
< 10 tons	\$235
10 – 50 tons	\$475
> 50 tons	\$700
Monitoring Well	\$235

Monitoring Well Site Permits

Motor Fuel Retail Outlet	\$235
Petroleum Bulk Storage Site	\$235
Agricultural Chemical Facility	\$235

Well Sealing Notification

\$65

Variance Application

\$235

Well Disclosure Certificate

\$50

Representative Certification*

\$75

*New fee requirement.

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Pursuant to the legislation, the fees are effective July 21, 2011. Since the fees and effective date are established in statute, there is no flexibility in phasing in the new fees. Well Management Section staff will work with contractors to resolve any discrepancies in the amount submitted and the amount required for any payment received on or after July 21, 2011. For credit card payments, staff will contact contractors and attempt to adjust the amount paid over the phone. Insufficient payments by check will be promptly returned so that the appropriate amount can be resubmitted. We understand that this short notice may result in some inconveniences and are committed to doing our best to resolve any issues that may arise in a timely manner.

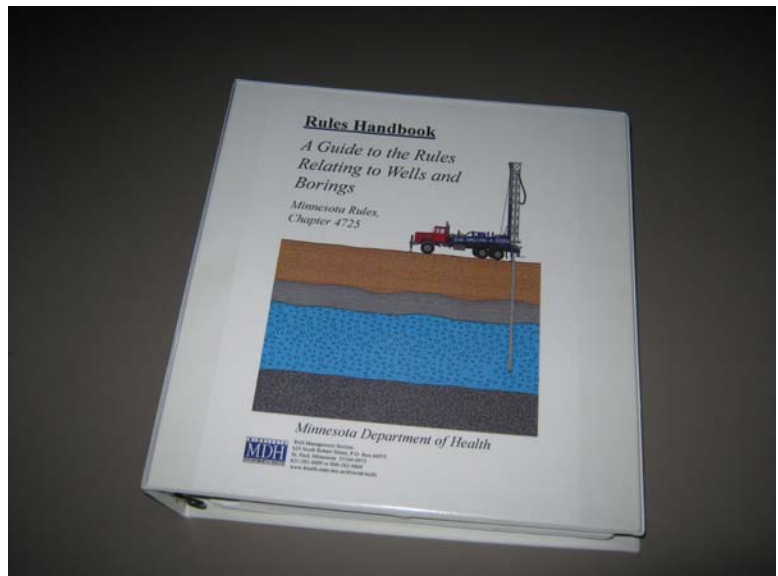
The new state fees do not apply in jurisdictions where administration of the well program has been delegated to a local unit of government. Delegated well programs have their own fee schedules. Individuals should check with the delegated well program for their current fee amounts.

New Rules Handbook Available

The newly revised “Rules Handbook, A Guide to the Rules Relating to Wells and Borings, Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725” has been completed and is now available online. The handbook has been posted to the Well Management Section’s website at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/ruleshandbook.

The handbook is large – 603 pages, with an electronic file size of 19.3 MB. It may take a long time to download on a home computer. As an alternative to downloading the full document, it has been divided into sections which can be downloaded individually much faster. The sections contain numerous bookmarks making it convenient to quickly locate topics of interest.

The new Rules Handbook has a similar organization to, and replaces, the original August 1994 version of the handbook. The new handbook contains current rules and laws, updated policy and factual information, and new graphics in electronic form. The 1994 Rules Handbook is no longer valid and should be retired or disposed of.



The newly revised Well and Boring Rules Handbook.

Due to budget constraints at the present time, the MDH will not be printing paper copies of the handbook for contractors. Contractors can print off their own copies from our website or burn copies to CDs. Paper copies are not currently available for purchase from the state bookstore, but may be available in the future. Please contact the MDH’s Well Management Section if you have questions regarding the handbook.

Dan Wilson Retires from Minnesota Department of Health

Mr. Daniel Wilson retired from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on May 2, 2011, after 20 years of service as manager of the Well Management Section. Prior to joining MDH in 1991, Dan served as Chief of the Public Water Supply Section of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Chief of the Drinking Water Section for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 5 (Chicago).

During his tenure with MDH, Dan oversaw major revisions of the well code rules (Chapter 4725) in 1993 and 2008 and of the rules on Explorers and Exploratory Borings (Chapter 4727) in 2003. He also directed the Well Management Section program and worked with delegated well programs to meet the mandates of the 1989 Ground Water Protection Act. Other major program accomplishments include:

- Development and publication of the Rules Handbook (1994, 2011)
- Study of Lead from Submersible Pumps (1994-95)
- A Survey of the Quality of Water Drawn from Domestic Wells in Nine Midwestern States (Centers for Disease Control, 1998)
- Assessment of Chemical Contamination of Flooded Wells in Southeast Minnesota (2008)
- MDH Evaluation of Point-of-Use Water Treatment Devices for Perfluorchemical Removal (2007-2008)
- St. Lawrence Formation mapping and well construction projects in south-central Minnesota (1996) and in Anoka County (2010)
- The 2006 Ground Water Protection Program Award from the National Ground Water Association, highlighting the efforts of state, local government water resource agencies, and the well industry in sealing abandoned wells and borings. As of August 1, 2011, there have been 250,362 wells and borings permanently sealed in Minnesota.
- Establishment of a new license type – Vertical Heat Exchanger Contractor (2001).
- Improvement of MDH response to natural disasters, primarily floods, especially in regards to mitigating impacts on private water supplies. Well Management Section and Delegated Well Programs responded to major statewide Spring flood events in 1993, 1997, and 2009 and to Summer flash floods in southern Minnesota in 2007 and 2010.
- Improved compliance rates with potable water-supply well sanitary compliance typically exceeding 95 percent each year.

Dan was always focused on two primary objectives of the program – ensuring that new wells provided a safe source of drinking water and improving groundwater protection, such as through sealing not-in-use wells and borings. He always emphasized the need to be reasonable, fair, and consistent in the application of MDH requirements.



Dan Wilson, Well Management Section manager, retired on May 2, 2011.

Chris Elvrum is Appointed Manager of the Well Management Section

Mr. Chris Elvrum has been appointed as the new manager of the Well Management Section, effective June 13, 2011. Mr. Elvrum comes to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) from the Metropolitan Council, where he worked for 12 years in water-supply planning for the seven county metropolitan area, including six years as manager of the Water Supply Planning Unit. A major achievement while at the council was the completion of the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan and implementation of that plan. While at the council, he worked with state and local agencies, water utilities, industries, and other interested parties in such areas as water resource assessment, demand forecasting, contaminant and geologic mapping, water conservation, and water reuse. Prior to working at the council, he worked for 4-1/2 years in environmental consulting on the investigation and remediation of contamination sites.

Mr. Elvrum is a licensed Professional Geologist. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin at Eau Claire and a Master of Science Degree from the University of Kentucky, both in Geology. He is a former president of the Minnesota Ground Water Association (MGWA) and served on the MGWA Foundation Board for several years. In these roles, he met and worked with academics, contractors, professionals, researchers, and regulators on a wide variety of groundwater issues.



**Chris Elvrum, new Well Management
Section manager.**

State Government Shutdown

Minnesota state government shut down, except for court-mandated critical services, on July 1, 2011, after Governor Mark Dayton and the state legislature failed to reach a budget agreement. The shutdown lasted for 20 days. During that time, well contractors were able to submit well construction and well sealing notifications and fees by U.S. mail and perform some well construction and well sealing activities. During the shutdown, permits for monitoring wells and vertical heat exchangers were not issued, plans and specifications for community public water-supply wells were not reviewed, and variance requests and license applications were not processed. A budget agreement was reached, and legislation was signed into law by Governor Dayton on July 20, 2011, ending the shutdown. State of Minnesota employees, including Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) staff that were laid off, were recalled to work on July 21, 2011.

Now that the shutdown is over, Well Management Section staff are reviewing permit, license, and variance applications; and other correspondence and requests as quickly as possible. We ask for, and appreciate your patience as we address the backlog of work that accumulated during the shutdown.

87th Legislature Update

The 87th Legislature adjourned on May 23, 2011, with much unfinished business remaining. At the time this article was written, there were a number of bills that had been introduced that would potentially impact the well and boring industry, the use and management of groundwater resources, and the regulatory authorities of state and local government. A summary of the status of the bills is provided below:

HF 569/SF 588 (Well Contractors to be Allowed to Perform Certain Activities Without a Plumbing License): Governor Dayton signed House File 0569/Senate File 0588 on May 13, 2011. Session Laws of Minnesota 2011, Chapter 21, is **effective August 1, 2011**, and modifies Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 326B (the plumbing licensing law) to allow Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) licensed and bonded well contractors to do certain activities without a plumbing license or plumbing bond. This legislation was initiated and supported by the Minnesota Water Well Association. A MDH licensed and bonded well contractor or limited well/boring contractor does not need a plumbing license and bond to install:

1. water service pipe from a well to a pressure tank;
2. a frost-free water hydrant with an antisiphon device on a well water service pipe located entirely outside of a building requiring potable water;
3. a control valve, located outside the building, on a well water service pipe; or
4. a main control valve located within 2 feet of the pressure tank on the distribution supply line.

HF 135/SF 064 (Authority to regulate wells): In late 2010, the MDH acknowledged that, while Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I grants authorities to regulate the construction, repair, and sealing of wells to the MDH (and Delegated Well Programs), the language does not specifically prohibit local governments from banning wells in their jurisdictions. HR135/SF 064 proposed to restrict local government regulation to public wells, and prohibit local governments from regulating the construction and use of private wells. This legislation was laid over in the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee.

HF 236/SF 207 (Exemption for repairs): This bill was introduced early in the session and would enable plumbers who do not hold a well contractor or pump installer's license to repair submersible pumps and water pipes associated with well water systems if there is not a well contractor within 25 miles. This legislation did not advance beyond introduction.

HF 1061/SF 1363 (Omnibus Legacy Bill): The Legacy Amendment created four funds financed by a state sales tax. The four funds include the Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Clean Water Fund, Parks and Trails Fund, and Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The MDH submitted several requests for monies from the Clean Water Fund. Requests for arsenic testing and a GPS initiative were not approved. Requests for continuing work on contaminants of emerging concern, accelerated development of wellhead protection plans for public water supplies, and new funding for enhancements to County Well Index and new funding for cost-share well sealing programs through the Board of Water and Soil Resources were approved, although the well sealing request was reduced by 50 percent. This bill was passed in the Special Session, was signed by Governor Dayton on July 20, 2011, and became effective retroactive to July 1, 2011.

SF 760 (Bored Geothermal Heat Exchangers): This bill was a MDH initiative and was part of the Omnibus Health and Human Services legislation. One provision of the bill would change the title and definition of “vertical heat exchanger” to include all bored geothermal heat exchangers (closed loop geothermal systems). Currently, MDH regulates vertical heat exchangers, but not horizontal or angle drilled heat exchangers. There are environmental and public health concerns regarding systems installed using directional drilling methods. This provision was removed in conference committee after surviving review by multiple committees on both sides of the Legislature.

2011 Continuing Education Summary

Certified representatives of a well contractor or monitoring well contractor must obtain six hours of continuing education each year for certification renewal. Two of the six hours must be Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)-provided or MDH-sponsored. Certified representatives of limited well/boring contractors (dewatering, pump, pitless, dug well/drive point, vertical heat exchanger, and sealing) and elevator contractors must obtain two hours of MDH-provided or MDH-sponsored continuing education each year for certification renewal.

Each year, the Well Management Section of the MDH presents a series of two-hour continuing education programs designed to address topics of interest to the industry; highlight current issues; and provide opportunities for discussion. These MDH programs fulfill the two-hour continuing education requirement. The additional four hours required of well contractors and monitoring well contractors may be chosen from a wide variety of topics described in rule, and are provided by various organizations including the Minnesota Water Well Association, and at numerous training programs sponsored by suppliers.

During March and April 2011, the MDH Well Management Section staff presented continuing education programs in Bemidji, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, St. Cloud, and St. Paul. The meetings were given at no cost, were open to the public, and qualify for two hours of MDH-provided or MDH-sponsored continuing education. The attendance sheets were signed by 153 persons:

<u>Profession</u>	<u>Number of Attendees</u>
Well Contractor	91
Limited Well/Boring Contractor	26
Monitoring Well Contractor	21
Delegated Well Program	10
Other Government Agency	4
Supplier	2
Elevator Contractor	1

Well Management Section staff also provided two hours of continuing education at the January 2011 Minnesota Water Well Association Convention and Trade Show in Duluth, and at numerous pump and supply-house programs during the winter and spring of 2011. All programs followed a similar agenda including a MDH report of past year’s statistics, legislation, flooding, and well program updates; a presentation on Minnesota geology given by Bruce Bloomgren of the Minnesota Geological Survey; and topics tailored for each district including local statistics, arsenic, and various case histories.

PCB-Filled Capacitors in Submersible Pumps Still a Problem

It's been over 30 years since the production of submersible pump motor capacitors containing polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) dielectric fluid was discontinued in the United States. Still, the Well Management Section continues to field questions regarding the removal of these old pumps from wells and the safe disposal of the capacitors that contain the PCB oil.

Unfortunately, these questions often do not come up until the pump in question is found to be stuck in a well. Most frequently, neither the well owner nor the licensed well contractor are certain of the submersible pump's manufacturer, model number, or date of production. However, if it's known or even strongly suspected that the submersible pump in question is a 2-wire (120 volt) pump that pre-dates the 1979 ban and, therefore, may contain PCBs, contractors should proceed as if the pump contains PCBs.

"Two-wire" (120 volt) submersible pumps contain a capacitor in the motor of the pump rather than in a control box outside of the well. The capacitor of many two-wire pumps manufactured prior to 1980 contain up to 5 ounces of PCB dielectric fluid. PCBs are considered to be probable human carcinogens, are toxic to the human immune system, do not degrade in the natural environment, and they accumulate in the food chain.

Given that any pre-1980 submersible pump that's still functioning today has exceeded its normal operational lifespan, the MDH strongly recommends that these pumps be replaced as soon as possible and be disposed of properly. Well contractors who are aware of water systems that utilize an old 2-wire submersible pump are encouraged to talk to their customers about pump replacement. Waiting to replace a pump that may potentially contain PCBs only increases the chances that the pump may eventually leak PCBs into the well and the aquifer. In addition, old pumps can become stuck in wells, greatly increasing the cost for removal, and damage that may lead to a PCB release. If a suspect pump is found to be stuck in a well, contact your local Well Management Section staff for guidance on pump removal, precautionary measures, and PCB disposal.

The National Ground Water Association published a list of submersible pumps containing PCB capacitors in the Water Well Journal (see May 1987 issue). This list was based on a compilation by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and is available at:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/pcb.pdf.

Disposal of PCBs is highly regulated. These pumps should never be thrown out in the trash. They need to be treated as hazardous waste so that the PCB oil can be collected and destroyed. In most cases, it is destroyed by incineration at high temperatures.

For business owners, including well contractors, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has established a network of Very Small Quantity Generator (VSQG) hazardous waste collection facilities to



Two-wire submersible pumps containing capacitors filled with PCB dielectric fluid.

make proper disposal of capacitors (and other special hazardous waste) more convenient and cost-effective. This network is tailored to contractors who, in the course of their work, manage small quantities of hazardous waste, such as mercury-containing thermostats, dry-cell batteries, and PCB capacitors. For more information about the VSQG program and information on proper handling, storage, packaging, and transportation of PCB pumps and/or capacitors, contact Tara Mercil (MPCA, Detroit Lakes) at 218-846-8136 or Josh Burman (MPCA, Mankato) at 507-344-5243.

Well owners may be able to dispose of their submersible pumps through their county's household hazardous waste program. Pumps should be labeled as containing PCBs in the motor capacitor. Private property owners can check with their county hazardous waste department for more information.

“Dormant Status” for Elevators Removed from Service

Elevators are sometimes taken out of service for several reasons including building vacancies, mechanical problems, or remodeling. The Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) requires a permit and a \$100 fee to take any elevator out of service. The elevator rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 1307) which are administered by the DLI, allow an elevator to be in a “temporary dormant” status for up to three years. Temporary dormant status means that the power is disconnected and locked out, and the elevator car is lowered and locked. After three years DLI rules require the elevator to be placed back into service or be taken out of service permanently. The DLI rules do not address permanent sealing of bore holes for elevators that use a hydraulic cylinder. DLI has reported that an increasing number of elevators are being placed in temporary dormant status.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) regulates the construction and sealing of borings used for a certain type of elevator that uses a hydraulic cylinder placed into the ground inside a drilled bore hole. The MDH does not regulate elevators that use a cable lift system instead of a hydraulic cylinder. Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103I, requires that an unused well or boring, including an elevator boring be sealed by a licensed well contractor, limited well sealing contractor, or elevator boring contractor. An elevator boring may remain unsealed during the temporary dormant status for three years only if it meets the requirements of DLI. At the end of the three year period the elevator must either be repaired and placed back into service or must be taken out of service and the elevator boring be permanently sealed.

Failure to Comply with Public Water-Supply Well Plan Review and Site Approval

An article in the Fall 2009/Winter 2010 issue of our newsletter reminded contractors to determine the use of proposed wells and mark the correct use on the well construction notification form. Contractors were also reminded to provide 24-hour notice before beginning construction of a public water-supply well, and that all public wells drilled by a method that creates an annular space, must be full-length grouted. In addition, for community public water-supply wells, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) must review and approve in writing, plans and specifications for the well, and must inspect and approve the well site before construction may begin.

Recently, the MDH Well Management Section issued an Administrative Penalty Order (APO) to a well contractor and the MDH Drinking Water Protection Section issued an APO to a small community public water system for construction of a public water-supply well before plan review and site approval. To

further complicate matters, the well contractor did not supply 24-hour notice before beginning construction of the public water-supply well; there were three abandoned, unsealed wells located within 50 feet of the new public supply well; and there was a sewage tank, that was not verified to be watertight, less than 75 feet (54 feet) from the well.

The MDH required the well contractor and public water supplier to submit plans and specifications for the public water supply, seal the abandoned wells, and replace the sewage tank of unknown construction with a new, watertight concrete tank.

Dangers of Abandoned Mine Shafts

On Wednesday March 2, 2011, an employee of a geothermal drilling company fell down an abandoned mine shaft northeast of Reno, Nevada. The man had been working in the area and after his drilling shift had ended for the day, he went out to visit the mine shaft with two co-workers. The man fell 190 feet down the shaft. Rescuers attempted to reach the man, but the mine shaft was too unstable to attempt a rescue. Rocks were falling in and hitting the rescuers on their heads and likely the victim as well. A video camera was lowered down the shaft to locate the man, who was still breathing at the time. He was not moving and had suffered serious head injuries. A priest was brought in and administered last rites. Authorities had planned to monitor the victim until he stopped breathing.

In Nevada, there are reported to be as many as 310,000 abandoned mine shafts. The state of Nevada has identified the most dangerous mine shafts and have been closing the shafts located near parks and population centers that pose the most risk.

Mr. John Engesser, with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Lands and Minerals Division, has reported that for the past four years the DNR has been mapping the locations of underground mines on the Mesabi Iron Range in Minnesota. In St. Louis County alone, the DNR has mapped the locations of 781 mine shafts. Future mapping projects include the West Mesabi Range from Grand Rapids to Keewatin, the Vermilion Range from Tower to Ely, and the Cuyuna Range from Crosby to Ironton.

In Minnesota, state law requires fencing around abandoned mine shafts to restrict access and signs warning of the danger of falling into these abandoned mines. Inspection to assure compliance with fencing requirements is performed by county mine inspectors or the sheriff's department.



The main shaft of the abandoned Utica Mine Extension. Pictured are the concrete pillars which supported the former mine hoist. (Photo Courtesy of DNR.)

Additional information about underground mine mapping in Minnesota can be found at: www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/underground. Anyone with a need for detailed underground mine information, should contact the DNR Division of Lands and Minerals Office, 1525 Third Avenue East, Hibbing, Minnesota 55746, 218-231-8484.

Additional Requirements for Constructing Community Wells

Well contractors in Minnesota recognize that they are responsible for following the well code rules. Sometimes, following the rules is not enough. This is particularly true for construction of a well serving a community water system. A community water system is a public water system that serves at least 15 service connections used by year-round residents, or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents. Community water systems include municipal water systems for cities, towns, and villages; and nonmunicipal water systems for facilities including manufactured home parks, apartment buildings, correctional facilities, and colleges with dormitories, or other residences served by the water system.

In addition to complying with the well code requirements for public water-supply wells, well contractors must also comply with the specifications listed in the plan approval document that is issued by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).

The well code requires that a well contractor must not construct or alter a well that either is, or will, provide water to a community water system, until plans and specifications have been approved by the MDH. The public water-supply rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4720) require that no construction of a public water-supply well shall take place except in accordance with the approved plans.

The MDH plan approval letter, called the “Report on Plans,” typically includes an extensive list of requirements intended to: correct parts of the plan that are in conflict with the rules; clarify rule requirements for plan parts that are not clear; emphasize rule requirements for community wells that are often overlooked or misunderstood; summarize the well site inspection results; and provide instructions for notification of MDH personnel required at different points in time during the construction process.

Before beginning well construction, the well contractor must have a copy of **both** the plans and specifications for the project and a copy of the “Report on Plans” issued by the MDH. These documents should be available from the well owner or the owner’s consulting engineer. The “Report on Plans” may also be obtained from the MDH.

The well contractor is responsible for compliance with the requirements of the well code, the “Report on Plans,” and the “Plans and Specifications.” Therefore, it is imperative that the contractor carefully review these documents. If there is a conflict between the well code and the plan that has not been addressed in the MDH “Report on Plans,” the well contractor should bring this to the attention of the MDH and the well owner. The well code always takes precedence and the plan should be corrected to bring it into agreement with the well code.

Most well construction plans provide specifications for items that are not addressed in the well code, such as well development, plumbness and alignment, well efficiency, and yield requirements. The well contractor is obligated to comply with these plan specifications since the public water-supply rules require that all work must be done in accordance with the approved plans.

For questions regarding community water system plan review, please contact Mr. Brian Noma at 651-201-4683. For questions regarding community well construction requirements, please contact Mr. Ed Schneider at 651-201-4595.

Over the last five years (2006-2010), 250 community water-supply wells were constructed in Minnesota by 40 different well contractors.

Changes to Requirements for Joining Well Screen to PVC Well Casing

Well contractors in Minnesota now have more options for making screen connections to plastic well casing 6-inches or larger in diameter. Effective May 12, 2011, the Minnesota Department of Health Well Management Section adopted a policy allowing some alternatives to the connections currently required in rule.

Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4725 currently requires that if a screen is attached or connected to plastic casing, the connection must be made by:

1. a nontoxic packer (for example, a neoprene rubber “figure K” packer);
2. a plastic coupling meeting the dimension requirements of ASTM Standard F480-02 (these couplings are not commonly available);
3. flush-threaded joints meeting ASTM F480-02 (monitoring wells and environmental bore holes only); or
4. a slip x-thread fitting meeting ASTM D2466-02 (for 4-inch and 5-inch diameter wells, only).

The rules do not require a connection between a screen and casing. For example, a telescoped screen can be installed inside a casing with no packer or other physical connection between the casing and screen.

For all practical purposes, the rules would allow only a telescoped screen (with or without a packer) for plastic well casing 6-inches or larger in diameter because there are no commonly available couplings that meet the requirements for joining a pipe size screen to plastic casing 6-inches or larger in diameter.

In order to provide well contractors with workable options for construction of plastic cased wells 6-inches in diameter and larger, with pipe size screens, the MDH has adopted the following policy:

- The requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 4725.2550, subparts 1 and 2 for compliance with a particular ASTM standard or dimensions are waived for the screen connection to 6-inch and larger diameter plastic casings.
- Plastic parts and related joining materials including solvent cements must comply with Minnesota Rules, part 4725.2550, subpart 3, which requires NSF compliance.
- If a screen is attached or connected to the casing, the connection must be made by a threaded, solvent-welded, or welded joint or by a nontoxic packer (without requiring that the coupling or fitting meet any particular standard or dimensions). For PVC well casing, only a solvent-welded plastic coupling or fitting or nontoxic packer would be acceptable. The plastic coupling or fitting may connect to the screen with threads or a solvent weld.
- Screws must not be used to join PVC casing (including joining casing to screen).

Please note that this policy does not modify the requirement that flush-threaded PVC casing may be used only in the construction of a monitoring well or environmental bore hole, and flush threaded PVC casing must meet the requirements of Minnesota Rules, part 4725.6650.

Appointments to Advisory Council on Wells and Borings

On April 1, 2011, Commissioner Edward Ehlinger, MD, MSPH, appointed three new members and reappointed three members to the Advisory Council on Wells and Borings. Mr. David Henrich of Bergerson-Caswell, Inc., Maple Plain, Minnesota; and Mr. Danny Nubbe of Mineral Service Plus, LLC, Green Isle, Minnesota; were appointed as new well contractor members. Mr. Steven Lawrence of Glenwood, Minnesota, was appointed as a new public member. Mr. Roger Renner, well contractor member, of E.H. Renner and Sons, Inc., Elk River, Minnesota; Mr. Daniel England, explorer member, of the Eveleth Fee Office, Eveleth, Minnesota; and Mr. Rick Nash, vertical heat exchanger contractor member, of Dedicated Geothermal, LLC, Loretto, Minnesota, were reappointed.

The council meets quarterly, usually the first Wednesday of March, June, September, and December. Meetings are held in St. Paul. Members are reimbursed for meals, travel, and lodging and also receive a \$55 per diem for each meeting attended. Council members who are license/registration representatives earn one contact hour of MDH-provided continuing education for each advisory council meeting attended.

The council advises the Commissioner and the department on a variety of issues regarding the regulation of wells and borings. The council assists in the examination of license applicants; makes recommendations on Well Management Section policies, rule-making, and statutory initiatives; and provides technical review and information. The council also provides a forum for contractors to raise industry concerns.

The seats of three well contractor members, one elevator contractor member, one monitoring well contractor member, and one public member will become vacant, effective January 2012. Information on the council, the application process, and membership can be found at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/lwcinfo/advisory.html.

If you are interested in applying for upcoming vacancies or if you have questions about the advisory council, you may contact Mr. Michael Convery at 651-201-4586.

Obituaries

Robert B. Hadden, 89, of Hadden Well Company, Cedar, Minnesota, passed away on November 13, 2010, at the Guardian Angels Care Center, Elk River, Minnesota.

Robert, "Bob" was born on July 27, 1921, in Columbia Heights, Minnesota, to Edward and Marjorie (Howell) Hadden. Bob started drilling wells in 1940. He was one of the first well contractors in Minnesota to purchase a rotary drilling rig. Bob enjoyed golfing and was a member of three golf leagues at the age of 89.

Bob is lovingly survived by his wife of 54 years, Verna, his daughter Linda, his son Mark and a granddaughter, Tyler. Bob's son Mark will continue operating Hadden Well Company in Cedar, Minnesota.

Paul J. Olson, 88, of Olson Well Company, Lake Park, Minnesota, passed away on March 1, 2011. Paul was born on April 29, 1923 to John and Emma (Lindstrom) Olson in Lake Park. He was raised and attended schools in Lake Park. Following graduation from Lake Park High School, he joined the U.S. Army and served in the 78th Signal Corps Infantry in Europe. After his discharge, he returned to Lake Park, where he farmed. Paul married Lyla Seydel on June 30, 1951, in Eksjo Lutheran Church, Lake Park. They raised four children, while continuing to farm and working at the Crystal Sugar plant in Moorhead, Minnesota.

In 1959, Paul purchased a wood-frame jetting machine to repair his own well and help neighbors with their water needs. He soon concentrated on well drilling and formed Olson Well Company (later Olson Well Drilling). He hired several men over the years and Lyla helped him at times, prompting Paul to joke that the business should be named "Mom and Pop Drilling." He was later joined by his son, Terry, as the company progressed into well sealing and geothermal work. Paul was among the first well contractors to become licensed when the state well program was started in 1972. The company closed their business in 2009. Paul served on the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Water Well Association (MWWA), serving as President of MWWA in 1979. He was perhaps best remembered for providing a "refuge" in his motor home at meetings and conventions.

Paul is survived by his wife, Lyla; one son, Terry (Vicki) Olson of Mandan, North Dakota; three daughters Jean Olson, Lake Park; Joan Scardino, Pittsford, New York; and LaDon (Curtis) Haugen, Audubon; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Woodrow J. "Woodie" Torgerson, 79, passed away March 5, 2011, at his home in Backus, Minnesota. Woodrow was born October 1, 1931, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He was united in marriage to Verdienne (Berg) on June 28, 1952, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. His passions in life were his family, Torgerson Well Company, four-wheeling, fishing, and friends. Torgerson Well Company, which Woodrow started in 1951 and is now operated by sons Ron and Steve, is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Woodrow became a Mason in 1967 and was a member for many years of the Masonic Lodge in Rockford, Minnesota. He was also a member of the Zurah Shrine and also served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1954.

Woodrow is survived by his loving wife Verdienne of 58 years, children, Steve (Char) Torgerson, Ron (Lori) Torgerson, Dean (Becky) Torgerson, LaRae (Gordy) Nelson; 14 Grandchildren; 13 Great Grandchildren; Sister Tootie Jackson; mother-in-law Edith Berg "Gma Tim;" and many nieces and nephews. Woodrow is preceded in death by daughter Terry Lynn Torgerson, parents Ordean and Goldie Torgerson, brother Robert, infant sister Wanda, brother-in-laws Raymond Jackson and Duane Berg, sister-in-law Evelyn, nephews Bobby Rogerson and Randy Jackson. Interment was in Brooten, Minnesota.

Erwin William Klavu, 77, of Moose Lake, Minnesota, passed away on June 17, 2011. Erwin was born on June 3, 1934, in Cromwell, Minnesota, to Art and Hilja Klavu. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany. In 1970, he founded Klavu Well Drilling of Moose Lake, Minnesota, and was among the first well contractors licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health in 1972. Erwin enjoyed fishing and being at the hunting shack.

Erwin is survived by his wife of 55 years, Barbara; daughter, Amy Klavu; and son, Randy Klavu. Randy Klavu operates Randy Klavu Well Drilling of Sturgeon Lake, Minnesota.

New Contractor Certifications

Well Contractor

Bill J. Beuning
Boart Longyear
Bemidji, Minnesota

Bradley R. Koziolk
Morrison Well Co., Inc.
Freeborn, Minnesota

Monitoring Well Contractor

Richard A. Lamb
Minnesota Department of Transportation
Maplewood, Minnesota

Tom D. Tesch
Subsurface Exploration Services, LLC
Green Bay, Wisconsin

Explorer

Robert J. Hinkel
Twin Ports Testing, Inc.
Duluth, Minnesota

Pump Installer

Jason J. Schaitel
Mid-Wisconsin Pump and Well Service, LLC
Sparta, Wisconsin

Pitless/Screen Contractor

John J. Fahey
Hydro Engineering, Inc.
Norwood Young America, Minnesota

Jason J. Schaitel
Mid-Wisconsin Pump and Well Service, LLC
Sparta, Wisconsin

Bradley D. Woxland
GS Woxland Co., Inc.
Rushford, Minnesota



MINNESOTA WELL MANAGEMENT NEWS

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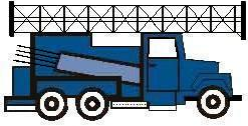
Reprinting of articles in this newsletter is encouraged. Please give credit to the Minnesota Department of Health or noted source.

Continuing Education Calendar

The Internet link to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Well Management Section's, Continuing Education Calendar is: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/lwcinfo/training.html.

This calendar lists the upcoming continuing education courses that have been approved for renewal of certification for representatives of Minnesota licensed and registered well and boring contractors. The calendar also lists the number of credits available for each course. The calendar is updated monthly and, if you subscribe, you will be notified by email when this page changes (new classes added, changes to existing classes).

For additional information about any of these training opportunities, call the contact person listed for the program of interest. For general information about continuing education, more current CEU listings, or to request approval for other continuing education activities not listed, contact Mike Convery, Minnesota Department of Health, Well Management Section Operations Unit Supervisor, at 651-201-4586, or michael.convery@state.mn.us.



Minnesota Well Management News

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Continuing Education Videoconference is Planned for December 8, 2011

The Well Management Section will be offering a videoconference on Thursday, December 8, 2011, from 1 to 3 p.m. for representatives who still need to obtain two hours of Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)-provided or MDH-sponsored continuing education in order to renew their 2012 certification. The videoconference will be broadcast from Room B107 at the Freeman Building at 625 Robert Street North, St. Paul, and may be viewed at the MDH district offices in Bemidji, Duluth, Fergus Falls, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, and St. Cloud. This session will cover the same information, with updates, the Well Management Section staff provided at the Minnesota Water Well Association Convention, the Spring District Meetings, and the pump and supply house schools. This meeting is primarily intended for individuals who missed the previous presentations. No preregistration is required for attending the videoconference. An informational flyer will be mailed in early November 2011 about the upcoming program.

If you have any questions, please contact Michael Convery at michael.convery@state.mn.us or at 651-201-4586 or the Well Management Section district staff. Information on this program and other continuing education opportunities is available on the MDH Well Management Section website at: www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/wells/lwcinfo/training.html.

As a reminder, certified representatives for well and boring contractors (except responsible individuals for Explorers) must obtain two hours of MDH-provided or MDH-sponsored continuing education annually. Representatives for monitoring well contractors and well contractors must obtain an additional four hours of MDH-approved continuing education.