

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: January 20, 2022

TO: Licensed Well Contractors, Limited Well and Boring Contractors,
Elevator Boring Contractors, Environmental Well Contractors, and Explorers

FROM: Corrie Floyd, P.G.
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SUBJECT: Well Management Section Updates

Reminder for 2022 License Renewal

Reminder that Well Contractor, Limited Well and Boring Contractor, and Elevator Boring Contractor licenses expire on January 31, 2022. Environmental Well Contractor and Explorer licenses expired on December 31, 2021. Company renewal applications postmarked to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) after expiration are subject to a \$75 late fee.

MDH Attendance at In-Person Events

Due to the current COVID-19 conditions, MDH staff are not permitted to attend in-person events (e.g., conferences, meetings). MDH is not presenting continuing education material at the 100th Anniversary Minnesota Water Well Association Convention on January 30, 2022. We value our public health partnership with industry and look forward to attending in-person events in the future.

MDH-Presented Training

MDH has provided two contact hours of MDH-presented continuing education online for license renewal through the MDH Learning Center. The name of the course is "Well Management CEUs for 2022 License Renewal," and this course provides two contact hours of an MDH-presented program that is required for 2022 license renewal. The online learning courses in the MDH Learning Center are free and available anytime.

Additional MDH-Approved Training

Certified representatives of well contractors and environmental well contractors are required to have an additional four contact hours of continuing education from an MDH-approved program.

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Continuing Education Assistance or Questions

[Online Continuing Education Training for License Renewal – Quick Reference Guide \(PDF\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/wells/lwcinfo/ceurefguide.pdf)
(www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/wells/lwcinfo/ceurefguide.pdf).

Please visit [Continuing Education Programs \(www.health.state.mn.us/lwcceu\)](http://www.health.state.mn.us/lwcceu) for more information on education requirements for annual license renewal and for a list of additional programs or providers. If you have continuing education questions, please contact Ms. Kara Dennis at kara.dennis@state.mn.us or 651-201-4589.

Updates and Changes

Well and Boring Numbers

Compared to 2020, preliminary data from 2021 indicates that several hundred more wells were constructed and the number of wells sealed was about the same. Once 2021 data is completely analyzed, it will be shared in the MDH-presented training for 2023 license renewal.

Changes to Well Management Section District Office Boundaries

Licensed well and boring contractors working in Pine and Kanabec Counties will now be supported by the Duluth District Office field staff. If you have questions, contact Sandra Beck (218-302-6145) or Mike Freeman (218-302-6167). You can also find an updated organizational chart and contact information on our website.

Well Management Section Staffing Update

While many of our staff have returned to the section from COVID-19 response work, our staffing situation remains fluid. Well Management Section Manager, Chris Elvrum, has taken a temporary position in the COVID Response and Recovery Unit. Justine Greene is continuing to work as our interim program manager. Additional staff no longer with the Well Management Section are Curtis Wunderlich, St. Cloud District Office Hydrologist; Erik Widmark, Metro District Office Well Inspector; Alex Martell, Operations Unit Supervisor; Norm Mofjeld, Jeff Paddock, and Emily Berquist, Central Office Hydrologists; Frieda von Qualen, Central Office Communications; Francine LaFayette, Central Office Administrative Supervisor; and Debbie Grundtner and Juanita Hinrichsen, Central Office Administrative Support and Receptionist.

New staff joining the Well Management Section are Corrie Floyd, Operations Unit Supervisor; Robyn Hetland, Administrative Supervisor; and Brooke Lund, Variance Coordinator.

Overall staffing for the Well Management Section is at an all-time low. We appreciate your patience and partnership as we work to backfill positions and reestablish many of our functions. Until then, some of our more routine functions may take longer than usual. If you do not know who to speak with, please contact us at health.wells@state.mn.us or 651-201-4600.

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2021 Legislative and Rule Updates

There was no new legislation regarding Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103I passed during the 2021 Legislative Session. However, there was a change during the 2021 Legislative Session to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103G (Waters of the State), which is carried out by the commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR). The prohibition on the use of the Mt. Simon Aquifer has been expanded from the seven-county metro area to the whole state of Minnesota. The MN DNR is not allowed to issue MN DNR Water Appropriation Permits to use water from the Mt. Simon-Hinckley Aquifer unless the appropriation is for potable water use, there are no feasible or practical alternatives, and a water conservation plan is produced. If you have questions, please contact Mr. Dan Miller MN DNR Hydrologist at dan.w.miller@state.mn.us.

In 2013, the Minnesota Legislature amended Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103I to include regulating bored geothermal heat exchangers, not just vertically bored geothermal exchangers. This includes piping installed in a boring for thermal conductivity testing and does not include a closed-loop piping system installed in a boring 15 feet or less below ground surface. MDH revised Minnesota Rules, chapter 4725 to reflect the 2013 statutory changes for bored geothermal heat exchangers. These rule revisions went in effect on March 22, 2021. Thank you to all the licensed well and boring contractors who contributed to this effort. Updated information is provided on our website and is part of the MDH-presented continuing education for license renewal through the MDH Learning Center. The process of revising and writing new rules for environmental wells and temporary borings is ongoing.

CF:KD:kad

cc: Delegated Well Programs
Minnesota Water Well Association
Well Management Section Staff