

Item A – Project Implementation Update



Well Construction 2021-23 Biennium Projects and Priorities

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November 17, 2022

Item A, Attachment 5



Well Construction and Compliance Section

2021-23 Biennium Work Priorities and Projects

Well Construction and Compliance seeks to ensure that well constructors and landowners use proper well construction, maintenance, and abandonment techniques to protect aquifers. The program administers well construction standards, conducts well inspections and well report reviews, administers well constructor continuing education and licensing, records exempt use wells, issues well identification labels, and reviews requests for special standards.

Current Operations

Compliance - Work to gain voluntary compliance from the well construction industry when deficiencies are noted during well inspections and well report reviews.

Special Standard Program - Communicate laws, rules, program policies and procedures to well construction industry and staff. Develop and deliver technical training to well construction industry, well inspectors and the public. Review special standard requests to deviate from minimum well construction standards, and review the construction of wells associated with submitted water right applications.

Technical Well Report Review Program - Coordinate the well report review program to ensure the statewide consistency of statute, rule, and policy interpretation associated with the construction, alteration, and abandonment of wells. Develop and deliver training to staff on the tracking and repair of well construction deficiencies. Review deficiencies noted during report reviews to assess well constructor training needs, and track the resolution status of deficiencies noted during reviews to ensure issues are resolved.

Well Constructor Licensing Program - Proctor license examinations on a quarterly basis and issue licenses to qualified applicants. Coordinate the well constructor continuing education program. Support the well constructor continuing education committee. Coordinate the well constructor license renewal process, and update the database to reflect changes.

Geotechnical Hole Program - Coordinate the review of geotechnical hole reports and invoice for associated fees, and coordinate amendments to well reports as directed by technical well report reviewers.

Well Identification Program - Respond to inquiries from the public in regard to wells associated with specific properties. Coordinate the well I.D. program for new wells and wells associated with property transfers, and coordinate the updating and publishing of OWRD's Well Owner Handbook.



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Updated August, 2022

2021-2023 Well Construction and Compliance Projects and Timelines

Administration

Well Construction Compliance Coordinator (NRS4) recruitment – hired	Jan 2022
Well Construction Program Coordinator (NRS3) recruitment - hired	Mar 2022
Exempt Use Program Coordinator (NRS2) moved to Well Program Specialist (NRS2)	Jan 2022

Exempt Use Program

Modify IT systems to move collection of exempt use fee from the well owner after well is constructed to the well driller at time of report submittal	Jul 2021 – Jan 2022
Modify IT systems to require the submittal of an exempt use map from well constructor at the time a well report is filed	Jul 2021 – Jan 2022
Move collection of exempt use fees from the Well Construction and Compliance Section to the Fiscal Section	Jul 2021 – Jan 2022
Communicate exempt use fee collection changes to drilling industry and the public	Jul 2021 – Jan 2022
Rulemaking to incorporate changes to program based on HB 2145 (2021)	TBD
Complete exempt use invoice process for well reports submitted prior to Jan 1, 2022	Jan 2022 - Jul 2022

Well Construction Program

Modify IT systems to increase Start Card fee from \$225 to \$350	Jul 2021 – Jan 2022
Create IT system that will allow for the review and tracking of 100% of the well reports submitted within 120 days of submittal	Jan 2022 – Jul 2022
Develop internal personnel processes that will allow for the review and tracking of 100% of the well reports submitted within 120 days of submittal	Jan 2022 – Jul 2022
Create reports to provide information and statistics in regard to 100% well report reviews and deficiency resolution	Jan 2022 – Oct 2022
Create reports to provide information regarding well report reviews to drilling industry within 120 days of submittal	Jan 2022 – Jul 2022
Modify IT systems and paper forms to allow for the collection of additional required data from well drillers at the time of Start Card and well report submittal	Jul 2022 – Jul 2023
Establish well inspection protocols based on additional well construction data requirements	Jul 2022 – Jul 2023
Communicate Start Card and well report changes to the drilling industry/public	Jul 2021 – Oct 2024
Rulemaking to incorporate changes to program based on HB 2145 (2021)	TBD

Continuing Education Committee

Add two additional members to the Well Constructors Continuing Education Committee as required by HB 2145 (2021)	Jul 2022
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Work on Hold

Data Entry and Cleanup of Well Construction Records – Requires significant investment in information services (IS) staff. Requested initial investment in 23-25 POP, will require additional funding.

Assign a Unique Physical Location Identifier to Wells – Requires an investment in IS staff, including an application developer. Requested initial investment in 23-25 POP, will require additional funding.

Updated August, 2022

Core Functions

WCC seeks to ensure:

Proper well construction, maintenance, and abandonment techniques.

Administer well construction standards, special standards, conduct well inspections, and well report reviews.

Well constructor exams, driller licenses, support continuing education committee and process CECs.

Record exempt use wells, issue well ID labels, and provide customer service.



Current Operations

- Compliance
- Special Standard Program
- Technical Well Report Review Program



Current Operations

- Well Constructor Licensing Program
- Geotechnical Hole Program
- Well Identification Program and Customer Service



Administration

- Well Construction Compliance Coordinator (NRS4) recruitment – hired Jan 2022 *
- Well Construction Program Coordinator (NRS3) recruitment – hired Mar 2022
- Exempt Use Program Coordinator (NRS2) moved to Well Program Specialist (NRS2) – Jan 2022 *

*Component of HB 2145

Projects and Timelines

Exempt Use Program - Jul 2021 – Jan 2022

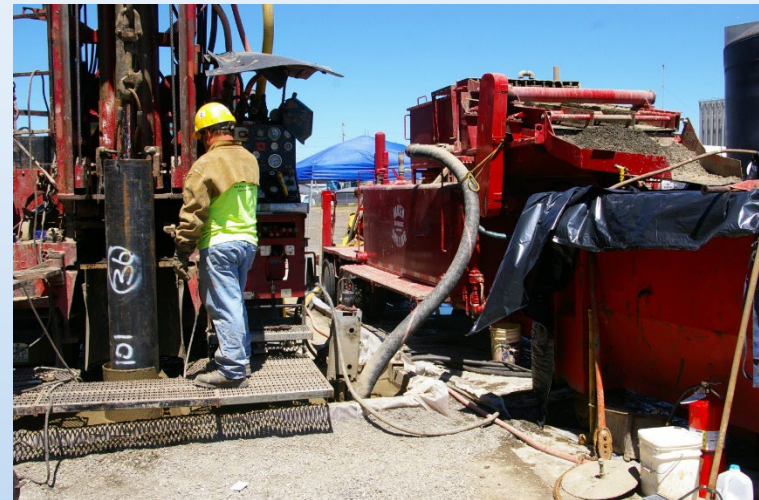
- Modify IT systems to:
 - Move exempt use fee from well owner to driller*
 - Require exempt use map when well report is filed*
- Move exempt use fee collection from Well Construction Section to Fiscal Section *
- Communicate exempt use fee changes to the industry and the public*

*Component of HB 2145

Exempt Use Program

- Exempt Use Rulemaking based on HB 2145 (2021) – Dec 2022*
- Complete exempt use invoice process for wells drilled prior to Jan 1, 2022 - Completed ≈ Jul 2022 *

*Component of HB 2145



Well Construction Program

- IT system changes:
 - Increase Start Card fee - \$225 to \$350 – Jul 2021 – Jan 2022*
 - New application - for the review and tracking of 100% of the well reports submitted within 120 days - Jan 2022 – Jul 2022*
- Develop staff process for review and tracking of 100% of the well reports submitted within 120 days - Jan 2022 – Jul 2022*
- Develop internal reports to provide data on 100% well report reviews and deficiency resolution - Jan 2022 – Oct 2022*

*Component of HB 2145

Well Construction Program

- Create reports for drillers regarding well report reviews – due to drillers within 120 days of submittal - Jan 2022 – Jul 2022*
- Modify IT systems and paper forms for the collection of additional required data - Jul 2022 – Jul 2023*
 - Start Cards
 - Well Reports
- Establish well inspection protocols based on new data requirements - Jul 2022 – Jul 2023*

*Component of HB 2145

Well Construction Program

- Communicate changes to the drilling industry/public - Jul 2021 – Jan 2025*
- Rulemaking to incorporate changes to program based on HB 2145 (2021) – Dec 2022 – Jul 2023*

Continuing Education Committee

- Add two additional members to the Well Constructors Continuing Education Committee as required by HB 2145 (2021)* - Water Quality and Safety – July 2022*

*Component of HB 2145

Work on Hold

Data Entry and Cleanup of Well Construction Records

- Requires significant investment in information services (IS) staff. Requested initial investment in 23-25 POP, will require additional funding.

Assign a Unique Physical Location Identifier to Wells

- Requires an investment in IS staff, including an application developer. Requested initial investment in 23-25 POP, will require additional funding.



**Thank
you.**

