

Section 33: Private Well Abandonment; Permits

A. Definitions.

1. “Non-complying” means a well or pump installation which does not comply with Section NR 812.42 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, Standards for Existing Installations, and which has not been granted a variance pursuant to Section NR 812.43 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.
2. “Pump Installation” means the pump and related equipment used for withdrawing water from a well, including the discharge piping, the underground connections, pitless adapters, pressure tanks, pits, sampling faucets and well seals or caps.
3. “Unsafe well or pump installation” means one which poses a threat to health or safety, produces water which is bacteriologically contaminated or contaminated with substances which exceed the drinking water standards of Chapters NR 140 or 809 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code, or for which a Health Advisory has been issued by the Department of Natural Resources.
4. “Unused Well or Pump Installation” means one which is not used or does not have a functional pumping system.
5. “Well” means a drilled hole or other excavation or opening deeper than it is wide that extends more than 10 feet below the ground*s surface constructed for the purpose of obtaining ground water.
6. “Well Abandonment” means the proper filling and sealing of a well by a licensed well driller or pump installer pursuant to provisions of NR 812 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code.

B. All wells on premises served by the municipal water system shall be properly abandoned in accordance with this section, not more than thirty (30) days from the date of connection to the municipal water system unless a valid well operation permit has been issued to the well owner by the District under the terms of this Ordinance.

C. Owners of wells on premises served by the municipal water system wishing to retain their wells for any use shall make application for a well operation permit for each well no later than 10 days after connection to the municipal water system. the District shall grant a permit to a well owner to operate a well for a period not to exceed five (5) years, providing all conditions of this section are met. A well operation permit may be renewed by submitting an application verifying that the conditions of this section are met. the District, or its agent, may conduct inspections and water quality tests or require that inspections and water quality tests be conducted at the applicant*s expense to obtain or verify information

necessary for consideration of a permit application or renewal. Permit applications and renewals shall be made on forms provided by the District. All initial and renewal applications must be accompanied by the fee established by the District. The following conditions must be met for issuance or renewal of a well operation permit:

1. The well and pump installation shall meet the Standards for Existing Installations set forth in Section NR 812, Subchapter IV as certified by a licensed well driller or pump installer following evaluation and re-certified not less than every ten years thereafter.
2. The property owner must provide to the District proof at the owner's expense that the well and pump have a history of producing safe water as evidenced by the result of a test performed by a laboratory approved by the State of Wisconsin on a coliform bacteria sample drawn by a licensed plumber or well driller from the private well. In the event that the Department of Natural Resources determines that the ground water aquifers are contaminated by substances other than bacteria, additional chemical tests may be required to document the safety of the well.
3. There shall be no cross connection between the well, pump installation or distribution piping and the municipal water system.
4. The owner or occupant of each building used or intended to be used for human habitation or occupancy is required to connect the interior plumbing system providing a potable water supply for such building to the municipal water system. Use of a private well under this section as a source of potable water for buildings used or intended to be used for human habitation or occupancy is prohibited.
5. Water from the private well shall not discharge into a drain leading directly to a public sewer owned, operated or maintained by the District unless properly metered and authorized by the District.
6. The private well shall have a functional pumping system.
7. The proposed use of the private well shall be justified as reasonable in addition to water provided by the municipal water system.

D. Abandonment of Unsafe or Unused Wells Required.

1. Any unsafe well or pump installation or unused well or pump installation located within the District shall be properly abandoned by a licensed well driller or pump installer in accordance with this section not more than thirty (30) days from the date of the District's written Notice to do so.
2. Said Notice shall be conspicuously posted on the real estate and served personally or by certified mail, on both the owner and occupant of the property if they can be found. In the event that the owner and/or occupant

of the property cannot be found in the exercise of reasonable diligence, the posting of the Notice in a conspicuous place on the subject premises as provided herein shall constitute sufficient notice of the violation under the provisions of this ordinance.

3. The notice shall also state that if the violation is not so abated or remedied, the District may cause the same to be abated or remedied, in which case the costs thereof shall be collected as a debt from the owner of the real estate and shall be assessed against the real estate as a special charge.

E. Abandonment Procedure.

1. All wells abandoned pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance shall be abandoned according to the procedures and methods of NR 812 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code. All debris, pumps, piping, unsealed liners and any other obstructions which may interfere with sealing operations shall be removed prior to abandonment.
2. The owner of the well or the owner*s agent shall notify the District at least 48 hours in advance of any well abandonment activities. District personnel may observe or verify the abandonment of the well.
3. An abandonment report form supplied by the Department of Natural Resources shall be submitted by the well owner to the District and to the Department of Natural Resources within 30 days of completion of the well abandonment.