



Answers to Rep. Shankland's Questions to DNR regarding the state's Well Compensation Grant Program

What requirements does the DNR have in order to qualify for a grant related to providing the condition of the well and the applicant's preference for a remediation option?

The DNR asks applicants to provide a copy of the well construction report for their existing contaminated well with their application, if they have it. They are also asked to provide justification for the chosen remedial option where they can explain why they are choosing treatment instead of a new well.

When is treatment a viable option?

Under the current statute, treatment is only considered if a new well would not provide water that meets drinking water standards, but the changes proposed in AB-64 would provide more flexibility for considering treatment as an option. The effectiveness and viability of a treatment system depends on the level of contamination and requires ongoing maintenance and monitoring that some applicants may not be able to handle or afford.

How engaged is a well driller in this process?

Well drillers are pretty well engaged in the process. Some actively promote the program to potential clients. They have local knowledge of historic well drilling in their coverage area and can give helpful recommendations and provide itemized estimates to applicants to submit with their applications. They are responsible for submitting well construction reports and/or filling and sealing reports for well abandonments.

Does the DNR work with the applicant when they have a preference for treatment over a new well if it is scientifically the correct solution?

The DNR works with applicants when they have a preference for treatment, but under the current statute the DNR must determine that a new well is not likely to remediate the issue or would result in a well that requires treatment for other contaminants. As discussed above, we would work with the applicant to make sure that treatment is a feasible solution.

What part of the state statutes and administrative codes govern how DNR allows water treatment systems?

NR 812.37 outlines the requirements for installing water treatment systems. 812.37(2)(d) specifically details who should install a water treatment device. [812.37\(3m\)](#) details inspection requirements, specifically that a well must be inspected prior to installation of a water treatment device if the well is contaminated by bacteria. Bacteria is the only contaminant listed in our rules that would trigger a well inspection by a well driller or pump installer.