



STATEMENT OF
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Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater

ON

CR 13-096 Heat exchange driller licensing and standards for heat exchange drillholes approved with notification

CR 13-099. Water well driller and related licensing, well filling and sealing standards, property transfer well inspections and citations

The heat exchange and water well driller licensing and construction requirements protect public health by protecting sources of drinking water in Wisconsin, ensuring that wells and drillholes are properly located and constructed and do not serve as conduits for contamination of groundwater. Licensed drillers and related professionals are the primary source of assistance to help homeowners, businesses and communities obtain safe sources of drinking water.

Both of the rule revisions before you today implement specific statutory changes:

- 2011 Act 150 modified chapter 280 of the statutes to prohibit heat exchange drilling without a license as of April 1, 2015 and require rulemaking by DNR. CR 13-096 sets heat exchange driller licensing criteria and drillhole construction standards.
- 2005 Act 360 modified chapter 280 of the statutes to require licenses for well filling and sealing and property transfer well inspections, and required rulemaking by DNR. CR 13-099 sets licensing criteria, updates well filling and sealing requirements, sets minimum standards for optional well inspections and sets criteria for issuing citations.

The two rules were developed in collaboration with drillers, water system operators, heat exchange and water well industry consultants and others. Hearings were held at seven locations across the state. Both the statutory changes and the implementing rule packages are supported by the water well and heat exchange drilling industry.

In brief, the heat exchange driller license criteria are as follows:

- All applicants seeking a heat exchange drilling license must take a test covering relevant topics of geology, drilling methods and equipment, and code requirements. Assuming the rule goes into effect, the exam will be offered at eight continuing education sessions across the state from January to March 2015.
- To be eligible for the exam, applicants must apply and document experience constructing grouted wells.
- All licensees must attend continuing education annually.
- The cost of the license is \$50.

Heat exchange drillhole construction standards are proposed primarily to allow for an on-line notification system. Currently, all heat exchange projects require individual approval by DNR. If the rule is approved, 80% of heat exchange drillholes are anticipated to qualify for on-line notification. 48 hour on-line notification is intended for typical residential and small commercial projects. Eligible projects are those meeting the following standards:

- 10 or fewer drillholes
- < 400 feet deep
- >400 feet from muni well
- 400 foot setback from municipal well
- 10 foot setback from private water well, onsite wastewater disposal system and buried fuel storage tank
- Pressure testing of loops

- Uses DNR-approved grout and heat exchange products

In brief, the changes to licensing for water well drilling and pump installing professionals are as follows:

- If an optional property transfer well inspection is performed, it must be done by a licensed individual well driller or pump installer.
- If well filling and sealing is performed, it must be by a licensed individual or their employee.
- Licensed well drillers' and pump installers' responsibilities for supervising employees were clarified.

In brief, the changes to the well and pump installation code are as follows:

- There is no requirement to report property transfer well inspection results to DNR.
- There is no requirement to upgrade a well and pump if an inspector discovers noncompliance during a property transfer inspection.
- Several changes were made to well location requirements which should result in finding fewer wells in noncompliance during inspections.
- Well filling and sealing requirements were updated, which should result in greater protection of groundwater.

I will be happy to answer your questions or provide additional detail.