

Foothills Health District

Well Program Procedures

NO WELL SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED, REPAIRED, OR ABANDONED AFTER APRIL 14, 2008 WITHOUT HAVING A VALID PERMIT.

Grouting Inspection:

A well contractor may call the Health Department the day before the grout inspection, during business hours, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The applicants name, address, subdivision, lot number and time for the grout must be provided to set an appointment time. Grouts may also be called in the morning of the day a well is to be grouted between 8:30 AM and 9:30 AM. Grouts called in after 9:30 may not be able to be scheduled for inspection until the next day. Grouts called in Friday (after 9:30 AM), or the day before a holiday, will be inspected the following Monday, or the following business day. The earliest an inspection will be performed is 10:00-10:30, depending on the location. If the scheduled grout will not be able to be completed at the appointment time, please notify an EHS as soon as possible so that it can be re-scheduled. A re-visit fee, \$50.00, may be applied if the installer is not ready to proceed with grouting upon arrival of the EHS. If an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) is not on-site within one hour of the requested time for a grouting inspection the Well Contractor may proceed with the grouting. If grouting is done without an EHS inspection a self certification form, state form GW-1a, shall be filled out by the Well Contractor and shall be submitted to the Foothills Health District. The GW-1a must include the name, address, subdivision, and lot number of the well that was installed in order to properly match it to the clients file.

Well Head Inspection and Water Sampling Requirements:

A Owner/Agent shall notify the Foothills Health District when the well head is complete. Completion includes, but is not limited to, an installed pump, vent, hose bib, sanitary seal, well ID tag, and pump ID tag, depending on the improvement permit conditions. An EHS shall inspect the well head and determine if it is satisfactory. Well head inspections will be performed on Monday through Thursday. Upon approval of the completed well, the water samples will be taken.

All newly constructed wells shall have water testing within thirty (30) days of the issuance of a final well completion. After construction, the well must be disinfected, then subsequently purged of the disinfecting agent. The well owner/agent should check the well for residual disinfecting agent using an approved testing method. When no more residual is detected, the well owner/agent must call the Foothills Health District to have an EHS come take the water samples. Water samples cannot be taken while any residual disinfecting agent remains in the well. It is the responsibility of the well owner to provide a source of power to collect these samples. The well head must be easily accessible. For sampling purposes, the cover must be removed, no insulation, and with the sampling port accessible (hose bib must be pointed down, not straight out). An incomplete well cannot be sampled. Water samples will be collected on Monday through Thursday. A copy of the water quality test results will be provided to the owner of each newly constructed well.

If the Foothills Health District is notified that a well is ready for sampling, attempts to collect the sample, and is unsuccessful due to no power, disinfectant presence, well head inaccessible, etc. a site re-visit fee of \$50.00 will be applied to the permit. This fee must be paid prior to another attempt from the EHS to collect water samples.

Records:

A certified well construction report shall be submitted by the contractor or other person completing the construction, repair or abandonment of a private drinking water well. The report shall be received by the Foothills Health District within ten (10) working days after completion of the well. The state GW-1a Residential, GW-1b Non-Residential, or GW-30 Abandonment form will be accepted depending on the work completed.

Well Repair Permit and Authorization:

A repair application needs to be filled out when the well head, plumbing, or when another well repair is needed. A repair permit will not be required when the well is not being opened, for instance, to replace the pressure switch or bladder tank. The course of action for a well repair must be approved by the Health Department. Any time the well seal is broken for any reason the well system shall be disinfected. A replacement or new well must be applied for and sited by the Foothills Health District. Any new or replacement well applications shall be at the current cost.

Well Pump Replacement Notification:

A permit or authorization shall not be required for the replacement of a well pump. Place a new pump tag on the well. Place the pump information sticker on the well. Properly re-construct the well head. Any time the well seal is broken for any reason the well system shall be disinfected. Please fill out the pump replacement notification form and submit it to the health department for the well record.

Emergency Well Repair :

In case of after hours and weekend/holiday emergencies the certified well contractor may make emergency repairs to bring a well back into operation, i.e. replace well head. The Certified well contractor must notify the Foothills Health District the following business day, submit a repair application/notification, and have the repair inspected. A replacement or new well must be applied for and sited by the Foothills Health District. Any new or replacement well applications shall be at the current cost.

Well Abandonment:

An application for well abandonment must be obtained from the Health Department prior to the abandonment. An inspector must be present during the abandonment, call the local office to set up an appointment. An abandonment form GW-30 must be submitted to the Health Department and the state.

Existing Septic Permits with and without well sites:

A current septic Improvement permit without a well site will require a separate well Improvement Permit. The application and subsequent improvement permit shall be at the current cost after April 14, 2008. It will require full inspection and water sampling.

A current septic improvement permit with a well site will require full inspection and sampling. The water sampling and inspection shall be at the current cost after April 14, 2008.

Re-Visit Fee:

If the Foothills Health District is notified that a well is ready for an inspection (grout, well head, etc.), or water sampling, visits the site at the appointment time and is unable to complete the inspection or water sampling, a \$50.00 fee will be applied to the permit for a re-visit. This must be paid prior to a re-visit.

Office Hours are:

M - F 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Rutherford

M - F 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM McDowell

Environmental Health Specialist Office hours 8:30 AM to 9:30 AM Monday through Friday.

Rutherford Office: (828) 287-6317

McDowell Office: (828) 652-2921