

**Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Private Well Regulations Workgroup
March 30, 2017, Meeting Summary**

Meeting Location: James Madison Building
5th Floor Main Conference Room
109 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Remote Locations: Fairfax County Health Department
10777 Main Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Frederick/Winchester Environmental Health
107 North Kent Street, Suite 201
Winchester, Virginia 22601

Montgomery County Health Department
210 South Pepper Street – Suite A
Christiansburg, Virginia 24073

Prince William County Health Department
8470 Kao Circle
Manassas, Virginia 20110

List of Attendees:

Private Well Regulations Workgroup Members

Wayne Fenton – Virginia Water Well Association
Dennis Duty – Manufacturer
Scott Fincham – Virginia Association of Counties
Scott Bruce – Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Greg Hudson – Private Onsite Soil Evaluator
Erin Ling – Virginia Household Water Quality Program (Christiansburg/Remote)
John Danielson – Virginia Water Well Association
Bob Marshall – Private Onsite Soil Evaluator (Winchester/Remote)
Drew Hammond – VDH/Office of Drinking Water

VDH Staff and Members of the Public

Lance Gregory – VDH	Jay Conta – VDH
Anthony Creech – VDH	Todd Grubbs – VDH
Dr. Alison Ansher – (Prince William/Remote)	Josh Anderson – (Prince William/Remote)
Patrick Jones – (Prince William/Remote)	Marty Thomas – (Fairfax/Remote)
Adrian Joye – (Fairfax/Remote)	Kevin Crisler – (Fairfax/Remote)

Eric Hoppis – (Fairfax/Remote)

Marty Shannon – (Fairfax/Remote)

Administrative

1. Welcome and Travel Reimbursements.

Mr. Gregory welcomed the workgroup, thanked the members for their participation and distributed travel reimbursements to workgroup members.

2. Introduction of Workgroup Members.

Mr. Gregory introduced Mr. Creech to the attendees as the OEHS's new Private Well Program Manager. Workgroup members then introduced themselves.

3. Approve agenda.

The workgroup reviewed and approved the agenda.

4. Review Summary from December 8, 2016 meeting.

The workgroup reviewed the summary from the December 8, 2016, meeting; there were no edits.

General Information

1. Purpose of the Private Well Regulations Workgroup.

Mr. Gregory reiterated the purpose of the workgroup is to assist VDH in developing proposed revisions to the Private Well Regulations (12VAC5-630-10 et. seq., the Regulations).

2. Ground rules for workgroup meetings.

Mr. Gregory reiterated the ground rules for the workgroup as discussed during the August 4, 2016, meeting.

Discussion

1. Draft Notice of Intended Regulatory Action

Mr. Gregory shared a draft Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) (Attachment A) for workshop review. The purpose of the review was to get attendee input to ensure that the NOIRA adequately covered issues identified during previous meetings. This is necessary to provide assurance that the public is advised of the scope of regulatory changes anticipated to be submitted to the Virginia Register of Regulations.

Based on this discussion, the following revisions to the draft NOIRA were proposed.

Substance

- Change the first bullet under substantive amendments to “consider changes and additions to definitions...”
- Revise the fourth bullet under substantive amendments to replace the reference to the Waterworks Regulations with “other regulations and industry standards.”
- Revise the second to last bullet under substantive amendments to replace “chlorination” with “disinfection.”
- Add a bullet under substantive amendments to address the January 27, 2017, recommendation from the Office of the Attorney General that the Private Well Regulation be amended so that the statutory requirements with respect to the construction permits are applied to private dewatering wells (Attachment B).
- Revise the first bullet under new provisions to allow for new definitions (i.e., not limit new definitions to just clean fill)
- Revise the fifth bullet under new provisions to include address minimum permeability requirements
- Add a bullet under new provisions to provide for addition of new well classes (e.g., close loop geothermal, dewatering, other).

VDH personnel will revise the draft NOIRA based on the discussion and present to the workgroup at or before the next workgroup meeting.

Small Group Discussion

During previous workgroup meetings several issues were identified and summarized in table format. After dividing into small groups, each issue was briefly discussed by a designated small group and recommendations made. The small groups were encouraged to use the current Private Well Regulations and 2003 draft amendments (Attachment C) as resources for discussion and recommendations. A summary of the Small Group Discussion recommendations is included in Table 1.

Next Steps

1. Workgroup members will review the Draft NOIRA and the Summary of Issues (Table 1) and are encouraged to provide OEHS (Mr. Gregory and/or Mr. Creech) with additional comments by email by Close of Business April 13, 2017.
2. OEHS will revise Draft NOIRA based on March 30, 2017, workgroup discussion and subsequent comments.
3. OEHS will draft proposed changes to Private Well Regulations based on March 30, 2017, workgroup discussion and subsequent comments.

Adjourn

**Virginia Department of Health
Private Well Regulations Workgroup
Tentative Agenda**

Date: March 30, 2017
Time: 10 am to 2 pm
Primary Location: James Madison Building
5th Floor Main Conference Room
109 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Remote Locations: Fairfax County Health Department
10777 Main Street
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

Frederick/Winchester Environmental Health
107 North Kent Street, Suite 201
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Prince William County Health Department
8470 Kao Circle
Manassas, Virginia 20110

Administrative (20 minutes)

5. Welcome and Travel Reimbursements. (5 minutes)
6. Introduction of Workgroup Members. (5 minutes)
7. Approve agenda. (5 minutes)
8. Review Summary from December 8, 2016 meeting. (5 minutes)

General Information (10 minutes)

3. Purpose of the Private Well Regulations Workgroup. (5 minutes)
4. Ground rules for workgroup meetings. (5 minutes)

Discussion (40 minutes)

1. Review draft Notice of Intended Regulatory Action. (40 minutes)

Break (10 minutes)

Small Group Discussion (60 minutes)

1. Small group discussion issue #1. (20 minutes)
2. Small group discussion issue #2. (20 minutes)
3. Small group discussion issue #3. (20 minutes)

Break (5 minutes)

Reporting Back and Workgroup Discussion (60 minutes)

1. Small group #1 recommendations. (10 minutes)
2. Small group #2 recommendations. (10 minutes)
3. Small group #3 recommendations. (10 minutes)
4. Small group #4 recommendations. (10 minutes)
5. Small group #5 recommendations. (10 minutes)
6. Small group #6 recommendations. (10 minutes)

Break (10 minutes)

Next Steps (15 minutes)

1. Discuss next steps. (15 minutes)

Adjourn

TABLE 1 – SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

Black Font: Recommendation from previous Private Well Regulation Workgroup discussions

Red Font: Recommendation from Small Group Discussion 3.30.2017

ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Scott Fincham, John Danielson, Drew Hammond	NOTE
Abandonment	Recommendation	
Relaxing standards to encourage abandonment/reduce cost	<p>Suggest no change to regulations. Could reduce or waive the fee for well abandonment. Promote the assistance for abandonment (any programs to assist, James City County example)</p>	
2003 – abandonment of test and exploration wells.	Treat as any other private well, abandon as you would any other drinking water well.	
Clarify/revise abandonment requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pumpable grout with tremie line or pourable (chips) from surface. Need to require pumping water out first, prior to abandonment. <p>Consider allowing pouring grout material into a bore hole that is greater than 20 inches (may be a different limit), when all the water is pumped from the well.</p>	See section 450 .
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Todd Grubbs, Greg Hudson, and Scott Bruce	NOTE
Consistency with Other Agencies/Offices/Regulations	Recommendation	
Siting a well downslope of a septic system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Well Regulations are the most stringent. <p>Keep PWR as is and suggest revising the SHDRs to improve consistency</p>	See section 380.B .
Needs to agree with onsite regulations as far as force mains.	Keep PWR and make SHDR conform	
Consistency with other, sometime more stringent, regulations (e.g. Ground Water Management Areas – screening and GPS requirements).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEQ reporting requirements for UWWCR/GW2. See draft revisions to section 50. <p>Clarify that the UWWCR/GW2 form is now required and take the old form out of the reg. Add chapter to 12VAC5-630 to add Relationship to DEQ to address groundwater withdrawal permitting to make sure wells in GWWAs conform to DEQ additional requirements for gravel pack, GPS, and performance testing.</p>	n/a

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ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Jay Conta, Dennis Duty, Wayne Fenton	NOTE
Consistency with Other Agencies/Offices/Regulations	Recommendation	
Regulations of dewatering wells.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See comment from OAG. • General Permit. • Create new classification (e.g. Class V) with no setback, no casing & grouting requirement. <p>Recommend dewatering wells fall under construction site permitting; there should be abandonment procedures; and separation distances should be addressed.</p>	
Regulations of observation and monitoring wells.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a definition of “direct push wells”. • Create a definition of “environmental sampling well”. • Delete the definition of “observation and monitoring wells”. • Exempt all wells installed under the pervue of DEQ. <p>Temporary wells should have abandonment requirements.</p>	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Fairfax	NOTE
Construction Standards	Recommendation	
Separate construction standards based on geology.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add geologic parameters (e.g. first confining layer) with numeric minimum. • Stainless steel or plastic casing in Coastal Plain. • 2003 – require screens for wells withdrawing water from a sand aquifer. • 2003 – disallow gravel pack in sand aquifer wells. • Standards for mechanical seals/packers in bedrock. • See draft section 400.B.3 <p>Agree that standard for mechanical seal and packer at bedrock, should be approve product by Division.</p>	See section 400.C 410.B.410.C .
Revised standards for wells in low areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No well in areas subject to flooding, but then establish a standard. <p>Should be 100 year flood plain, annual flood plain meaning unclear</p>	See section 380.C .

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ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Prince William	NOTE
Construction Standards	Recommendation	
Increasing casing and grout requirement for Class III A to 100 feet for both to reduce setbacks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree with proposed change in 2003 of full grouting of casing. <p>Increase of casing and grout, if it is safe to increase setback, no issue May also want to have standard for IVA if we are going to convert.</p>	See section 410 .
Revisit construction standards exemptions for Class IIIC and Class IV wells.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree with 2003 proposed changes. Requiring at least 20 feet of casing and grout for all Class IIIC and IV wells. <p>Agree with 2003 proposed changes.</p>	See section 410 .
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Bob Marshall	NOTE
Construction Standards	Recommendation	
2003 – product approvals for well caps; can we use NSF or equivalent to cover all product approvals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See draft section 400.A. See section 410.B.6. <p>Think would help group understand would be referencing any applicable national standards; create a matrix to show national standards for each component, and find which are equivalent to existing components.</p> <p>Gives bases for determination of suitability.</p>	
Grout materials cannot contain CCP (fly ash).	Not sure we have a good handle on the decomposition of coal ash, even in corrosive environments.	
Alternate grouting procedures for closed-loop geothermal.	<p>Think it goes back to the fly ash to improve thermal properties.</p> <p>In some areas they pour pea gravel in the bases. Maybe that is allowable? In the NOIRA there was a comment about inconsistency between in public comment.</p>	See section 380.G .
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Erin Ling	NOTE
Construction Standards	Recommendation	
2003 – require above grade casing.	No changes to what was in proposed language for that one	
2003 – eliminate wrought iron and clay tile as approved casing material, add fiberglass.	Need to look at whether there would be a content requirement for fiberglass well casing.	

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ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Todd Grubbs, Greg Hudson, and Scott Bruce	NOTE
Regulatory Oversight	Recommendation	
Driller notification to LHD for well construction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Require notification of grouting schedule; VDH will inspect a given percentage of grouting. • Not suitable for districts with high numbers of well installations. • Notification only. Don't hold up process waiting on local health department. <p>Recommend that notification be pulled into the regulations from Policy, specifically that drillers should give 24 hour notification for beginning construction, for grouting, and when well is ready for final inspection. All notifications will not hold the driller up, if VDH doesn't come out they can keep moving forward.</p> <p>Address whether notification to be allowable through email.</p> <p>For DEQ, if I really want to be involved then it falls to me as the regulator to show up.</p>	n/a
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Scott Fincham, John Danielson, Drew Hammond	NOTE
Separation Distances	Recommendation	
Separation to private sewer lines/lift stations that connect to municipal system is discussed in footnote.	<p>Clarification of water-bearing formation is necessary for consistent implementation.</p> <p>Lift station setback should be equivalent to that of "pretreatment system."</p> <p>Private sewer lines - utilize existing setbacks</p> <p>Take information in the footnotes and put it in the table to avoid confusion</p>	
Separation distance to lines carrying reuse water (i.e. partially treated waste)	<p>Use current separation distances for sewer mains and sewer lines.</p> <p>Check DEQ regarding setback in their regulations for reuse water from existing wells</p>	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Jay Conta, Dennis Duty, Wayne Fenton	NOTE
Separation Distances	Recommendation	
Separation distance from above/below ground fuel storage tanks.	Recommend use of 2003 revisions.	

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2003 proposed reduced setbacks from Class III wells to termite treated foundations.	<p>Recommend to go with the 2003 revisions. Agree with the 25 ft separation for IIIB wells</p>	
Recommended separation distance from utility lines; no including sewer and water utilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 feet if area permits. • Require utility lines to be marked at time of application. Should be noted on construction permit. • Reference OSHA and utility regulations/requirements. 	See section 380.E .
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Erin Ling	NOTE
Water Quality	Recommendations	
Improve upon the water quality parameters in section 370 (e.g. North Carolina sampling requirements).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional parameters, nitrogen, lead, chloride. <p>Require residual chlorine test, or specify a length of time following disinfection prior to testing. Lead would be a challenge, but could have a requirement to test for pH New lead free components are not leaching, so if that is required then lead may not be an issue. We don't find much nitrate over 10 ppm, only 2-3%, would recommend homeowner test but not in the regulations. Propensity to corrode, specifically in the Piedmont and shallow wells in the Coastal Plain. Could VDH put out some protocols and recommendations,</p>	See section 370 .
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Bob Marshall	NOTE
Water Quality	Recommendation	
Improve procedures regarding chlorination; chlorination related to pH.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define type of chlorine; define when and where to disinfect during drilling (e.g. issue with rotary drilling mud thickening) or homeowner perspective. • See draft revisions to section 370. <p>Jeff Walker sent a list of chemicals approved in Minnesota, some materials are chlorinated compounds but not approved for well disinfection, think that is a good recommendation. Think we need to break this out between when the driller leaves the site</p>	n/a

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	and when the wells is started up. Possible there is not house there when the well is completed. Pipes can have coliform counts from handling.	
Develop sampling protocols for private wells.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. 	n/a
2003 – other methods of disinfection approve by LHD; what are the other methods that were considered.		
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Jay Conta, Dennis Duty, Wayne Fenton	NOTE
Water Quality	Recommendation	
Requirements for quality of water used in well construction process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See draft section 400.I Recommend using the 2003 Section 400.I If the well is for public use (e.g. fewer than 15 connections), recommend compliance with Waterworks Regulation criteria 	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Fairfax	NOTE
Water Quantity	Recommendation	
How is well yield actually estimated?	When a well is drilled, then yield is estimated, should be a standard procedure. Especially when you get to three gallons a minute or less. Or is the certification statement good enough.	See section 460 .
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Prince William	NOTE
Geothermal Wells	Recommendation	
Create a definition of “geothermal well”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already have a definition of closed loop; do we need a definition of open loop. We agree that if we are going to allow open loop, then we need a definition. 	
Requiring permanent marking of closed loop geothermal wells.	Good idea, especially those not grouted the entire depth (GPS or same as abandoned well)	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Todd Grubbs, Greg Hudson, and Scott Bruce	NOTE
Definitions	Recommendation	
Draft definition of “clean fill”.	Recommend that a definition be included. Avoid the word permeable in relation to clean fill.	

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Draft definition of “lead free”.	See draft definition and section 400.A We recommend getting input from Kelsey Pieper input	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Scott Fincham, John Danielson, Drew Hammond	NOTE
Licensure	Recommendation	
Recognition of licensure.	See draft revisions to section 80. Simplify, instead of spelling out individual contractors. Suggest regs address water well pump contractor; not only water well system provider as entities involved in the construction, repair, or alteration of a water well who shall be licensed in accordance with §54.1-1103 and 54.1-1129.1 of the Code of Virginia.	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Fairfax	NOTE
Substantial compliance.	Recommendation	
Substantial compliance.	See draft revisions to section 240. Feel that either needs to be defined, or just go through the variance procedure. Too fuzzy for consistency across districts. If it doesn’t meet the regs there is a variance process.	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Prince William	NOTE
Class IV Wells	Recommendation	
New classifications of Class IV wells.	See draft revisions to section 360 and section 410. Touch on that with first group. Makes for an easier conversion.	
Converting a Class IV to a Class III.	See draft revisions to sections 360 and 370. Need to be consistent with construction standards. Just say in the future if you submit a Bac T test for a Class IV then it becomes a Class III	

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ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Bob Marshall	NOTE
Separation Distance	Recommendation	
Standards for separation distance from permanently abandoned onsite sewage systems.	See draft revisions to Table 3.1 and section 380.F. You have a protocol to follow, but not a statewide uniform protocol. Defining is a good thing.	
Incorporation of setback from agricultural properties.	See draft definition of agricultural operation and draft revisions to section 380.D. Setback was based on overspray for pesticide applications. Follow setbacks in the table.	
ISSUE	SMALL GROUP Erin Ling	NOTE
Abandonment	Recommendation	
Revised well abandonment procedures.	See draft section 450. No comments. Define temporary abandonment.	
Reducing separation distance from onsite sewage system to abandoned wells	See draft section 450.	

Attachment A



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Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) Agency Background Document

Agency name	Virginia Department of Health
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) citation(s)	12VAC5-630
Regulation title(s)	Private Well Regulations
Action title	Amend 12VAC5-630
Date this document prepared	March 22, 2017

This information is required for executive branch review and the Virginia Registrar of Regulations, pursuant to the Virginia Administrative Process Act (APA), Executive Orders 17 (2014) and 58 (1999), and the *Virginia Register Form, Style, and Procedure Manual*.

Subject matter and intent

Please describe briefly the subject matter, intent, and goals of the planned regulatory action.

The Private Well Regulations (the Regulations) establish the minimum location and construction for private wells installed in the Commonwealth. On August 17, 2016, the Department began the process to conduct a periodic review of the Private Well Regulations. The Department also formed a Private Well Regulations Workgroup in August 2016. The purpose of the workgroup was to assist the Department in the development of proposed revisions to the Regulations. The intent of this planned regulatory action is to explore amendments to the Regulations based on comments received during the periodic review process, comments received from the Private Well Regulations Workgroup, and current industry standards.

The Department has not made significant revisions to the Regulations since their adoption in 1990. The goal of the planned regulatory action is to ensure the regulations are protective public health and the environment, to address changes in current standards and practices, to clarify regulatory language, and to improve consistency with other regulations related to private wells and groundwater resources.

Legal basis

Please identify the (1) the agency (includes any type of promulgating entity) and(2) the state and/or federal legal authority for the proposed regulatory action, including the most relevant citations to the Code of Virginia or General Assembly chapter number(s), if applicable. Your citation should include a specific provision, if any, authorizing the promulgating entity to regulate this specific subject or program, as well as a reference to the agency's overall regulatory authority.

Section 32.1-12 of the Code of Virginia permits the State Board of Health (the Board) to make, adopt, promulgate and enforce such regulations and provide for reasonable variances and exemptions therefrom as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia. Section 32.1-176.4 requires the Board to adopt regulations pertaining to the location and construction of private wells in the Commonwealth.

Purpose

Please describe the specific reasons why the agency has determined that the proposed regulatory action is essential to protect the health, safety, or welfare of citizens. In addition, please explain any potential issues that may need to be addressed as the regulation is developed.

The Department has not made significant revisions to the Regulations since their adoption in 1990. There have been significant advancements in the private well industry since that time. New information and research has also improved understanding of risk to public health and groundwater resources not addressed by the Regulations. Stakeholders have also identified inconsistencies between the Regulations and other regulations related to private wells and groundwater resources. The amendments to the Regulations will propose private well location and construction criteria which recognize current industry standards, improve consistency with other regulations, and improve protection of public health and groundwater resources. Without the proposed amendments, Virginians will not benefit from more current and up to date research and industry practices. Additionally, inconsistencies between the Regulations and other regulation related to private wells and groundwater resources will persist.

Substance

Please briefly identify and explain the new substantive provisions that are being considered, the substantive changes to existing sections that are being considered, or both.

The following substantive amendments are being considered to the existing regulatory language:

- Revise definitions as necessary for consistency with the Code of Virginia, other regulations related to private wells and groundwater resources, and current industry standards.
- Revise administrative processes to reflect current law and improve consistency with other Department regulations.
- Clarify grout materials approved for well abandonment.
- Improve consistency between the Regulations and the Waterworks Regulations (12VAC5-590) regarding well abandonment standards.
- Revise the separation distance requirements between sources of contamination and wells abandoned in accordance with the Regulations.
- Improve consistency between the Regulations and other regulations (e.g. the Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations (12VAC5-610)) which establish minimum separation distance from private wells.
- Improve consistency between private well construction reporting requirements in the Regulations and reporting requirements in the Groundwater Withdrawal Regulations (9VAC25-600).
- Revise the separation distance requirements between private wells and termite treated building foundations.
- Revise separation distance requirements for Class IV wells based on depth of casing and grout.
- Revised current construction standard exemptions for Class IIIC and Class IV wells.
- Clarify chlorination procedures.
- Clarify standards for yield and storage requirements.

The following new provisions are being considered:

- Create a definition for clean fill using in well abandonments.
- Establish minimum private well construction criteria based on geologic conditions, such as requiring a mechanical seal at the termination of well casing into bedrock.
- Require that all private well components meet national lead-free standards.
- Establish a stand procedure for converting existing Class IV wells to Class III wells.
- Establish standards for approval of private well components based on nationally recognized standards or certifications.
- Establish a minimum separation distance from utilities.
- Establish a minimum separation distance from permanently abandoned onsite sewage systems.
- Improve water sampling criteria, such as requiring a sample for residual chlorine in combination with bacteriological samples.
- Establish quality standards for water used during well construction.

Alternatives

Please describe any viable alternatives to the proposal considered and the rationale used by the agency to select the least burdensome or intrusive alternative that meets the essential purpose of the action. Also, include discussion of less intrusive or less costly alternatives for small businesses, as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia, of achieving the purpose of the regulation.

Section 32.1-176.4 requires the Board to adopt regulations pertaining to the location and construction of private wells in the Commonwealth. There is one other alternative to the proposed action; maintain the Regulations as currently adopted. However, this is not a viable alternative. This regulatory action is necessary in order for the Regulations to recognize current industry standards, improve consistency with other regulations, and improve protection of public health and groundwater resources. Without the proposed amendments, Virginians will not benefit from more current and up to date research and industry practices. Additionally, inconsistencies between the Regulations and other regulation related to private wells and groundwater resources will persist. This proposed action is less intrusive to small businesses,

namely water well system providers, as it provides an opportunity to incorporate current industry standards into the Regulations. The proposed action would also provide an opportunity to clarify areas of inconsistency and ambiguity which currently lead to request for approval from Division staff or variance request to the State Health Commissioner, which can delay permitting actions.

Public participation

Please indicate whether the agency is seeking comments on the intended regulatory action, including ideas to assist the agency in the development of the proposal and the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this notice or other alternatives. Also, indicate whether a public hearing is to be held to receive comments. Please include one of the following choices: 1) a panel will be appointed and the agency's contact if you're interested in serving on the panel is _____; 2) a panel will not be used; or 3) public comment is invited as to whether to use a panel to assist in the development of this regulatory proposal.

The agency is seeking comments on this regulatory action, including but not limited to: ideas to be considered in the development of this proposal, the costs and benefits of the alternatives stated in this background document or other alternatives, and the potential impacts of the regulation.

The agency is also seeking information on impacts on small businesses as defined in § 2.2-4007.1 of the Code of Virginia. Information may include: projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs; the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and the description of less intrusive or costly alternatives for achieving the purpose of the regulation.

Anyone wishing to submit comments may do so via the Regulatory Town Hall website (<http://www.townhall.virginia.gov>), or by mail, email, or fax to **Lance Gregory, Program Administration Manager, 109 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, (804) 864-7491 (phone), (804) 864-7475 (fax), Lance.Gregory@vdh.virginia.gov**. Written comments must include the name and address of the commenter. In order to be considered, comments must be received by midnight on the last day of the public comment period.

A public hearing will not be held following the publication of the proposed stage of this regulatory action. A panel will be appointed and the agency's contact if you're interested in serving on the panel is Lance Gregory, Program Administration Manager, 109 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, (804) 864-7491 (phone), (804) 864-7475 (fax), Lance.Gregory@vdh.virginia.gov.

Periodic review and small business impact review report of findings

If this NOIRA is the result of a periodic review/small business impact review, use this NOIRA to report the agency's findings. Please (1) summarize all comments received during the public comment period following the publication of the Notice of Periodic Review and (2) indicate whether the regulation meets the criteria set out in Executive Order 17 (2014), e.g., is necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and is clearly written and easily understandable. In addition, as required by 2.2-4007.1 E and F, please include a discussion of the agency's consideration of: (1) the continued need for the regulation; (2) the nature of complaints or comments received concerning the regulation from the

public; (3) the complexity of the regulation; (4) the extent to which the regulation overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with federal or state law or regulation; and (5) the length of time since the regulation has been evaluated or the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors have changed in the area affected by the regulation.

Commenter	Comment	Agency response
John Sawdy	Incorporate revised setback distances from abandoned bored and uncased wells to proposed onsite sewage system, including onsite sewage system using pre-treatment.	Currently, the Regulations require that abandoned bored or uncased wells be treated as wells with respect to determining the minimum separation distance to sources of contamination (e.g. 100 feet from onsite sewage systems). Section 12VAC5-630-450.C.7 allows the Division of Onsite Sewage and Water Services, Environmental Engineering, and Marina Programs to approve other abandonment methods which can allow for reducing the separation distance from abandoned wells. The agency is considering revising separation distance requirements from bored and uncased wells to proposed onsite sewage systems to incorporate standards currently used by Division staff when evaluating request under 12VAC5-630-450.C.7.
John Sawdy	Establish a guideline for inspection and testing of private wells for real-estate transactions.	The Code of Virginia only provides the Department with authority to regulate the location and construction of private wells. Ongoing operation, maintenance, and sampling are at the discretion of the well owner. However, the Department is happy to discuss ways to improve available information for existing and proposed private well owners regarding best practices for ongoing operation, maintenance, and sampling.
Anonymous	There is no required horizontal separation distance from a drilled well abandoned in accordance with the Regulations to a source of contamination, regardless of whether the casing is pulled. There is no required horizontal separation distance from a source of contamination to an uncased closed-loop geothermal well grouted from bottom to top. However, if the closed-loop geothermal well is cased, it must meet the horizontal separation distances in Table 3.1. There is no construction difference between an abandoned drilled well that is cased and a closed-loop geothermal well	Section 12VAC5-630-380.G provides horizontal separation distance exception for closed-loop geothermal wells. If the well is grouted to 20 feet, the minimum separation distance for Class IV wells applies. If the well is grouted to 50 feet, the separation distance for Class IIIA or IIIB wells apply. If the well is grouted the entire depth, the well does not have to comply with the minimum separation distance contained in Table 3.1. These exceptions do not specify whether the geothermal well is cased or uncased. If a geothermal well is grouted the entire depth, there is no separation distance, regardless of whether the well is cased or uncased. If cased, the well would need to be grouted both in the annular space and inside the casing.

	that is cased, but there is a separation distance requirement for the closed-loop geothermal well.	
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The Regulations are necessary for the protection of public health, safety, and welfare, and are clearly written and easily understandable. The Department has considered the continued need for the Regulations and determined that the minimum location and construction criteria for private wells are necessary to protect public health and groundwater resources, such as minimum grouting requirement which preclude the entrance of undesirable water and contaminants. While the Regulations are necessary, the Department has received numerous requests to update the Regulations to address changes in current standards and practices, to clarify regulatory language, and to improve consistency with other regulations related to private wells and groundwater resources. The Department has not undertaken a complete review of the Regulations since their adoption in 1990. During that time there have been numerous advancements in the materials and equipment used to construct private wells. While the Regulations are not necessarily complex, the growing overlap with other regulations continues to increase. Primary areas of overlap are with regulations regarding the construction of onsite sewage systems and regulations for groundwater withdrawal permitting in groundwater management areas. While not overlapping, the Waterworks Regulations establish a similar set of location and construction criteria for wells used for public water supplies (waterworks). Improving consistency between the Regulations and other regulations related to private wells and groundwater resources is one of the primary goals of this intended regulatory action.

Attachment B

See 2003 Draft Private Well Regulation Revisions.PDF

Attachment C



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Marissa J. Levine, MD, MPH
Commissioner, Department of Health

FROM: Grant E. Krucenberg
Assistant Attorney General *GK*

DATE: January 27, 2017

SUBJECT: Periodic Review of Regulations
Private Well Regulations, 12VAC5-630-10 *et seq.*

In accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-4017 and Executive Order 17 (2014), I have reviewed the Private Well Regulations, 12VAC5-630-10 *et seq.* These regulations are undergoing periodic review.

In my opinion, the Board of Health had the statutory authority under Code of Virginia §§ 32.1-12 and 32.1-176.4 to adopt the current regulations, with one exception. The provision of the regulations at 12VAC5-630-220(H) provides dewatering wells with certain exemptions from the regulatory requirements, including certain permitting requirements. Code of Virginia § 32.1-176.4(A) states that the "Board [of Health] shall adopt regulations pertaining to the location and construction of private wells in the Commonwealth." Additionally, Code of Virginia § 32.1-176.5(A) states, "Any person intending to construct a private well shall apply to the Department for and receive a permit before proceeding with construction." I do not find statutory authority for providing an exemption in the regulations from the construction permitting requirement for dewatering wells that are private wells. I recommend that the regulation be amended so that the statutory requirements with respect to construction permits are applied to private dewatering wells.

3/30/17 Draft Revisions
PRIVATE WELL REGULATIONS
12 VAC 5-630-10 et seq.

12VAC5-630-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Abandoned well" means a private well whose pump has been disconnected for reasons other than repair or replacement, or whose use has been discontinued or pronounced abandoned by the owner. A temporarily abandoned well is a well that is intended to be returned to service as a source of water at some future time. A permanently abandoned well is a well that is not intended to be used as a source of water at any future time. Abandoned wells must meet the requirements of 12VAC5-630-450.

"Agent" means a legally authorized representative of the owner.

"Agricultural operation" means any operation devoted to the bona fide production of crops, or animals, or fowl, including but not limited to the production of fruits and vegetables of all kinds; meat, dairy, and poultry products; nuts, tobacco, nursery and floral products; and the production and harvest of products from silviculture activity.

"Annular space" means the space between the bore hole wall and the outside of a water well casing pipe, or between a casing pipe and a liner pipe.

"Aquifer" means a geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation, that transmits water.

"Bedrock" means any solid rock underlying soil, sand, or clay.

"Bored well" means a well that is excavated by means of a soil auger (hand or power) as distinguished from a well which is drilled, driven, dug, or jetted.

"Clean fill" means permeable material that is not considered as source of contamination when in contact with ground water. Flowable fill is not considered clean fill.

"Closed-loop ground-source heat pump well" means a well consisting of a sealed loop of plastic pipe buried beneath the earth's surface to allow heat transfer between the fluid in the pipe and the earth.

"Collapsing material" means any soil or gravel material which collapses upon itself forming a seal with the casing and leaves no voids around the casing.

"Commercially dependent well" means a well that is the sole source of water for a commercial facility that requires the water from the well for continued operation. Examples include wells serving an ice plant, a car wash facility, irrigation for commercial nurseries, or agricultural wells that provide water for livestock or irrigation.

"Commissioner" means the State Health Commissioner or ~~the Commissioner's~~ subordinate who has been delegated powers in accordance with 12VAC5-630-90 B of this chapter.

"Confined aquifer" means an aquifer that is confined by an overlying impermeable formation.

"Consolidated rock" means a formation consisting entirely of a natural rock formation that contains no soil and does not collapse against the well casing.

~~"Construction of wells" means acts necessary to construct private wells, including the location of private wells, the boring, digging, drilling, or otherwise excavating of a well hole and the installation of casing with or without well screens, or well curbing.~~

Comment [GL1]: Definition per 32.1-176.3

"Deep well ejector pump system" means a well that utilizes a casing adapter and a deep well ejector. These wells must maintain a constant vacuum to operate.

"Dewatering well" means a ~~driven~~ well constructed for the sole purpose of lowering the water table and kept in operation for a period of 60 days or less. Dewatering wells are used to allow construction in areas where a high water table hinders or prohibits construction and are always temporary in nature.

"Disinfection" means the destruction of all pathogenic organisms.

"Division" means the Division of On-Site Sewage and Water Services.

"District health department" means a consolidation of local health departments as authorized in § 32.1-31 C of the Code of Virginia.

"Drilled shallow well suction pump system" means a drilled well two inches or less in diameter that utilizes an offset pump to draw water from the well through the casing. These wells must maintain a constant vacuum in order to operate.

"Drilled well" means a well that is excavated wholly or in part by means of a drill (either percussion or rotary) which operates by cutting or abrasion.

"Driven well" means a well that is constructed by driving a pipe, at the end of which there is a drive point and screen, without the use of any drilling, boring or jetting device.

"Dug well" means a well that is excavated by means of picks, shovels, or other hand tools, or by means of a power shovel or other dredging or trenching machinery, as distinguished from a bored, drilled, driven, or jetted well.

"Emergency well replacement" means the replacement of an existing private drinking water well, heat pump well, or commercially dependent well that has failed to deliver the water needed for its intended use. Such failure requires the drilling of a new well or extensive modifications to the existing well. The replacement of failed noncommercial irrigation wells, and other types of private wells are not considered emergencies.

"Gravel pack" means gravel placed outside a well screen in a well to assist the flow of water into the well screen and to inhibit clogging of the screen.

"Ground water" means any water, except capillary moisture, beneath the land surface in the zone of saturation or beneath the bed of any stream, lake, reservoir or other body of surface water within the boundaries of this Commonwealth, whatever may be the subsurface geologic structure in which such water stands, flows, percolates, or otherwise occurs.

"Grout" means any stable, impervious bonding material, reasonably free of shrinkage, which is capable of providing a watertight seal in the annular spaces of a water well throughout the depth required, to protect against the intrusion of objectionable matter.

"Jetted well" means a well that is excavated using water pumped under pressure through a special washing point to create a water jet which cuts, abrades, or erodes material to form the well.

"Lead free" means a weighted average of 0.25% lead calculated across the wetted surface of a pipe, pipe fitting, plumbing fitting, and fixture and 0.2% lead for solder and flux.

"Local health department" means the department established in each city and county in accordance with § 32.1-30 of the Code of Virginia.

"Noncollapsing material" means soil or gravel material which can maintain an open bore hole long enough to grout the annular space between a well and the bore hole. For the purpose of this chapter, soil or gravel material which collapsed upon itself but created voids around the casing is considered noncollapsing material.

"Observation or monitoring well" means a well constructed to measure hydrogeologic parameters, such as the fluctuation of water levels, or for monitoring the quality of ground water, or for both purposes.

"Owner" means any person, who owns, leases, or proposes to own or lease a private well.

"Person" means any and all persons, including individuals, firms, partnerships, associations, public or private institutions, municipalities or political subdivisions, governmental agencies, or private or public corporations organized under the law of this Commonwealth or any other state or country.

"Private well" means any water well constructed for a person on land which is owned or leased by that person and is usually intended for household, ground water source heat pump, agricultural use, industrial use, or other nonpublic water well.

"Replacement well" means a well being constructed to take the place of an existing well that is being taken out of service and is being abandoned.

"Sanitary survey" means an investigation of any condition that may affect public health.

"Screen" means the intake section of a well that obtains water from an unconsolidated aquifer providing for the water to flow freely and adding structural support to the bore hole. Screens are used to increase well yield or prevent the entry of sediment, or both.

"Sewage" means water carried and nonwater carried human excrement, kitchen, laundry, shower, bath, or lavatory wastes separately or together with such underground, surface, storm and other water and liquid industrial wastes as may be present from residences, buildings, vehicles, industrial establishments or other places.

"Sewage disposal system" means a sewerage system or treatment works designed not to result in a point source discharge.

"Sewer" means any sanitary or combined sewer used to convey sewage or municipal or industrial wastes.

"Sewerage system" means pipelines or conduits, pumping stations and force mains and all other construction, devices and appliances appurtenant thereto, used for the collection and conveyance of sewage to a treatment works or point of ultimate disposal.

"Subsurface soil absorption" means a process which utilizes the soil to treat and dispose of sewage effluent.

"Treatment works" means any device or system used in the storage, treatment, disposal or reclamation of sewage or combinations of sewage and industrial wastes, including but not limited to pumping, power and other equipment and appurtenances, septic tanks, and any works, including land, that are or will be (i) an integral part of the treatment process or (ii) used for the ultimate disposal of residues or effluents resulting from such treatment.

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"Variance" means a conditional waiver of a specific regulation which is granted to a specific owner relating to a specific situation or facility and may be for a specified time period.

"Water table" means the uppermost surface of ground water saturation. The level in the saturated zone at which the pressure is equal to atmospheric pressure.

"Water well" or "well" means any artificial opening or artificially altered natural opening, however made, by which ground water is sought or through which ground water flows under natural pressure or is intended to be artificially drawn; provided this definition shall not include wells drilled for the following purposes: (i) exploration or production of oil or gas, (ii) building foundation investigation and construction, (iii) elevator shafts, (iv) grounding of electrical apparatus, or (v) the modification or development of springs.

"Yield" means the quantity of water, usually measured in volume of water per unit time, which may flow or which may be pumped, from a well or well field.

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Article 2
General Provisions

12VAC5-630-20. Authority for regulations.

Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia, and specifically §§ 32.1-12 and 32.1-176.4, provide that the State Board of Health, hereinafter referred to as the Board, has the duty to protect the public health and to ensure that ground water resources are not adversely affected by the construction and location of private wells. In order to discharge this duty, the Board is empowered to supervise and regulate the construction and location of private wells within the Commonwealth.

12VAC5-630-30. Purpose of regulations.

These regulations have been promulgated by the ~~State Board of Health~~ to:

1. Ensure that all private wells are located, constructed and maintained in a manner which does not adversely affect ground water resources, or the public welfare, safety and health;
2. Guide the ~~State Health Commissioner~~ in ~~his~~ determination of whether a permit for construction of a private well should be issued or denied;
3. Guide the owner or the owner's agent in the requirements necessary to secure a permit for construction of a private well; and
4. Guide the owner or the owner's agent in the requirements necessary to secure an inspection statement following construction.

12VAC5-630-40. Relationship to Virginia Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations.

This chapter supersedes 12VAC5-610-1150 of the Virginia Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations, and 12VAC5-610-1140 B and C of the Virginia Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations which address private wells, and were adopted by the ~~State~~ Board pursuant to Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia.

12VAC5-630-50. Relationship to the State Water Control Board.

This chapter is independent of all regulations promulgated by the State Water Control Board. Ground water users located in a ground water management area may be required to obtain a permit from the State Water Control Board in addition to obtaining a permit from the Department of Health. In addition to reporting requirements contained in this chapter, all private wells constructed in a ground water management area are required to be registered by the water well system provider with the State Water Control Board within 30 days of completion of construction.

12VAC5-630-60. Relationship to the Department of Environmental Quality, Waste Management Division.

This chapter establishes minimum standards for the protection of public health and ground water resources. Observation wells, monitoring wells, and remediation wells constructed under the supervision of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Waste Management Division, are governed by 12VAC5-630-420.

12VAC5-630-70. Relationship to the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

This chapter is independent of and in addition to the requirements of the Uniform Statewide Building Code. All persons required to obtain a well permit by this chapter shall furnish a copy of the permit to the local building official, upon request, when making application for a building permit. Prior to obtaining an occupancy permit, an applicant shall furnish the local building official with a copy of the inspection statement demonstrating the water supply has been inspected, sampled (when applicable), and approved by the district or local health department.

12VAC5-630-80. Relationship to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

Individuals shall be licensed in accordance with §§ 54.1-11030 and 54.1-1129.1 of the Code of Virginia when involved in the construction, repair, or alteration of a private well. ~~any contractor constructing a water well to reach ground water shall possess, as a minimum, a valid Class B contractors license.~~

12VAC5-630-90. Administration of regulations.

This chapter is administered by the following:

A. The ~~State Board of Health, hereinafter referred to as the board,~~ has the responsibility to promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations necessary to ensure the proper location, construction, alteration, repair or abandonment and location of private wells.

B. The ~~State Health Commissioner, hereinafter referred to as the commissioner,~~ is the chief executive officer of the State Department of Health. The eCommissioner has the authority to act, within the scope of regulations promulgated by the Bboard, and for the Bboard when it is not in session. The eCommissioner may delegate ~~his~~ powers under this chapter in writing to any subordinate, with the exception of (i) thehis power to issue variances under § 32.1-12 of the Code of Virginia and 12VAC5-630-170, (ii) thehis power to issue orders under § 32.1-26 of the Code of Virginia and 12VAC5-630-140 and 12VAC5-630-150 B and (iii) the power to revoke permits or inspection statements under 12VAC5-630-290, which may only be delegated pursuant to § 32.1-22 of the Code of Virginia.

The ~~e~~Commissioner has final authority to adjudicate contested case decisions of subordinates delegated powers under this section prior to appeal of such case decisions to the circuit court.

C. The State Department of Health hereinafter referred to as department is designated as the primary agent of the ~~e~~Commissioner for the purpose of administering this chapter.

D. The district or local health departments are responsible for implementing and enforcing the regulatory activities required by this chapter.

12VAC5-630-100. Right of entry and inspections.

In accordance with the provisions of §§ 32.1-25 and 32.1-12 and 32.1-176.6 of the Code of Virginia, the ~~e~~Commissioner or ~~the Commissioner's~~his designee shall have the right to enter any property to ensure compliance with this chapter.

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Part II
Procedural Regulations
Article 1
Procedures

12VAC5-630-110. Compliance with the Administrative Process Act.

The provisions of the Virginia Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) shall govern the promulgation and administration of this chapter and shall be applicable to the appeal of any case decision based upon this chapter.

12VAC5-630-120. Powers and procedures of regulations not exclusive.

The eCommissioner may enforce this chapter through any means lawfully available.

12VAC5-630-130. [Reserved]

12VAC5-630-140. Emergency order.

If an emergency exists the eCommissioner or the Commissioner's designee may issue an emergency order as is necessary for preservation of public health, safety, and welfare or to protect ground water resources. The emergency order shall state the reasons and precise factual basis upon which the emergency order is issued. The emergency order shall state the time period for which it is effective. Emergency orders will be publicized in a manner deemed appropriate by the eCommissioner. The provisions of 12VAC5-630-150 C and D shall not apply to emergency orders issued pursuant to this section.

12VAC5-630-150. Enforcement of regulations.

A. Notice. Subject to the exceptions below, whenever the eCommissioner or the district or local health department has reason to believe a violation of any of this chapter has occurred or is occurring, the alleged violator shall be notified. Such notice shall be made in writing, shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, shall cite the regulation or regulations that are allegedly being violated, shall state the facts which form the basis for believing the violation has occurred or is occurring, shall include a request for a specific action by the recipient by a specified time and shall state the penalties associated with such violation. When the eCommissioner deems it necessary, he may initiate criminal prosecution or seek civil relief through mandamus or injunction prior to giving notice.

B. Orders. Pursuant to the authority granted in § 32.1-26 of the Code of Virginia, the eCommissioner may issue orders to require any owner, or other person, to comply with the provisions of this chapter. The order shall be signed by the eCommissioner and may require:

1. The immediate cessation and correction of the violation;
2. Appropriate remedial action to ensure that the violation does not recur;
3. The submission of a plan to prevent future violations to the eCommissioner for review and approval;
4. The submission of an application for a variance; or
5. Any other corrective action deemed necessary for proper compliance with the chapter.

C. Hearing before the issuance of an order. Before the issuance of an order described in 12VAC5-630-150, a hearing must be held, with at least 30 days notice by certified mail to the affected owner or other person of the time, place and purpose thereof, for the purpose of adjudicating the alleged violation or violations of this chapter. The procedures at the hearing shall be in accordance with 12VAC5-630-180 A or B of this chapter and with §§ 9-6.14:11 through 9-6.14:14 of the Code of Virginia.

D. Order; when effective. All orders issued pursuant to 12VAC5-630-150 shall become effective not less than 15 days after mailing a copy thereof by certified mail to the last known address of the owner or person violating this chapter. Violation of an order is a Class 1 misdemeanor. See § 32.1-27 of the Code of Virginia.

E. Compliance with effective orders. The eCommissioner may enforce all orders. Should any owner or other person fail to comply with any order, the eCommissioner may:

1. Apply to an appropriate court for an injunction or other legal process to prevent or stop any practice in violation of the order;
2. Commence administrative proceedings to suspend or revoke the construction permit;
3. Request the Attorney General to bring an action for civil penalty, injunction, or other appropriate remedy; or
4. Request the Commonwealth's Attorney to bring a criminal action.

F. Not exclusive means of enforcement. Nothing contained in 12VAC5-630-140 or 12VAC5-630-150 shall be interpreted to require the eCommissioner to issue an order prior to commencing administrative proceedings or seeking enforcement of any regulations or statute through an injunction, mandamus or criminal prosecution.

12VAC5-630-160. Suspension of regulations during disasters.

If in the case of a man-made or natural disaster, the Ceommissioner finds that certain regulations cannot be complied with and that the public health is better served by not fully complying with this chapter, the Commissioner~~he~~ may authorize the suspension of the

application of the chapter for specifically affected localities and institute a provisional regulatory plan until the disaster is abated.

12VAC5-630-170. Variances.

~~Only the eCommissioner or the deputy commissioners~~ may grant a variance to this chapter. ~~(See §§ 32.1-12 and 32.1-22 of the Code of Virginia and 12VAC5-630-90 B.)~~ The ~~eCommissioner or the deputy commissioners~~ shall follow the appropriate procedures set forth in this subsection in granting a variance.

A. Requirements for a variance. The eCommissioner may grant a variance if a thorough investigation reveals that the hardship imposed (may be economic) by this chapter outweighs the benefits that may be received by the public ~~and that. Further,~~ the granting of such a variance ~~doeshall~~ not subject the public to unreasonable health risks or jeopardize ground water resources.

Exception: The eCommissioner shall not grant a variance for an improperly located Class IV well that was located pursuant to an express Class IV permit, as described under 12VAC5-630-260 and 12VAC5-630-270, if the improper location of the well is a result of the failure by the owner, ~~the owner's~~his agent, or the ~~water well system provider~~well driller to provide complete or accurate information on the site plan submitted with the application or to install the well in accordance with the permit.

B. Application for a variance. Any owner who seeks a variance shall apply in writing within the time period specified in 12VAC5-630-210 B. The application shall be signed by the owner, ~~addressed~~ and sent to the ~~appropriate district and local health department~~commissioner at the ~~State Department of Health in Richmond~~. The application shall include:

1. A citation to the section from which a variance is requested;
2. The nature and duration of the variance requested;
3. Any relevant analytical results including results of relevant tests conducted pursuant to the requirements of this chapter;
- ~~4. Statements or evidence why the public health and welfare as well as the ground water resources would not be degraded if the variance were granted;~~
4. The hardship imposed by the specific requirement of this chapter;
5. A statement of reasons why the public health and welfare would be better served if the variance were granted.

~~65.~~ Suggested conditions that might be imposed on the granting of a variance that would limit the detrimental impact on the public health and welfare or ground water resources;

~~76.~~ Other information, if any, believed pertinent by the applicant; and

~~87.~~ Such other information as the ~~district or~~ local health department ~~and~~ ~~e~~Commissioner may require.

C. Evaluation of a variance application.

1. The ~~e~~Commissioner shall act on any variance request submitted pursuant to 12VAC5-630-170 B within 60 calendar days of receipt of the request.

2. In the evaluation of a variance application, the ~~e~~Commissioner shall consider the following factors:

a. The effect that such a variance would have on the construction, location, or operation of the private well;

b. The cost and other economic considerations imposed by this requirement;

c. The effect that such a variance would have on protection of the public health;

d. The effect that such a variance would have on protection of ground water resources; ~~and~~

e. Any relevant analytical results including results of relevant tests conducted pursuant to the requirements of this chapter;

f. The hardship imposed by enforcing the specific requirement of this chapter;

g. The applicant's statement of reasons why the public health and welfare would be better served if the variance were granted;

h. The suggested conditions that might be imposed on the granting of a variance that would limit the detrimental impact on the public health and welfare;

i. Other information, if any, believed pertinent by the applicant;

j. Such other information as the local health department and the ~~e~~Commissioner may require;

~~k~~e. Such other factors as the ~~e~~Commissioner may deem appropriate.

D. Disposition of a variance request.

1. The ~~e~~Commissioner may deny any application for a variance by sending a denial notice to the applicant by certified mail. The notice shall be in writing and shall state

the reasons for the denial. The applicant may petition for a hearing within 30 calendar days to challenge the denial pursuant to 12VAC5-630-180.

2. If the eCommissioner proposes to grant a variance request submitted pursuant to 12VAC5-630-170 B, the applicant shall be notified in writing of this decision. Such notice shall identify the variance, private well covered, and shall specify the period of time for which the variance will be effective. The effective date of a variance shall be as stated in the variance.

3. No owner may challenge the terms or conditions set forth in the variance after 30 calendar days have elapsed from the effective date of the variance.

E. Posting of variances. All variances granted to any private wells are nontransferable ~~from owner to owner unless otherwise stated~~. Each variance shall be attached to the permit to which it is granted. Each variance is revoked when the permit to which it is attached is revoked.

F. Hearings on disposition of variances. Subject to the time limitations specified in 12VAC5-630-210, hearings on denials of an application for a variance or on challenges to the terms and conditions of a granted variance may be held pursuant to 12VAC5-630-180 A or B, except that informal hearings under 12VAC5-630-180 A shall be held by the eCommissioner or the Commissioner's ~~his~~ designee.

12VAC5-630-180. Hearing types.

Hearings before the eCommissioner or the eCommissioner's designees shall include any of the following forms depending on the nature of the controversy and the interests of the parties involved.

A. Informal hearings. An informal hearing is a meeting with a district or local health department with the district or local health director presiding and held in conformance with § 9-6.14:11 of the Code of Virginia. The district or local health department shall consider all evidence presented at the meeting which is relevant to the issue in controversy. Presentation of evidence, however, is entirely voluntary. The district or local health department shall have no subpoena power. No verbatim record need be taken at the informal hearing. The local or district health director shall review the facts presented and based on those facts render a decision. A written copy of the decision and the basis for the decision shall be sent to the appellant within 15 work days of the hearing, unless the parties mutually agree to a later date in order to allow the department to evaluate additional evidence. If the decision is adverse to the interests of the appellant, an aggrieved appellant may request an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to 12VAC5-630-180 B below.

B. Adjudicatory hearing. The adjudicatory hearing is a formal, public adjudicatory proceeding before the eCommissioner, or a designated hearing officer, and held in conformance with § 9-6.14:12 of the Code of Virginia. An adjudicatory hearing includes the following features:

1. Notice. Notice which states the time and place and the issues involved in the prospective hearing shall be sent to the owner or other person who is the subject of the hearing. Notice shall be sent by certified mail at least 15 calendar days before the hearing is to take place.
2. Record. A record of the hearing shall be made by a court reporter. A copy of the transcript of the hearing, if transcribed, will be provided within a reasonable time to any person upon written request and payment of the cost.
3. Evidence. All interested parties may attend the hearing and submit oral and documentary evidence and rebuttal proofs, expert or otherwise, that are material and relevant to the issues in controversy. The admissibility of evidence shall be determined in accordance with § 9-6.14:12 of the Code of Virginia.
4. Counsel. All parties may be accompanied by and represented by counsel and are entitled to conduct such cross examination as may elicit a full and fair disclosure of the facts.
5. Subpoena. Pursuant to § 9-6.14:13 of the Code of Virginia, the eCommissioner or hearing officer may issue subpoenas on behalf of himself or any person or owner for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers or maps. Failure to appear or to testify or to produce documents without adequate excuse may be reported by the eCommissioner to the appropriate circuit court for enforcement.
6. Judgment and final order. The eCommissioner may designate a hearing officer or subordinate to conduct the hearing as provided in § 9-6.14:12 of the Code of Virginia, and to make written recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law to be submitted for review and final decision by the eCommissioner. The final decision of the eCommissioner shall be reduced to writing and will contain the explicit findings of fact upon which ~~the Commissioner's~~his decision is based. Certified copies of the decision shall be delivered to the owner affected by it. Notice of a decision will be served upon the parties and become a part of the record. Service may be by personal service or certified mail return receipt requested.

12VAC5-630-190. Request for hearing.

A request for an informal hearing shall be made by sending the request in writing to the district or local health department. A request for an adjudicatory hearing shall be made in writing and directed to the eCommissioner at the State Department of Health in Richmond. Requests for hearings shall cite the reason(s) for the hearing request and shall cite the section(s) of this chapter involved.

12VAC5-630-200. Hearing as a matter of right.

Any owner or other person whose rights, duties, or privileges have been, or may be affected by any decision of the bBoard or its subordinates in the administration of this chapter shall have a right to both informal and adjudicatory hearings. The eCommissioner may require participation in an informal hearing before granting the request for a full adjudicatory hearing. Exception: No person other than an owner shall have the right to an adjudicatory hearing to challenge the issuance of either a construction permit or inspection statement unless the person can demonstrate at an informal hearing that the minimum standards contained in this chapter have not been applied and that he will be injured in some manner by the issuance of the permit or that ground water resources will be damaged by the issuance of the permit.

12VAC5-630-210. Appeals.

Any appeal from a denial, revocation, or voidance of a construction permit for a private well must be made in writing and received by the department within 360 days of the date of the denial.

A. Any request for hearing on the denial of an application for a variance pursuant to 12VAC5-630-170 D 1 must be made in writing and received within 360 days of receipt of the denial notice.

B. Any request for a variance must be made in writing and received by the department prior to the denial of the private well permit, or within 360 days after such denial.

C. In the event a person applies for a variance within the 360-day period provided by subsection B above, the date for appealing the denial of the permit, pursuant to subsection A above, shall commence from the date on which the department acts on the request for a variance.

D. Pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) an aggrieved ownerparty may appeal a final decision of the eCommissioner to an appropriate circuit court.

12VAC5-630-220. Permits and inspection statement; general.

All private wells shall be constructed and located in compliance with the requirements as set forth in this chapter.

A. Except as provided in 12VAC5-630-220 B below, after the effective date of this chapter, no person shall construct, alter, rehabilitate, abandon or extend a private well, or allow the construction, alteration, rehabilitation, abandonment or extension of a private well, without a written construction permit from the eCommissioner. Conditions may be imposed on the issuance of any permit and no private well shall be constructed or modified in violation of those conditions. The replacement of a well pump, or the replacement of a well seal or cap with an equivalent well seal or cap, shall not be considered a well modification.

B. No permit shall be required for the construction, operation, or abandonment of dewatering wells. Furthermore, dewatering wells are exempted from the construction requirements found in 12VAC5-630-410. All dewatering wells shall be abandoned within 60 days of construction. Abandonment in this case means the removal of the well point, well casing, screening, and other appurtenances associated with the construction and operation of the well.

C. Except as provided in 12VAC5-630-320, no person shall place a private well in operation, or cause or allow a private well to be placed in operation, without obtaining a written inspection statement pursuant to 12VAC5-630-310 and 12VAC5-630-330.

D. Except as provided in 12VAC5-630-270, 12VAC5-630-290 and 12VAC5-630-300, construction permits for a private well shall be deemed valid for a period of 54 months from the date of issuance.

12VAC5-630-230. Procedures for obtaining a construction permit for a private well.

Construction permits are issued by the authority of the eCommissioner. All requests for a private well construction permit shall be by written application, signed by the owner or the owner's agent, and shall be directed to the district or local health department. All applications shall be made on an application form provided by the district or local health department and approved by the eCommissioner.

An application shall be deemed completed upon receipt by the district or local health department of a signed and dated application, together with the appropriate fee, containing the following information:

1. The property owner's name, address, and telephone number;
2. The applicant's name, address, and phone number (if different from subdivision 1 above);

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3. A statement signed by the property owner, or the property owner's agent, granting the Health Department access to the site for the purposes of evaluating the suitability of the site for a well and allowing the department access to inspect the well after it is installed;

4. A statement signed by the property owner, or the property owner's agent, indicating whether the adjacent property is used for an agricultural operation.

54. A site plan showing the proposed well site, property boundaries, accurate locations of actual or proposed sewage disposal systems, recorded easements, and other sources of contamination within 100 feet of the proposed well site, and at the option of the applicant a proposed well design; and

65. When deemed necessary because of geological or other natural conditions, plans and specifications detailing how the well will be constructed.

12VAC5-630-240. Issuance of the construction permit.

A. A construction permit shall be issued to the owner by the eCommissioner no later than 60 days after receipt of a complete and approvable application submitted under 12VAC5-630-230. If applicable, the applicant shall comply with 12VAC5-630-340 prior to issuance of the permit.

A.B. If compliance with the criteria contained in Part III (12VAC5-630-350 et seq.) of this chapter imposes an economic hardship or other conditions that are not justified by the health considerations upon which the criteria are based, a construction permit may be issued for the well which substantially complies with this chapter. The district or local health department shall affix to the construction permit a clear and concise statement relating conditions and circumstances which formed the basis for issuing the permit.

12VAC5-630-250. Emergency procedures.

Applications for replacement wells that meet the definition of an emergency well replacement (12VAC5-630-10) shall have priority over normal applications for private well permits. Emergency procedures are as follows:

A. Drinking water wells. In the event a private drinking water well has failed and must be replaced, the local health department will conduct a sanitary survey of the property and surrounding area to determine the most suitable location. If a site is found that meets the minimum site requirements of this chapter, including the minimum separation distances contained in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F, the local health department will issue a permit for that site. If a site cannot be located that meets the minimum separation distances listed in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F, the local health department shall identify a site that complies

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with the minimum separation distances to the greatest extent possible. However, the replacement well shall not be located closer to any source of contamination than the existing well it is replacing. Replacement drinking water wells must meet the sampling requirements of 12VAC5-630-370 D and E.

B. Heat pump wells or commercially dependent wells. If a heat pump well or commercially dependent well must be replaced, the applicant shall propose a replacement site based on the technical requirements of the heat pump system or commercial establishment. The local health department will conduct a sanitary survey of the property and surrounding area to determine if the site meets the minimum site requirements of this chapter including the minimum separation distances contained in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F. If the site meets the minimum requirements of this chapter, the local health department will issue a permit for that site. If a site cannot be located that meets the minimum separation distances listed in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F, the local health department shall identify a site that complies with the minimum separation distances to the greatest extent possible. However, the replacement well shall not be located closer to any source of contamination than the existing well it is replacing. If the replacement heat pump well or commercially dependent well must be placed closer to a sewage disposal system (but no closer than the existing well it is replacing) the well shall be sampled for fecal coliforms. If fecal coliforms are present in the sample and further investigation reveals that the groundwater is contaminated, the well shall be abandoned.

12VAC5-630-260. Express Class IV construction permits.

If a Class IV well is proposed for property that does not have an onsite sewage disposal system, either active or inactive, an application may be made for an express Class IV construction permit. An application for an express Class IV construction permit shall be made on a form provided by the district or local health department and approved by the Commissioner.

An application shall be deemed completed upon receipt by the district or local health department of a signed and dated application, together with the appropriate fee, containing the following information:

1. The property owner's name, address, telephone number, and personal signature. The owner's signature will acknowledge that the permit will be issued without the benefit of a site visit by the local health department prior to the issuance of the construction permit; that the permit is being issued based upon the information provided on the accompanying site plan; that the property owner also acknowledges that if the well is found not to comply with the minimum separation distances or any other provision of this chapter, the well must be abandoned at the

direction of the local or district health director; and that a variance will not be considered if the improper location of the well is a result of the failure by the owner, ~~the owner's~~ agent, or the ~~water well system provider driller~~ to provide complete or accurate information on the site plan submitted with the application or to install the well in accordance with the permit.

2. Address and directions to the property;

3. The proposed use of the well;

4. The name, address, telephone number, ~~Class B (minimum) license number~~~~water well system provider~~, and signature of the ~~water well system provider driller~~ who is to construct the well;

5. A statement signed by the property owner (and not ~~the owner's~~ agent) granting the department access to the site for the purposes of inspecting the property and the well during and after its installation until the well is approved by the department or any required abandonment is completed; and

6. A site plan showing the proposed well site, property boundaries, recorded easements, and accurate locations of actual or proposed sources of contamination (including, but not limited to those listed in Table 3.1) within 100 feet of the proposed well site, and at the option of the applicant a proposed well design. If the proposed well site is located on or at the base of sloping topography, the minimum separation distances shown on the site plan for any sources of contamination within a 60 degree arc slope of the proposed well site must be increased 25 feet for every 5.0% slope.

12VAC5-630-270. Issuance of express Class IV construction permits and final inspection.

A. Issuance of express Class IV construction permit. Upon receipt of a complete and approvable application, as defined in 12VAC5-630-260, by a local or district health department with multiple ~~sanitarians~~~~environmental health specialist~~, the department shall exercise all due diligence to issue a permit either on the date of receipt or the following business day. If the local or district office has only one assigned ~~sanitarian~~~~environmental health specialist~~, the local or district department will exercise all due diligence to issue the permit as soon as possible. Failure by the department to issue the permit within the specified time does not authorize the construction of the well without a permit. If applicable, the applicant shall comply with 12VAC5-630-340 prior to the issuance of the permit.

B. Validity of express Class IV construction permits. Express Class IV construction permits shall only be valid for a period of 30 days from the date of issuance.

C. Inspection. If, upon inspection of the well, it is found that the well location does not comply with the minimum separation distances or any other provision of this chapter, no inspection statement shall be issued and the well shall be immediately abandoned by the property owner in accordance with 12VAC5-630-450 upon notification and direction by the local or district health director. The ~~e~~Commissioner shall not grant a variance if the improper location of the well is a result of the failure by the owner, ~~the owner's~~ agent, or the ~~water well system provider~~driller to provide complete or accurate information on the site plan submitted with the application or to install the well in accordance with the permit.

The construction of the well shall also comply with this chapter.

12VAC5-630-271. Express geothermal well permits.

A. The issuance of an express geothermal permit is contingent upon proper registration and payment of application fees and applies to the construction of wells used solely for a closed-loop geothermal heating system.

B. A single application and a single fee are required for any geothermal well system. The fee is the same as for a single private well. A registration statement for closed loop construction permitting shall be made on a form provided and approved by the division. The registration shall include the following information:

1. The property owner's name, address, and telephone number;
2. The address of and directions to the property;
3. The proposed use of the well;
4. The name, address, telephone number, and contractor license number of the ~~water well system provider~~driller;
5. A statement signed by the property owner granting the department access to the site for the purpose of inspecting the property and the well during and after the well installation until the well is approved by the department or any required corrections are made;
6. A site plan, drawn to scale, showing the proposed well site or sites, property boundaries, recorded easements, and accurate locations of actual or proposed sources of contamination (including but not limited to those listed in Table 3.1 of 12VAC5-630-380) within 100 feet of the proposed well site or sites; and
7. A statement signed by the licensed ~~water well system provider~~driller that the location and construction of the well or wells will comply with the requirements of this chapter.

C. A single application fee is required for any geothermal well system, regardless of the number of wells included in the system. The fee is the same as for a single private well.

12VAC5-630-272. Issuance of express geothermal well construction permit, inspection, and final approval.

A. Issuance of the express geothermal well permit. Upon receipt of a complete registration statement and the appropriate fee, the department will acknowledge receipt of the registration statement and issue the permit with a copy given to the contractor. The construction of the geothermal heating system may begin immediately upon submission of a complete registration statement and counter-signature denoting receipt by the department.

B. Inspection. The department, at its sole discretion, may inspect the closed-loop geothermal well any time after acceptance of the registration statement until after the installation is approved. If, upon inspection of the well, it is found that the well location does not comply with the minimum separation distances or any other provision of this chapter, no inspection statement shall be issued until the deficiencies have been corrected.

C. Final approval. Upon receipt of the Uniform Water Well Completion Report, as required in 12VAC5-630-440, and completion of any inspections deemed necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter, or unless the department has evidence to indicate that the well is not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter, the local health department will provide the owner with a statement that the wells are approved for use.

12VAC5-630-280. Denial of a construction permit.

If it is determined that the proposed design is inadequate or that site, geological, hydrological, or other conditions exist that do not comply with this chapter or would preclude the safe and proper operation of a private well system, or that the installation of the well would create an actual or potential health hazard or nuisance, or the proposed design would adversely impact the ground water resource, the permit shall be denied and the owner shall be notified in writing, by certified mail, of the basis for the denial. The notification shall also state that the owner has the right to appeal the denial.

12VAC5-630-290. Revocation of construction permits or inspection statements.

The [eCommissioner](#) [or the Commissioner's designee](#) may revoke a construction permit or inspection statement for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to comply with the conditions of the permit;
2. Violation of any of this chapter for which no variance has been issued;

3. Facts become known which reveal that a potential health hazard would be created or that the ground water resources may be adversely affected by allowing the proposed well to be installed or completed.

12VAC5-630-300. Voidance of construction permits.

Null and void. All well construction permits are null and void when (i) conditions such as house location, sewage system location, sewerage system location, topography, drainage ways, or other site conditions are changed from those shown on the application, (ii) conditions are changed from those shown on the construction permit, or (iii) more than 54 months elapse from the date the permit was issued. Reapplication for the purposes of having an expired permit reissued shall be the responsibility of the owner, and such reapplication shall be handled as an initial application and comply fully with 12VAC5-630-230.

12VAC5-630-310. Statement required upon completion of construction.

~~Upon~~ Within 30 days of completion of the construction, alteration, rehabilitation, abandonment or extension of a private well, the water well system provider shall furnish the district or local health department a completed uniform water well completion report. The uniform water well completion report shall be ~~owner or agent shall submit to the district or local health department a statement,~~ signed by the water well system provider ~~contractor, upon the form set out in 12VAC5-630-490, stating~~ that the well was installed, constructed, or abandoned in accordance with the permit, and further that the well complies with all applicable state and local regulations, ordinances and laws.

12VAC5-630-320. Inspection and correction.

No well shall be placed in operation, except for the purposes of testing the mechanical soundness of the system, until inspected by the district or local health department, corrections made if necessary, and the owner has been issued an inspection statement by the district or local health department.

12VAC5-630-330. Issuance of the inspection statement.

Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements of 12VAC5-630-310, 12VAC5-630-320, 12VAC5-630-370, 12VAC5-630-430 and 12VAC5-630-440, the ~~e~~Commissioner shall issue an inspection statement to the owner. The issuance of an inspection statement does not denote or imply any warranty or guarantee of the water quality or quantity by the department or that the private well will function for any specified period of time. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or any subsequent owner to maintain, repair, replace, or to comply with the requirements to abandon any private well.

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12VAC5-630-340. Requirement for easement.

Whenever a private well subject to this chapter is proposed to be installed on property other than the owner's, an easement in perpetuity shall be recorded with the clerk of the circuit court prior to issuance of a construction permit. The easement shall be of sufficient area to permit access, construction, placement of the water line, and maintenance of the well.

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Part III
Design and Construction Criteria
Article 1
General Requirements

12VAC5-630-350. General.

This chapter does not apply to private wells constructed, altered, rehabilitated or extended prior to the effective date of these regulations unless the well construction is modified or expanded after the effective date of these regulations.

The class of well to be constructed shall be determined by the local or district health department, or the division.

12VAC5-630-360. Classes of water wells.

The following classes of private wells are established for purposes of this chapter. These classes are in addition to those established in the current Commonwealth of Virginia Waterworks Regulations (12VAC5-590-10 et seq.) and are intended for use for private well systems:

1. Class III - Private wells constructed to be used as a source of drinking water. There are three subclasses:

a. Class IIIA - Drilled wells in which the annular space around the casing is grouted to a minimum depth of 20 feet.

(1) The well shall be drilled and cased to a depth of at least 100 feet.

(2) The cased drill hole shall pass through at least 50 feet of collapsing material such as caving sand, gravel or other material that will collapse against the casing.

b. Class IIIB - Drilled wells in which the casing is installed to a minimum depth of 50 feet and the annular space around the casing is grouted to at least 50 feet.

c. Class IIIC - Drilled, bored, driven or jetted wells other than Class IIIA and Class IIIB.

2. Class IV - Private wells constructed for any purpose other than use as a source of drinking water.

A. Class IVA – Drilled wells in which the annular space around the casing is grouted to a minimum of 20 feet.

(1) The well shall be drilled and cased to a depth of at least 100 feet.

(2) The cased drill hole shall pass through at least 50 feet of collapsing material such as caving sand, gravel or other material that will collapse against the casing.

B. Class IVB – Drilled wells in which the casing is installed to a minimum of 50 feet and the annular space around the casing is grouted to at least 50 feet.

C. Class IVC – Drilled, bored, driven or jetted wells other than Class IVA and Class IVB.

A Class IV well may be converted to a Class III well, if it meets the construction standards as set forth in this chapter and the water quality standards set forth in 12VAC5-630-370.

12VAC5-630-370. Water quality and quantity.

A. ~~A.~~ Class IV wells exempt. The water quality requirements contained in this section apply only to Class III private wells. Class IV private wells (wells not constructed as a source of drinking water) are not subject to any quality requirements. ~~These regulations contain no well yield requirements. See 12VAC5-630-460 for suggested minimum well yields for residential supplies.~~

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B. Conversion of Class IV well to Class III potable well. In order to convert an existing Class IV well to a Class III well the owner shall provide the following information to the local health department.

Comment [GL2]: May need to move this to the permitting section.

1. A complete application indicating the intent to convert the well classification with supporting documentation described below:

2. A copy of the existing uniform water well completion report for the well documenting that the well meets Class IIIA, Class IIIB, or Class IIIC construction standards in accordance with this chapter.

3. A negative bacteria free water sample in accordance with E, F, and G below.

CB. Sample tap. A sample tap shall be provided at or near the water entry point into the system so that samples may be taken directly from the source; this requirement may be met by utilizing the first tap on a line near where the plumbing enters the house (may be a hose bib), provided the tap precedes any water treatment devices.

DC. Disinfection. The entire water system including the well shall be disinfected prior to use (12VAC5-630-430 and 12VAC5-630-470).

ED. Sampling. After operating the well to remove any remaining disinfectant, a sample of the water from the well shall be collected for bacteriological examination and total residual chlorine. The sample may be collected by the owner, water well system provider, or other person in accordance with procedures established by the department and provided the sample

Comment [GL3]: What should the standards be for interpretation; i.e. retesting if residual chlorine is detected?

is submitted to a private laboratory certified by the Department of General Services, Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, for analysis.

~~F.E.~~ **F.E.** Test interpretation. A Class III private well shall be considered satisfactory if the water sample(s) test(s) negative for coliform organisms as described in subdivision 1 or 2 below. Sources with positive counts shall be tested as described in subdivision 3 below to determine if the water supply is amenable to continuous disinfection ~~(chlorination)~~. Samples that exhibit confluent growth shall be considered inconclusive and another sample shall be collected.

1. Where a private well has no unsatisfactory water sample within the previous 12 months, one water sample which tests negative for coliform bacteria shall be considered satisfactory for coliform organisms.

2. Where a private well has had one or more positive water samples within the past 12 months for coliform bacteria, at least two consecutive samples must be collected and found negative for coliform organisms before the supply may be considered satisfactory for coliform organisms. The samples must be collected at least 24 hours apart and the well may not be disinfected between samples.

3. When a private well does not test satisfactory for coliform organisms continuous disinfection may be recommended to the homeowner if the water supply is found to be suitable for continuous disinfection. A minimum of 10 samples shall be collected and tested for total coliform using an MPN methodology. The geometric mean of the samples shall be calculated and if the result is less than 100 organisms per 100 ml, the supply shall be considered satisfactory for continuous disinfection.

G.F. Water treatment. If tests indicate that the water samples test positive for coliform organisms and do not meet the standards described in "12VAC5-630-370.F.-Test Interpretation" ~~above is unsatisfactory~~ and no other approved ~~source~~ source is available, adequate methods of water treatment shall be applied. The treatment device shall be ~~and~~ demonstrated to be effective pursuant to 12VAC5-630-370 E 3 prior to the issuance of an inspection statement. The district or local health department shall be consulted when treatment is necessary.

12VAC5-630-380. Well location.

A. Sanitary survey. Any obvious source of toxic or dangerous substances within 200 feet of the proposed private well shall be investigated as part of the sanitary survey ~~by the district or local health department~~. Sources of contamination may include, but are not limited to, items listed in Table 3.1, abandoned wells, pesticide treated soils, underground storage tanks, and

other sources of physical, chemical or biological contamination. If the source of contamination could affect the well adversely, and preventive measures are not available to protect the ground water, the well shall be prohibited. The minimum separation distance between a private well and structures, topographic features, or sources of pollution shall comply with the minimum distances shown in Table 3.1. ~~Where the minimum separation distances for a Class IV well cannot be met, a permit may be issued under this chapter for a well meeting all of the criteria in 12VAC5-630-400 and 12VAC5-630-410 and the separation distance requirements for either a Class IIIA or IIIB well, without deviation, and such Class IV well shall not be required to meet the water quality requirements of 12VAC5-630-370.~~

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TABLE 3.1 DISTANCES (IN FEET) BETWEEN A WELL AND A STRUCTURE OR TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE

Structure or Topographic Feature	Class IIIC or IVC	Class IIIA or IIIB, or IVB
Building foundation	10	10
Building foundation (termite treated)	50 ¹	50 ¹
House sewer line	50 ²	50 ²
Sewer main, including force mains	50 ³	50 ³
Sewerage system	50	50
Pretreatment system (e.g. septic tank, aerobic unit, etc.)	50	50
Active S ewage disposal system or other contaminant source (e.g., drainfield, underground storage tank, barnyard, hog lot, etc.)	100	50
<u>Permanently abandoned sewage disposal systems</u>	<u>?</u>	<u>?</u>
Cemetery	100	50
Sewage Dump Station	100	50 ¹

¹See 12VAC5-630-380. Borate-based termiticides which are applied directly to building components do not constitute treatment of the soils or foundation with a pesticide.

²Private wells shall not be constructed within 50 feet of a house sewer line except as provided below. Where special construction and pipe materials are used in a house sewer line to provide adequate protection, and the well is cased and grouted to the water bearing formation, all classes of private wells may be placed as close as 10 feet to the house sewer line. Special construction for house sewer lines constitutes cast iron pipe with water-tight caulked joints or mechanical joints using neoprene gaskets, or solvent welded Schedule 40 or better polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide documentation from the contractor that such construction and pipe materials have been installed. In no case shall a private well be placed within 10 feet of a house sewer line.

³Private wells shall not be constructed within 50 feet of a sewer main except as provided below.

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Where special construction and pipe materials are used in a sewer main to provide adequate protection, and the well is cased and grouted to the water bearing formation, Class III wells may be placed as close as 35 feet to a sewer main and Class IV wells as close as 10 feet. Special construction for sewer mains constitutes ductile iron pipe with water-tight joints, solvent welded Schedule 40 or better polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe (SDR-35 plastic PVC with neoprene gaskets). It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide documentation from the local building official or sanitary district that such construction and pipe materials have been installed. In no case shall a Class III well be placed within 35 feet of a sewer main. Likewise, in no case shall a Class IV well be placed within 10 feet of a sewer main.

B. Downslope siting of wells from potential sources of pollution. Special precaution shall be taken when locating a well within a 60 degree arc directly downslope from any part of any existing or intended onsite sewage disposal system or other known source of pollution, including, but not limited to, buildings subject to termite or vermin treatment, or used to store polluting substances or storage tanks or storage areas for petroleum products or other deleterious substances. The minimum separation distance shall be: (i) increased by 25 feet for every 5.0% of slope; or (ii) an increase shall be made to the minimum depth of grout and casing in the amount of five feet for every 5.0% of slope.

C. Sites in swampy areas, low areas, or areas subject to flooding. No private well covered by this chapter shall be located in areas subject to the collection of pollutants such as swampy areas, low areas, or areas subject to flooding. Wells located in flood plains shall be adequately constructed so as to preclude the entrance of surface water during flood conditions. At a minimum, such construction will include extending the well terminus 18 inches above the annual flood level. Other requirements may be made as determined on a case by case basis by the division.

D. Property lines. No private well shall be constructed within 50 feet of the property line with an adjacent property of three acres or larger that is used for an agricultural operation. The following shall be exempt: (i) the owner of the adjacent property that is used for an agricultural operation may grant written permission for construction within 50 feet of the property line; or (ii) certification that no other site on the property complies with this chapter. Prior to permitting a well within 50 feet of a property line, the owner or the owner's agent shall submit one of the following documents to the district or local health department to qualify as an exemption:

1. Notarized affirmation from the adjacent property owner that the property is not used for an agricultural operation.

2. Notarized permission from the adjacent property owner to construct the well within 50 feet of the property line.

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3. A certification statement from a licensed onsite soil evaluation or professional engineer that the well location complies with this chapter.

The minimum separation distance does not apply to closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells that are grouted the entire depth of the well.

~~There is no minimum separation distance between a private well and a property line established by this chapter. The owner is responsible for establishing a separation distance from property lines such that the construction and location of the well will be on the owner's property and comply with any local ordinances.~~

E. Utility lines. There is no minimum separation distance between a private well and utility lines (electric, gas, water, cable, etc.). The minimum separation distance may, however, be established by the individual utility company or local ordinance.

F. Permanently abandoned sewage disposal systems. The following criteria is to determine if a sewage disposal system is considered permanently abandoned and subject to a reduction in standoff distance to the location of a well:

a. The drainfield has been abandoned and inactive for at least 24 consecutive months. This must be verified by presentation of evidence of its inactivity.

b. The abandoned drainfield is no longer connected to a structure or other sewage source.

c. The septic tank and distribution box shall be pumped, limed, crushed and either filled or removed for the site.

d. The owner of the abandoned drainfield provides a notarized statement that the above conditions exist and that the drainfield will not be reactivated. Such statement shall be recorded and indexed in the grantor index of the land records of the circuit court having jurisdiction over the site where the sewage system is located.

e. The local health department verifies that the above conditions exist.

GF. Pesticide and termite treatment. No Class III private well shall be placed closer than 50 feet from a building foundation that has been chemically treated with any termiticide or other pesticide. No Class IV private well shall be placed closer than 50 feet to a building foundation that has been chemically treated with any termiticide or other pesticide except as provided below. Further, no termiticides or other pesticides shall be applied within five feet of an open water supply trench. A Class IV well may be placed as close as 10 feet to a chemically treated foundation if the following criteria are met:

1. The aquifer from which the water is withdrawn must be a confined aquifer (i.e., there must be an impermeable stratum overlying the water bearing formation).
2. The well must be cased and grouted a minimum of 20 feet or into the first confining layer between the ground surface and the water bearing formation from which water is withdrawn, whichever is greater. When the first confining layer is encountered at a depth greater than 20 feet, the well shall be cased and grouted to the first confining layer between the ground surface and the water bearing formation from which water is withdrawn.
3. The material overlaying the confined aquifer must be collapsing material.

HC. Exception for closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells. Closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells, depending upon construction, may not have to comply with the minimum separation distances for Class IV wells listed in Table 3.1. If the well is grouted 20 feet, the minimum separation distances must comply with those listed for Class IV C wells. If the well is grouted a minimum of 50 feet, the separation distances shall be those listed for Class ~~IVB~~ C wells. If the well is grouted the entire depth of the well, the well does not have to comply with the minimum separation distances contained in Table 3.1.

12VAC5-630-390. Site protection.

A. No objects, articles, or materials of any kind which are not essential to the operation of the well shall be placed or stored in a well, well house, on the well head or well pump or water treatment system, or within close proximity to them.

B. Fencing of an area around the well, or the placement of other barriers or restrictions, may be required as a condition of the permit under certain circumstances, such as to prohibit livestock access to the well head or to prohibit vehicles from damaging or polluting the area around the well head.

C. The area around the well shall be graded to divert surface water away from the well.

12VAC5-630-400. Materials.

A. General. All materials used in private wells shall have long-term resistance to corrosion , be lead free, be approved by the National Sanitation Foundation or equivalent, and have sufficient strength to withstand hydraulic, lateral and bearing loads.

B. Casing. Materials used for casing shall be watertight and shall consist of wrought iron, concrete tile, clay tile, steel, stainless steel or plastic, all designed for water well use or other

suitable materials, ~~as determined by the division. The division shall maintain a list of approved casing materials.~~

1. Driven casings shall consist of ductile iron, steel or stainless steel and shall be equipped with a suitable drive boot.

2. Casings used for Class IIIA or IIIB wells shall be steel, stainless steel or plastic.

3. When casing is terminated in bedrock, the well casing must be sealed at the termination of casing using a mechanical seal or packer.

C. Screens. Where utilized, screens shall be constructed of stainless steel, plastic or other suitable materials ~~as determined by the division~~. Screens shall be constructed of materials which will not be damaged by any chemical or corrosive action of the ground water or future cleaning operations. Additionally, screens shall be constructed of materials which will not degrade ground water quality.

D. Joints. Joints shall be watertight and mechanically sound. Welded joints shall have smooth interior surfaces and shall be welded in accordance with acceptable welding practice.

E. Gravel. Gravel utilized for gravel packed wells shall be uniformly graded, cleaned, washed, disinfected and of a suitable size.

I. Water. Water used during well construction shall be...

12VAC5-630-410. Construction; general.

A. Casing.

1. Class IIIA and IVA wells shall be cased to a depth of at least 100 feet.

2. Class IIIB and IVB wells shall be cased to a depth of at least 50 feet.

3. Except as provided in subdivisions a through e below, all Class IIIC and IV wells shall be cased to a minimum depth of 20 feet or terminated not less than one foot in bedrock when bedrock is encountered at a depth less than 20 feet.

a. When in collapsing material, the casing shall terminate in the aquifer but in no instance be less than 20 feet.

b. Where an aquifer is encountered at less than 20 feet, Class IV wells may be cased to within one foot of the water bearing strata. In the instance of Class IV wells the intent of this chapter is to protect ground water quality, and not to ensure a potable water supply.

Exception: Class IV wells placed closer than 50 feet from a building foundation treated with a chemical termiticide or other pesticide shall comply with the minimum casing depth requirements of 12VAC5-630-380 F 2.

Comment [GL4]: There was general agreement that we should have criteria, but opinions varied on conditions.

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c. Alternate casing depths may be accepted for bored wells when the only aquifer lies between 11 and 20 feet provided the casing is placed within one foot of the aquifer and must not be less than 10 feet in depth from the ground surface.

d. Class III C driven wells shall be cased to the water bearing strata; however, in no case less than 10 feet. No minimum casing requirements apply to Class IV driven wells except that in order to protect ground water they shall be capable of meeting the minimum grouting requirements as described in subdivision C 5 e of this section.

e. Closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells do not have to be cased.

4. All private well casings shall be extended at least 12 inches above ground or 12 inches above a concrete floor in well house with a gravity flow drain. The following wells are exempted from this requirement; however, their location shall be permanently marked for easy location in the future:

a. Drilled shallow well suction pump systems that will not operate unless a vacuum is maintained. The casings for these wells are also the suction lines through which water is drawn.

b. Deep well ejector pump systems that utilize a casing adaptor and must maintain a vacuum to operate.

c. Closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells.

d. Heat pump return wells that are completely sealed.

5. All steel casings shall meet or exceed the material specifications found in 12VAC5-630-480.

6. No plastic well casing shall be installed which will exceed 80% of its RHCP (resistance to hydraulic collapse pressure). When experience has shown, in the division's opinion, that the prevailing geologic conditions are subject to collapse or shifting, or where heavy clay or unstable backfill materials occur, plastic well casings may not exceed 50% of the RHCP rating. It shall be the responsibility of the well driller to submit calculations to the division demonstrating that individual well casings do not exceed these ratings.

B. Screens. When used for the prevention of entry of foreign materials, screens shall be free of rough edges, irregularities, or other defects. A positive watertight seal between the screen and the casing shall be provided when appropriate.

C. Grouting.

Comment [GL5]: Is there a national standard we can reference rather than a prescriptive regulatory requirement.

1. General. All private wells shall be grouted. ~~It is preferred that no openings are made in the side of the well casing.~~

2. Purpose. The annular space between the casing and well bore is one of the principal avenues through which undesirable water and contaminants may gain access to a well. The goal of grouting a well is to preclude the entrance of undesirable water and contaminants. Therefore, the annular space shall be filled with a neat cement grout, a mixture of bentonite and neat cement or bentonite clay grout specifically approved by the manufacturer for use as a grouting material.

3. Specifications. The grouting material used shall meet the appropriate specification listed below:

a. Neat cement grout shall consist of cement and water with not more than six gallons of water per bag (94 pounds) of cement.

b. Bentonite clay may be used in conjunction with neat Portland cement to form a grouting mixture. The bentonite used must be specifically recommended by the manufacturer as being suitable for use as a well grout material and cannot exceed 6.0% by weight of the mixture.

c. Bentonite clay used for grouting shall be sodium bentonite with a minimum of 20% clay solids by weight of water. The bentonite clay shall be specifically recommended by the manufacturer for use as a grouting material.

Exception: (i) When exceptional conditions require the use of a less fluid grout, to bridge voids, a mixture of cement, sand and water in the proportion of not more than two parts by weight of sand to one part of cement with not more than six gallons of clean water per bag of cement may be used if approved by the district or local health department, or (ii) for bored wells only, a concrete (1 part sand -1 part cement -2 parts pea gravel) mix with all aggregates passing a ½-inch sieve) grout with not more than six gallons of clean water per bag of cement may be used provided a minimum three-inch annular space is available and its use approved by the district or local health department.

In cases where an open borehole has been drilled below the depth to which the casing is to be grouted, the lower part of the hole must be backfilled, or a packer must be set in the hole, to retain the slurry at the desired depth. Backfilling the hole with gravel and capping with sand is an acceptable practice. Material ordinarily sold

as plaster or mortar sand is usually satisfactory; more than half the sand should be of grain sizes between 0.012 inches and 0.024 inches.

4. Other materials. Other grouting materials may be approved by the division on a case by case basis. Review and approval shall be based on whether the proposed material can consistently be expected to meet the intent of grouting expressed in 12VAC5-630-410 C 2. The proposed material must be an industry acceptable material used for the purpose of grouting water wells.

5. Depth.

- a. All Class IIIA and IVA wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of 20 feet.
- b. All Class IIIB and IVB wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of 50 feet.
- c. All Class IIIC and IVC ~~and Class IV~~ wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of 20 feet when the casing depth is equal to or greater than 20 feet. When the casing depth is less than 20 feet, the casing shall be grouted in accordance with this subsection, from the lower terminus of the casing to the surface.

Exception: Class IV wells placed closer than 50 feet from a building foundation treated with a chemical termiticide or other pesticide shall comply with the minimum grouting depth requirements of 12VAC5-630-380 F 2.

- d. Alternate grouting depths may be accepted for bored wells when the only aquifer suitable for a private well lies between 11 and 20 feet provided the grouting shall terminate at least one foot above the aquifer but must not be less than 10 feet in depth from the ground surface.
- e. Driven wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of five feet by excavating an oversize hole at least four inches in diameter larger than the casing and pouring an approved grout mixture into the annular space.

6. Installation. Grout shall be installed by means of a grout pump or tremie pipe from the bottom of the annular space upward in one operation until the annular space is filled, whenever the grouting depth exceeds 20 feet. Pouring of grout is acceptable for drilled wells whenever grouting depth does not exceed 20 feet. Pouring of grout is acceptable for bored wells whenever the grouting depth does not exceed 30 feet provided there is a minimum of a 3-inch annular space. Grouting shall be brought to the ground surface and flared to provide a one foot radius around the casing at least six inches thick. However, whenever pitless adapters are used, the grout shall terminate at the base of the pitless adapter. When an outer casing is necessary to

construct a new well, where possible, the outer casing shall be pulled simultaneously with the grouting operation or grouted inside and outside if to be left in place.

7. Annular space. The clear annular space around the outside of the casing and the well bore shall be at least 1.5 inches on all sides except for bored wells which shall have at least a 3-inch annular space.

D. Additional casing and grouting. When a well is to be constructed within 100 feet of a subsurface sewage disposal system, which has been or is proposed to be installed at a depth greater than five feet below the ground surface, the casing and grouting of the water well shall be increased to maintain at least a 15-foot vertical separation between the trench bottom and the lower terminus of the casing and grouting.

E. Well head.

1. General. No open wells or well heads or unprotected openings into the interior of the well shall be permitted. Prior to the driller/water well system provider leaving the well construction site, the owner shall have the driller/water well system provider protect the bore hole by installing a cover adequate to prevent accidental contamination.

2. Mechanical well seals. Mechanical well seals (either sanitary well seals or pitless adapters) shall be used on all wells and shall be water and air tight except as provided in 12VAC5-630-410 F 4.

3. Other. Wells greater than eight inches in diameter shall be provided with a watertight overlapping (shoebox) type cover, constructed of reinforced concrete or steel.

F. Appurtenances passing through casing.

1. General. All openings through well casings shall be provided with a positive water stop.

2. Pitless well adapters. Pitless well adapters shall be subject to approval by the division. All pitless adapters shall be installed according to the manufacturers recommendations.

3. Sanitary well seals. Sanitary well seals shall be subject to approval by the division. All sanitary well seals shall be installed according to the manufacturers recommendations.

4. Venting. Venting, where necessary as determined by the district health department, shall be provided in such a manner as to allow for the passage of air, but not water, insects, or foreign materials, into the well.

12VAC5-630-420. Observation, monitoring, and remediation wells.

A. Except as provided in subsections B and C of this section, observation and monitoring wells are exempted from this chapter.

B. Observation or monitoring wells shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements for private wells if they are to remain in service after the completion of the ground water study.

C. Observation or monitoring wells shall be properly abandoned in accordance with 12VAC5-630-450 within 90 days of cessation of use.

12VAC5-630-430. Disinfection.

All Class III private wells shall be disinfected before placing the well(s) in service. Disinfection shall be accomplished by maintaining a 100 mg/l solution of chlorine in the well for 24 hours utilizing the dosage rates set forth in 12VAC5-630-470.

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12VAC5-630-440. Information to be reported.

A copy of a Uniform Water Well Completion Report (see 12VAC5-630-490) shall be provided to the district or local health department within 30 days of the completion of the well or completion of alterations thereto.

12VAC5-630-450. Well abandonment.

A. Well abandonment is governed jointly by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health pursuant to § 62.1-44.92(6) of the Ground Water Act of 1973 (Repealed). In addition, the abandonment of any private well governed by this chapter, or any private well abandoned as a condition of a permit issued under this chapter, shall be administered by the Department of Health in conformance with this section.

B. A temporarily abandoned well shall be sealed with a water-tight cap or well head seal. Such a well shall be maintained so that it will not be a source or channel for contamination to ground water during temporary abandonment.

C. Permanent abandonment. The object of proper permanent abandonment is to prevent contamination from reaching ground water resources via the well. A permanently abandoned well shall be abandoned in the following manner:

1. All casing material may be salvaged.

2. Before the well is ~~abandoned~~plugged, it shall be checked from land surface to the entire depth of the well to ascertain freedom from obstructions that may interfere with ~~plugging~~ ~~(sealing)~~ ~~abandonment~~ operations.

3. The well shall be thoroughly chlorinated, ~~using dosage rates in 12VAC5-630-470,~~ prior to ~~plugging (sealing)abandonment.~~

4. Bored wells, ~~and uncased~~ ~~rock or brick-lined~~ wells, ~~and uncased wells~~ shall be backfilled with clean fill to the water level. A two-foot-thick ~~bentonite~~ plug ~~of grout, as specified in 12VAC5-~~

630-410.C.3, shall be placed immediately above the water level. Clean fill shall be placed on top of the ~~bentonite~~-plug and brought up to at least five feet from the ground surface. The top five feet of the well casing, if present, shall be removed from the bore hole. ~~If~~ an open annular space is present around the well casing, the annular space shall be filled with grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3, to the maximum depth possible, but not less than or equal to 20 feet. A one-foot-thick ~~cement or bentonite grout~~-plug of grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3, that completely fills the bore void space shall be placed a minimum of five feet from the ground surface. The remaining space shall be filled with clean fill which is mounded a minimum of one foot above the surrounding ground surface. Bored wells or uncased wells abandoned in this manner shall be treated as wells with respect to determining the minimum separation distance to sources of contamination listed in Table 3.1, unless using alternative abandonment procedures outlined in 12VAC5-630-450.D. The location of these wells shall be permanently marked for future location.

5. Wells constructed in collapsing material shall be completely filled with grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3, ~~or clay slurry~~ by introduction through a pipe initially extending to the bottom of the well. Such pipe shall be raised, but remain submerged in grout, as the well is filled.

6. Wells constructed in consolidated rock formations or which penetrate zones of consolidated rock may be filled with sand or gravel opposite the zones of consolidated rock. The top of the sand or gravel fill shall be at least five feet below the top of the consolidated rock and at least 20 feet below land surface. The remainder of the well shall be filled with grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3 or clay slurry.

~~7. Other abandonment procedures may be approved by the local health department division on a case-by-case basis.~~

~~78.~~ Test and exploration wells shall be abandoned in such a manner to prevent the well from being a channel for the vertical movement of water or a source of contamination to ground water.

~~89.~~ When bored wells are bored and a water source is not found, and the casing has not been placed in the bore hole, the bore hole ~~shall~~may be abandoned by backfilling with the bore spoils or clean fill to at least five feet below the ground surface. A two-foot-thick ~~bentonite grout~~ plug of grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3, shall be placed at a minimum of five feet from the ground surface. The remainder of the bore hole shall be filled with the bore spoils.

D. Alternative well abandonment procedures.

The district of local health department may approve alternative well abandonment procedures for bored wells, rock or brick-lined wells, and uncased wells to reduce setbacks from proposed sewage disposal systems as show in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2

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<u>Distance Between Well and Sewage Disposal System</u>	<u>Abandonment Method and Sewage Disposal System Treatment Level</u>
<u>50' to 99' and well is up slope</u>	<u>Abandon using the standard abandonment method and pretreat effluent to produce 30 mg/L BOD5 and 30 mg/L TSS or better; or abandon using the enhanced abandonment method.</u>
<u>25' to 49' and well is up slope</u>	<u>Abandon using enhanced abandonment method and pretreat effluent to produce 30 mg/L BOD5 and 30 mg/L TSS or better.</u>
<u>75' to 99' and well is not up slope</u>	<u>Abandon using the standard abandonment method and pretreat effluent to produce 30 mg/L BOD5 and 30 mg/L TSS or better; or abandon using the enhanced abandonment method.</u>
<u>50' to 74' and well is not upslope.</u>	<u>Abandon using enhanced abandonment method and pretreat effluent to produce 30 mg/L BOD5 and 30 mg/L TSS or better.</u>

Well abandonment methods.

Standard abandonment method. This method refers to wells abandoned using the method described in 12VAC5-630-450.C.4.

Enhanced abandonment method. This refers to bored wells and uncased wells backfilled with clean fill to the water level. A two-foot plug of grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3, shall be placed immediately above the water level. Clean fill shall be placed on top of the plug and brought up no closer than twenty-five feet from the ground surface. At a minimum, the top five feet of the well casing, if present, shall be removed from the bore hole. If a continuous

annular space is present around the well casing, the annular space shall be filled with grout to the maximum depth possible, but not less than or equal to 20 feet. A twenty-foot thick plug of grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3, that completely fills the bore void space shall be placed to fill the bore hole from a depth of twenty-five feet to a minimum of five feet from the ground surface. The remaining space shall be filled with clean fill which is mounded a minimum of one foot above the surrounding ground surface. When the well is less than twenty-five deep, the procedure described in this paragraph shall be followed to the greatest extent possible, including removing at a minimum, the top five feet of casing and grouting any open annular spacing as described above. The bore hole itself shall be completely filled with grout, as specified in 12VAC5-630-410.C.3.

12VAC5-630-460. Water system yields for residential use wells.

A. All drinking water systems that utilize one or more Class III wells shall be capable of supplying water in adequate quantity for the intended usage. All such systems, with a capacity less than three gallons per minute, shall have a capacity to produce and store 150 gallons per bedroom per day and be capable of delivering a sustained flow of five gallons per minute per connection. Systems with a capacity of three gallons per minute or more do not require additional storage.

B. The certified water well systems provider shall certify the storage capacity and the yield of the well on the Uniform Water Well Completion Report.

12VAC5-630-470. Chlorination dosage rates.

Casing Diameter (Inches)	Volume per 100 Feet (Gallons)	70% Sodium Hypochlorite (Oz. Dry Wt.)	5% Sodium Hypochlorite (Liquid Meas.)
2	16	0.5	4 oz.
4	65	2	18 oz.
6	147	4	40 oz.
8	261	6	4.25 pts.
10	408	8	7 pts.
12	588	12	10 pts.
16	1045	20	2 gal.
20	1632	32	3.3 gal.
24	2350	48	4.67 gal.
30	3672	70	7.3 gal.
36	5288	101	10.5 gal.

12VAC5-630-480. Well casing specifications.

Steel Casings				
Nom. Size (inches)	Weight (lbs./ft.)	Thickness (inches)	External Diameter	Internal Diameter
4	10.79	.188	4.5	4.026
6	13.00	.188	6.625	6.25
8	24.70	.277	8.625	8.071
10	31.20	.279	10.75	10.192

The following draft revisions are based on a previous effort in 2003 to revise the Private Well Regulations. This draft is provided as a starting point for discussion with the 2016 Private Well Regulations Workgroup; the following proposed revisions have not received approval from VDH or the Board of Health. An initial review of comments by OEHS staff finds that some proposed revisions from 2003 would require a change to the Code of Virginia. Other proposed revisions from 2003 may have been addressed in the intervening changes to the Code and state regulations.

PRIVATE WELL REGULATIONS

12 VAC 5-630-10 et seq.

August 16, 2012

12VAC5-630-10. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Abandoned well" means a private well whose pump has been disconnected for reasons other than repair or replacement, or whose use has been discontinued or pronounced abandoned by the owner. A temporarily abandoned well is a well that is intended to be returned to service as a source of water at some future time. A permanently abandoned well is a well that is not intended to be used as a source of water at any future time. Abandoned wells must meet the requirements of 12VAC5-630-450.

"Agent" means a legally authorized representative of the owner.

"Annular space" means the space between the bore hole wall and the outside of a water well casing pipe, or between a casing pipe and a liner pipe.

"Aquifer" means a geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation, that transmits water.

"Bedrock" means any solid rock underlying soil, sand, or clay.

"Bored well" means a well that is excavated by means of a soil auger (hand or power) as distinguished from a well which is drilled, driven, dug, or jetted.

"Closed-loop ground-source heat pump well" means a well consisting of a sealed loop of plastic pipe buried beneath the earth's surface to allow heat transfer between the fluid in the pipe and the earth.

"Collapsing material" means any soil or gravel material which collapses upon itself forming a seal with the casing and leaves no voids around the casing.

"Commercially dependent well" means a well that is the sole source of water for a commercial facility that requires the water from the well for continued operation. Examples include wells serving an ice plant, a car wash facility, irrigation for commercial nurseries, or agricultural wells that provide water for livestock or irrigation.

"Commissioner" means the State Health Commissioner or his subordinate who has been delegated powers in accordance with 12VAC5-630-90 B of this chapter.

"Confined aquifer" means an aquifer that is confined by an overlying impermeable formation.

"Consolidated rock" means a formation consisting entirely of a natural rock formation that contains no soil and does not collapse against the well casing.

"Construction of wells" means acts necessary to construct private wells as outlined in this chapter, including the location of private wells, the boring, digging, grouting, drilling, or otherwise excavating of a well hole and the installation of casing with or without well screens, or well curbing.

"Contamination" means the water quality by chemical, viral, protozoan, or bacterial pollution to a degree that creates an actual hazard to public health.

"Deep well ejector pump system" means a well that utilizes a casing adapter and a deep well ejector. These wells must maintain a constant vacuum to operate.

"Dewatering well" means a ~~driven~~ well constructed for the sole purpose of lowering the water table and kept in operation for a period of 60 days or less. Dewatering wells are used to allow construction in areas where a high water table hinders or prohibits construction and are always usually temporary in nature.

"Direct push well" means a type of environmental sampling well constructed by pushing casing or other sampling device into the subsurface to obtain water samples for groundwater quality analysis or to measure groundwater levels where no annular space is created and where the sampling device will be in the subsurface 24 hours or less.

"Disinfection" means the destruction of all pathogenic organisms.

"Division" means the Division of On-Site Sewage and Water Services.

"District health department" means a consolidation of local health departments as authorized in § 32.1-31 C of the Code of Virginia.

"Drilled shallow well suction pump system" means a drilled well two inches or less in diameter that utilizes an offset pump to draw water from the well through the casing. These wells must maintain a constant vacuum in order to operate.

"Drilled well" means a well that is excavated wholly or in part by means of a drill (either percussion or rotary) which operates by cutting or abrasion.

"Driven well" means a well that is constructed by driving a pipe, at the end of which there is a drive point and screen, without the use of any drilling, boring or jetting device.

"Dug well" means a well that is excavated by means of picks, shovels, or other hand tools, or by means of a power shovel or other dredging or trenching machinery, as distinguished from a bored, drilled, driven, or jetted well.

"Emergency well replacement" means the replacement of an existing private drinking water well, heat pump well, or commercially dependent well that has failed to deliver the water needed for its intended use. Such failure requires the drilling of a new well or extensive modifications to the existing well. The replacement of failed noncommercial irrigation wells, and other types of private wells are not considered emergencies.

"Environmental sampling well" means any well used strictly to obtain a sample of groundwater for analysis or any well used to measure groundwater levels. These wells include, but are not limited to, monitoring or observation wells, piezometers, and direct push wells.

"Geothermal well" means a well used to draw water from the earth or to return water to the earth for purposes of heating and cooling.

"Gravel pack" means gravel placed outside a well screen in a well to assist the flow of water into the well screen and to inhibit clogging of the screen.

"Ground water" means any water, except capillary moisture, beneath the land surface in the zone of saturation or beneath the bed of any stream, lake, reservoir or other body of surface water within the boundaries of this Commonwealth, whatever may be the subsurface geologic structure in which such water stands, flows, percolates, or otherwise occurs.

"Grout" means any stable, impervious bonding material, reasonably free of shrinkage, which is capable of providing a watertight seal in the annular spaces of a water well throughout the depth required, to protect against the intrusion of objectionable matter.

"Jetted well" means a well that is excavated using water pumped under pressure through a special washing point to create a water jet which cuts, abrades, or erodes material to form the well.

"Local health department" means the department established in each city and county in accordance with § 32.1-30 of the Code of Virginia.

"Noncollapsing material" means soil or gravel material which can maintain an open bore hole long enough to grout the annular space between a well and the bore hole. For the purpose of this chapter, soil or gravel material which collapsed upon itself but created voids around the casing is considered noncollapsing material.

~~"Observation or monitoring well" means a well constructed to measure hydrogeologic parameters, such as the fluctuation of water levels, or for monitoring the quality of ground water, or for both purposes.~~

"Owner" means any person, who owns, leases, or proposes to own or lease a private well.

"Person" means any and all persons, including individuals, firms, partnerships, associations, public or private institutions, municipalities or political subdivisions, governmental agencies, or private or public corporations organized under the law of this Commonwealth or any other state or country.

"Private well" means any water well constructed for a person on land which is owned or leased by that person and is ~~usually~~ intended for household, ground water source heat pump, agricultural use, industrial use, groundwater observation or monitoring, dewatering, remediation, or other nonpublic usewater well.

"Replacement well" means a well being constructed to take the place of an existing well that is being taken out of service and is being abandoned.

"Sanitary survey" means an investigation of any condition that may affect public health.

"Screen" means the intake section of a well that obtains water from an unconsolidated aquifer providing for the water to flow freely and adding structural support to the bore hole. Screens are used to increase well yield or prevent the entry of sediment, or both.

"Sewage" means water carried and nonwater carried human excrement, kitchen, laundry, shower, bath, or lavatory wastes separately or together with such underground, surface, storm and other water and liquid industrial wastes as may be present from residences, buildings, vehicles, industrial establishments or other places.

"Sewage disposal system" means a sewerage system or treatment works designed not to result in a point source discharge.

"Sewer" means any sanitary or combined sewer used to convey sewage or municipal or industrial wastes.

"Sewerage system" means pipelines or conduits, pumping stations and force mains and all other construction, devices and appliances appurtenant thereto exterior to the structure, used for the collection and conveyance of sewage to a treatment works or point of ultimate disposal.

"Subsurface soil absorption" means a process which utilizes the soil to treat and dispose of sewage effluent.

"Treatment works" means any device or system used in the storage, treatment, disposal or reclamation of sewage or combinations of sewage and industrial wastes, including but not limited to pumping, power and other equipment and appurtenances, septic tanks, and any works, including land, that are or will be (i) an integral part of the treatment process or (ii) used for the ultimate disposal of residues or effluents resulting from such treatment.

"Variance" means a conditional waiver of a specific regulation which is granted to a specific owner relating to a specific situation or facility and may be for a specified time period.

"Water table" means the uppermost surface of ground water saturation. The level in the saturated zone at which the pressure is equal to atmospheric pressure.

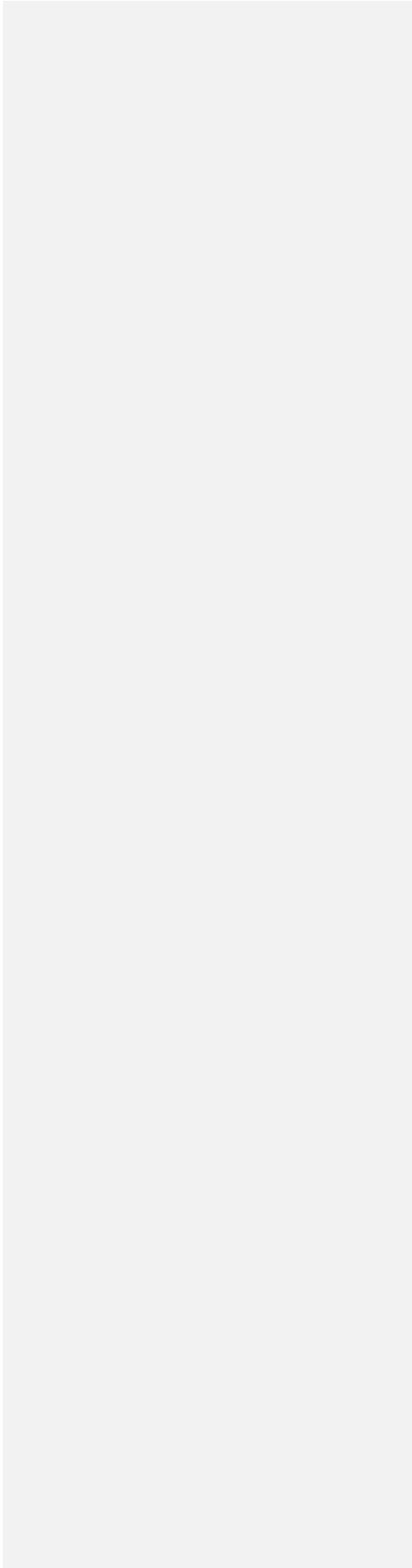
"Water well" or "well" means any artificial opening or artificially altered natural opening, however made, by which ground water is sought or through which ground water flows under natural pressure or is intended to be artificially drawn; provided this definition shall not include wells drilled for the following purposes: (i) exploration or production of oil or gas, (ii) building foundation investigation and construction, (iii) elevator shafts, (iv) grounding of electrical apparatus, or (v) the modification or development of springs.

"Water well/pump contracting" or "WWP" means that service which provides for the installation of a water well system, which includes construction of a water well to reach groundwater, as defined in § 62.1-255 of the Code of Virginia, and the installation of the well pump and tank, including pipe and wire, up to and including the point of connection to the plumbing and electrical systems. No other classification or specialty service provides for construction of water wells. This regulations shall not exclude a plumber (PLB), electrician (ELE), or heating, ventilation, air-conditioning (HVAC) contractor from installation of pumps and tanks.

"Well only permit" means a construction permit issued just for a water well and is not concurrent with a sewage system permit.

"Yield" means the quantity of water, usually measured in volume of water per unit time, which may flow or which may be pumped, from a well or well field.

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Article 2
General Provisions

12VAC5-630-20. Authority for regulations.

Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia, and specifically §§ 32.1-12 and 32.1-176.4, provide that the State Board of Health has the duty to protect the public health and to ensure that ground water resources are not adversely affected by the construction and location of private wells. In order to discharge this duty, the board is empowered to supervise and regulate the construction and location of private wells within the Commonwealth.

12VAC5-630-30. Purpose of regulations.

These regulations have been promulgated by the State Board of Health to:

1. Ensure that all private wells are located, constructed and maintained in a manner which does not adversely affect ground water resources, or the public welfare, safety and health;
2. Guide the State Health Commissioner in his/her determination of whether a permit for construction of a private well should be issued or denied;
3. Guide the owner or his/her agent in the requirements necessary to secure a permit for construction of a private well; and
4. Guide the owner or his/her agent in the requirements necessary to secure an inspection statement following construction.

12VAC5-630-40. Relationship to Virginia Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations.

This chapter supersedes 12VAC5-610-1150 of the Virginia Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations, and 12VAC5-610-1140 B and C of the Virginia Sewage Handling and Disposal Regulations which address private wells, and were adopted by the State Board of Health pursuant to Title 32.1 of the Code of Virginia.

12VAC5-630-50. Relationship to the State Water Control Board.

This chapter is independent of all regulations promulgated by the State Water Control Board. Ground water users located in a ground water management area may be required to obtain a permit from the State Water Control Board in addition to obtaining a permit from the Department of Health.

12VAC5-630-60. Relationship to the Department of Environmental Quality, ~~Waste Management Division.~~

This chapter establishes minimum standards for the protection of public health and ground water resources. Observation wells, monitoring wells, environmental sampling and remediation

wells constructed under the supervision of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, ~~Waste Management Division, are governed by 12VAC5-630-420 are exempt from this chapter.~~

12VAC5-630-70. Relationship to the Uniform Statewide Building Code.

This chapter is independent of and in addition to the requirements of the Uniform Statewide Building Code. All persons required to obtain a well permit by this chapter shall furnish a copy of the permit to the local building official, upon request, when making application for a building permit. Prior to obtaining an occupancy permit, an applicant shall furnish the local building official with a copy of the inspection statement demonstrating the water supply has been inspected, sampled (when applicable), and approved by the district or local health department.

12VAC5-630-80. Relationship to the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation.

~~In accordance with § 54.1-1100 of the Code of Virginia, any contractor constructing a water well to reach ground water shall possess, as a minimum, a valid Class B contractors license. No person shall construct, alter, repair or abandon a water well unless possessing a valid, Virginia Water Well/Pump Contracting license.~~

12VAC5-630-90. Administration of regulations.

This chapter is administered by the following:

A. The State Board of Health, hereinafter referred to as the board, has the responsibility to promulgate, amend, and repeal regulations necessary to ensure the proper location, construction, ~~alteration, repair or abandonment and location~~ of private wells.

B. The State Health Commissioner, hereinafter referred to as the commissioner, is the chief executive officer of the State Department of Health. The commissioner has the authority to act, within the scope of regulations promulgated by the board, and for the board when it is not in session. The commissioner may delegate his powers under this chapter in writing to any subordinate, with the exception of (i) his power to issue variances under § 32.1-12 of the Code of Virginia and 12VAC5-630-170, (ii) his power to issue orders under § 32.1-26 of the Code of Virginia and 12VAC5-630-140 and 12VAC5-630-150 B and (iii) the power to revoke permits or inspection statements under 12VAC5-630-290, which may only be delegated pursuant to § 32.1-22 of the Code of Virginia.

The commissioner has final authority to adjudicate contested case decisions of subordinates delegated powers under this section prior to appeal of such case decisions to the circuit court.

C. The State Department of Health hereinafter referred to as department is designated as the primary agent of the commissioner for the purpose of administering this chapter.

D. The district or local health departments are responsible for implementing and enforcing the regulatory activities required by this chapter.

12VAC5-630-100. Right of entry and inspections.

In accordance with the provisions of §§ 32.1-25 and 32.1-12 and 32.1-176.6 of the Code of Virginia, the commissioner or his/her designee shall have the right to enter any property to ensure compliance with this chapter.

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Part II
Procedural Regulations
Article 1
Procedures

12VAC5-630-110. Compliance with the Administrative Process Act.

The provisions of the Virginia Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) shall govern the promulgation and administration of this chapter and shall be applicable to the appeal of any case decision based upon this chapter.

12VAC5-630-120. Powers and procedures of regulations not exclusive.

The commissioner may enforce this chapter through any means lawfully available.

12VAC5-630-130. [Reserved]

12VAC5-630-140. Emergency order.

If an emergency exists the commissioner or his or her designee may issue an emergency order as is necessary for preservation of public health, safety, and welfare or to protect ground water resources. The emergency order shall state the reasons and precise factual basis upon which the emergency order is issued. The emergency order shall state the time period for which it is effective. Emergency orders will be publicized in a manner deemed appropriate by the commissioner. ~~The provisions of 12VAC5-630-150 C and D shall not apply to emergency orders issued pursuant to this section.~~

12VAC5-630-150. Enforcement of regulations.

A. Notice. Subject to the exceptions below, whenever the commissioner or the district or local health department has reason to believe a violation of any of this chapter has occurred or is occurring, the alleged violator shall be notified. Such notice shall be made in writing, shall be delivered personally or sent by certified mail, shall cite the regulation or regulations that are allegedly being violated, shall state the facts which form the basis for believing the violation has occurred or is occurring, shall include a request for a specific action by the recipient by a specified time and shall state the penalties associated with such violation (See § 32.1-27 of the Code of Virginia). When the commissioner deems it necessary, he may initiate criminal prosecution or seek civil relief through mandamus or injunction prior to giving notice.

B. Orders. Pursuant to the authority granted in § 32.1-26 of the Code of Virginia, the commissioner may issue orders to require any owner, or other person, to comply with the provisions of this chapter. The order shall be signed by the commissioner and may require:

1. The immediate cessation and correction of the violation;
2. Appropriate remedial action to ensure that the violation does not recur;
3. The submission of a plan to prevent future violations to the commissioner for review and approval;
4. The submission of an application for a variance; or
5. Any other corrective action deemed necessary for proper compliance with the chapter.

~~C. Hearing before the issuance of an order. Before the issuance of an order described in 12VAC5-630-150, a hearing must be held, with at least 30 days notice by certified mail to the affected owner or other person of the time, place and purpose thereof, for the purpose of adjudicating the alleged violation or violations of this chapter. The procedures at the hearing shall be in accordance with 12VAC5-630-180 A or B of this chapter and with §§ 9-6.14:11 through 9-6.14:14 of the Code of Virginia.~~

~~D. Order; when effective. All orders issued pursuant to 12VAC5-630-150 shall become effective not less than 15 days after mailing a copy thereof by certified mail to the last known address of the owner or person violating this chapter. Violation of an order is a Class 1 misdemeanor. See § 32.1-27 of the Code of Virginia.~~

E. Compliance with effective orders. The commissioner may enforce all orders issued pursuant to § 32.1-16 of the Code of Virginia. Should any owner or other person fail to comply with any order, the commissioner may:

1. Apply to an appropriate court for an injunction or other legal process to prevent or stop any practice in violation of the order;
2. Commence administrative proceedings to suspend or revoke the construction permit;
3. Request the Attorney General to bring an action for civil penalty, injunction, or other appropriate remedy; or
4. Request the Commonwealth's Attorney to bring a criminal action.

F. Not exclusive means of enforcement. Nothing contained in 12VAC5-630-140 or 12VAC5-630-150 shall be interpreted to require the commissioner to issue an order prior to commencing administrative proceedings or seeking enforcement of any regulations or statute through an injunction, mandamus or criminal prosecution.

12VAC5-630-160. Suspension of regulations during disasters.

If in the case of a man-made or natural disaster, the commissioner finds that certain regulations cannot be complied with and that the public health is better served by not fully

complying with this chapter, he or she may authorize the suspension of the application of the chapter for specifically affected localities and institute a provisional regulatory plan until the disaster is abated.

12VAC5-630-170. Variances.

~~Only the~~ commissioner ~~or the deputy commissioners~~ may grant a variance to this chapter. ~~(See §§ 32.1-12 and 32.1-22 of the Code of Virginia and 12VAC5-630-90-B.)~~ The commissioner ~~or the deputy commissioners~~ shall follow the appropriate procedures set forth in this subsection in granting a variance.

A. Requirements for a variance. The commissioner may grant a variance if a thorough investigation reveals that the hardship imposed (may be economic) by this chapter outweighs the benefits that may be received by the public. Further, the granting of such a variance shall not subject the public to unreasonable health risks or jeopardize ground water resources.

Exception: The commissioner shall not grant a variance for an improperly located Class IV well that was located pursuant to an express Class IV permit, as described under 12VAC5-630-260 and 12VAC5-630-270, if the improper location of the well is a result of the failure by the owner, his agent, or the water well pump contractor (WWP)~~well driller~~ to provide complete or accurate information on the site plan submitted with the application or to install the well in accordance with the permit.

B. Application for a variance. Any owner, or authorized agent, who seeks a variance shall apply in writing within the time period specified in 12VAC5-630-210 B. The application shall be signed by the owner, ~~addressed~~ and sent to the appropriate district and local health department for review, analysis in the form of an issue summary, and forwarding to the commissioner at the State Department of Health in Richmond. The application shall include:

1. A citation to the section from which a variance is requested;
2. The nature and duration of the variance requested;
3. Any relevant analytical results including results of relevant tests conducted pursuant to the requirements of this chapter;
- ~~4. Statements or evidence why the public health and welfare as well as the ground water resources would not be degraded if the variance were granted;~~
4. The hardship imposed by the specific requirement of this chapter;
5. A statement of reasons why the public health and welfare would be better served and/or groundwater will not be degraded if the variance were granted.

65. Suggested conditions that might be imposed on the granting of a variance that would limit the detrimental impact on the public health and welfare or ground water resources;

76. Other information, if any, believed pertinent by the applicant; and

87. Such other information as the district or local health department or commissioner may require.

C. Evaluation of a variance application.

1. The commissioner shall act on any variance request submitted pursuant to 12VAC5-630-170 B within ~~60~~30 calendar days of receipt of the request.

2. In the evaluation of a variance application, the commissioner shall consider the following factors:

a. The effect that such a variance would have on the construction, location, or operation of the private well;

b. The cost and other economic considerations imposed by this requirement;

c. The effect that such a variance would have on protection of the public health;

d. The effect that such a variance would have on protection of ground water resources; ~~and~~

e. Any relevant analytical results including results of relevant tests conducted pursuant to the requirements of this chapter;

f. The hardship imposed by enforcing the specific requirement of this chapter;

g. The applicant's statement of reasons why the public health and welfare would be better served if the variance were granted;

h. The suggested conditions that might be imposed on the granting of a variance that would limit the detrimental impact on the public health and welfare;

i. Other information, if any, believed pertinent by the applicant;

j. Such other information as the local health department and the commissioner may require;

ke. Such other factors as the commissioner may deem appropriate.

D. Disposition of a variance request.

1. The commissioner may deny any application for a variance by sending a denial notice to the applicant by certified mail. The notice shall be in writing and shall state

the reasons for the denial. The applicant may petition for a hearing within 30 calendar days to challenge the denial pursuant to 12VAC5-630-180.

2. If the commissioner proposes to grant a variance request submitted pursuant to 12VAC5-630-170 B, the applicant shall be notified in writing of this decision. Such notice shall identify the variance, private well covered, and shall specify the period of time for which the variance will be effective. The effective date of a variance shall be as stated in the variance.

3. No owner may challenge the terms or conditions set forth in the variance after 30 calendar days have elapsed from the effective date of the variance.

E. Posting of variances. All variances granted to any private wells are transferable from owner to owner unless otherwise stated. Each variance shall be attached to the permit to which it is granted. Each variance is revoked when the permit to which it is attached is revoked.

F. Hearings on disposition of variances. Subject to the time limitations specified in 12VAC5-630-210, hearings on denials of an application for a variance or on challenges to the terms and conditions of a granted variance may be held pursuant to 12VAC5-630-180 A or B, except that informal hearings under 12VAC5-630-180 A shall be held by the commissioner or his designee.

G. Exceptions

1. If compliance with the criteria contained in Part III (12VAC5-630-350 et seq.) of this chapter imposes economic or other conditions that are not justified by the health considerations upon which the criteria are based, a construction permit may be issued for the water well which substantially complies with the criteria set forth in Part III of this chapter.

2. Minor deviations to the criteria contained in Part III (12VAC5-530-350 et. seq.) of this chapter may be granted by the local health department in accordance with 12VAC5-630-240 B.

12VAC5-630-180. Hearing types.

Hearings before the commissioner or the commissioner's designees shall include any of the following forms depending on the nature of the controversy and the interests of the parties involved.

A. Informal hearings. An informal hearing is a meeting with a district or local health department with the district or local health director presiding and held in conformance with § 9-6.14:11 of the Code of Virginia. The district or local health department shall consider all evidence presented at the meeting which is relevant to the issue in controversy. Presentation of evidence, however, is entirely voluntary. The district or local health department shall have no

subpoena power. ~~No verbatim record need be taken at the informal hearing.~~ The local or district health director shall review the facts presented and based on those facts render a decision. A written copy of the decision and the basis for the decision shall be sent to the appellant within 15 work days of the hearing, unless the parties mutually agree to a later date in order to allow the department to evaluate additional evidence. ~~If the decision is adverse to the interests of the appellant, an aggrieved appellant may request an adjudicatory hearing pursuant to 12VAC5-630-180 B below.~~

B. Adjudicatory hearing. The adjudicatory hearing is a formal, public adjudicatory proceeding before the commissioner, or a designated hearing officer, and held in conformance with § 9-6.14:12 of the Code of Virginia. An adjudicatory hearing includes the following features:

1. Notice. Notice which states the time and place and the issues involved in the prospective hearing shall be sent to the owner or other person who is the subject of the hearing. Notice shall be sent by certified mail at least 15 calendar days before the hearing is to take place.
2. Record. A record of the hearing shall be made by a court reporter. A copy of the transcript of the hearing, if transcribed, will be provided within a reasonable time to any person upon written request and payment of the cost.
3. Evidence. All interested parties may attend the hearing and submit oral and documentary evidence and rebuttal proofs, expert or otherwise, that are material and relevant to the issues in controversy. The admissibility of evidence shall be determined in accordance with § 9-6.14:12 of the Code of Virginia.
4. Counsel. All parties may be accompanied by and represented by counsel and are entitled to conduct such cross examination as may elicit a full and fair disclosure of the facts.
5. Subpoena. Pursuant to § 9-6.14:13 of the Code of Virginia, the commissioner or hearing officer may issue subpoenas on behalf of himself or any person or owner for the attendance of witnesses and the production of books, papers or maps. Failure to appear or to testify or to produce documents without adequate excuse may be reported by the commissioner to the appropriate circuit court for enforcement.
6. Judgment and final order. The commissioner may designate a hearing officer or subordinate to conduct the hearing as provided in § 9-6.14:12 of the Code of Virginia, and to make written recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law to be submitted for review and final decision by the commissioner. The final decision of

the commissioner shall be reduced to writing and will contain the explicit findings of fact upon which his decision is based. Certified copies of the decision shall be delivered to the owner affected by it. Notice of a decision will be served upon the parties and become a part of the record. Service may be by personal service or certified mail return receipt requested.

12VAC5-630-190. Request for hearing.

A request for an informal hearing shall be made by sending the request in writing to the district or local health department. Such request must be submitted within 30 days of the case decision at issue. A request for an adjudicatory hearing shall be made in writing and directed to the commissioner at the State Department of Health in Richmond. Requests for hearings shall cite the reason(s) for the hearing request and shall cite the section(s) of this chapter involved.

12VAC5-630-200. Hearing as a matter of right.

Any party to a permit who is aggrieved by claiming the unlawfulness of a case decision owner or other person whose rights, duties, or privileges have been, or may be affected by any decision of the board or its subordinates made in the administration of this chapter shall have a right to review via an both informal fact-finding conference and adjudicatory hearings in accordance with the Administrative Process Act. The commissioner may require participation in an informal hearing before granting the request for an full-adjudicatory hearing. Exception: No person other than an owner shall have the right to an adjudicatory hearing to challenge the issuance of either a construction permit or inspection statement unless the person can demonstrate at an informal hearing that the minimum standards contained in this chapter have not been applied and that he will be injured in some manner by the issuance of the permit or that ground water resources will be damaged by the issuance of the permit.

12VAC5-630-210. Appeals.

Any appeal from a denial of a construction permit for a private well must be made in writing and received by the department within 6030 days of the date of the denial.

A. Any request for hearing on the denial of an application for a variance pursuant to 12VAC5-630-170 D 1 must be made in writing and received within 6030 days of receipt of the denial notice.

B. Any request for a variance must be made in writing and received by the department prior to the denial of the private well permit, or within 6030 days after such denial.

C. In the event a person applies for a variance within the 6030-day period provided by subsection B above, the date for appealing the denial of the permit, pursuant to subsection A

above, shall commence from the date on which the department acts on the request for a variance.

D. Pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 9-6.14:1 et seq. of the Code of Virginia) an aggrieved ownerparty may appeal a final decision of the commissioner to an appropriate circuit court.

12VAC5-630-220. Permits and inspection statement; general.

All private wells shall be constructed and located in compliance with the requirements as set forth in this chapter.

A. ~~Except as provided in 12VAC5-630-220-B below, a~~After the effective date of this chapter, no person shall construct, alter, rehabilitate, abandon or extend a private well, or allow the construction, alteration, rehabilitation, abandonment or extension of a private well, without a written construction permit from the commissioner. Conditions may be imposed on the issuance of any permit which are reasonable and which are rationally based on this chapter and on public health protection. ~~and n~~No private well shall be constructed or modified in violation of those conditions. The replacement of a well pump, or the replacement of a well seal or cap with an equivalent well seal or cap, shall not be considered a well modification.

B. ~~No~~A permit shall be required for the construction, operation, or abandonment of dewatering wells. ~~Furthermore, dewatering wells are exempted from the construction requirements found in 12VAC5-630-410.~~ All dewatering wells shall be properly abandoned within ~~6090~~ days of ~~construction~~cessation of use. Abandonment in this case means includes the removal of the well point, well casing, screening, and other appurtenances associated with the construction and operation of the well.

C. Except as provided in 12VAC5-630-320, no personowner shall place a private well in operation, or cause or allow a private well to be placed in operation, without obtaining a written inspectionapproval statement pursuant to 12VAC5-630-310 and 12VAC5-630-330.

D. Except as provided in 12VAC5-630-270, 12VAC5-630-290 and 12VAC5-630-300, construction permits for a private well issued in conjunction with a sewage construction permit shall be deemed valid for a period of ~~54~~18 months from the date of issuance. Well only permits are valid for a period of 54 months.

12VAC5-630-230. Procedures for obtaining a construction permit for a private well.

Construction permits are issued by the authority of the commissioner. All requests for a private well construction permit shall be by written application, signed by the owner or his agent, and shall be directed to the district or local health department. All applications shall be made on

an application form provided by the district or local health department and approved by the commissioner.

An application shall be deemed completed upon receipt by the district or local health department of a signed and dated application, together with the appropriate fee, containing the following information:

1. ~~1.~~ The property owner's name, address, and telephone number;

2. ~~Driving directions to the property;~~

3. ~~Tax map grid coordinates;~~

42. The applicant's name, address, and phone number (if different from subdivision 1 above);

53. A statement signed by the property owner, or his agent, granting the Health Department access to the site for the purposes of evaluating the suitability of the site for a well and allowing the department access to inspect the well after it is installed;

64. A site plan showing the proposed well site, property boundaries, accurate locations of actual or proposed sewage disposal systems, recorded easements, and other sources of contamination within 100 feet of the proposed well site, and at the option of the applicant a proposed well design; and

75. When deemed necessary because of geological or other natural conditions, plans and specifications detailing how the well will be constructed.

12VAC5-630-240. Issuance of the construction permit.

A. A construction permit shall be issued to the owner by the commissioner no later than ~~60~~ 6030 days after receipt of a complete and approvable application submitted under 12VAC5-630-230. If applicable, the applicant shall comply with 12VAC5-630-340 prior to issuance of the permit.

B. If compliance with the criteria contained in this chapter imposes an economic hardship or other conditions that are not justified by the health considerations upon which the criteria are based, a construction permit may be issued for the well which substantially complies with this chapter. The district or local health department shall affix to the construction permit a clear and concise statement relating conditions and circumstances which formed the basis for issuing the permit. See 12VAC5-630-170 G.

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12VAC5-630-250. Emergency procedures.

Applications for replacement wells that meet the definition of an emergency well replacement (12VAC5-630-10) shall have priority over normal applications for private well permits. Emergency procedures are as follows:

A. Drinking water wells. In the event a private drinking water well has failed and must be replaced, the local health department will conduct a sanitary survey of the property and surrounding area to determine the most suitable location. If a site is found that meets the minimum site requirements of this chapter, including the minimum separation distances contained in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F, the local health department will issue a permit for that site. If a site cannot be located that meets the minimum separation distances listed in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F, the local health department shall identify a site that complies with the minimum separation distances to the greatest extent possible. However, the replacement well shall not be located closer to any source of contamination than the existing well it is replacing. Replacement drinking water wells must meet the sampling requirements of 12VAC5-630-370 D and E.

B. Heat pump wells or commercially dependent wells. If a heat pump well or commercially dependent well must be replaced, the applicant shall propose a replacement site based on the technical requirements of the heat pump system or commercial establishment. The local health department will conduct a sanitary survey of the property and surrounding area to determine if the site meets the minimum site requirements of this chapter including the minimum separation distances contained in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F. If the site meets the minimum requirements of this chapter, the local health department will issue a permit for that site. If a site cannot be located that meets the minimum separation distances listed in Table 3.1 and 12VAC5-630-380 F, the local health department shall identify a site that complies with the minimum separation distances to the greatest extent possible. However, the replacement well shall not be located closer to any source of contamination than the existing well it is replacing. If the replacement heat pump well or commercially dependent well must be placed closer to a sewage disposal system (but no closer than the existing well it is replacing) the well shall be sampled for fecal coliforms. If fecal coliforms are present in the sample and further investigation reveals that the groundwater is contaminated, the well shall be abandoned.

C. Water Haulers. Those individuals who provide filling of dry wells, cisterns, etc., shall apply to the local health department for an annual permit. Water used must be from an approved source and bacteria free. Trucks and equipment used must be maintained in sanitary

condition to transport and disperse potable water in a safe manner. See Forms section in back of this chapter for the application. Standard VDH Operations Permit will be used for authorization.

12VAC5-630-260. Express Class IV construction permits.

If a Class IV well is proposed for property that does not have an onsite sewage disposal system, either active or inactive, an application may be made for an express Class IV construction permit. An application for an express Class IV construction permit shall be made on a form provided by the district or local health department and approved by the commissioner.

An application shall be deemed completed upon receipt by the district or local health department of a signed and dated application, together with the appropriate fee, containing the following information:

1. The property owner's name, address, telephone number, and personal signature. The owner's signature will acknowledge that the permit will be issued without the benefit of a site visit by the local health department prior to the issuance of the construction permit; that the permit is being issued based upon the information provided on the accompanying site plan; that the property owner also acknowledges that if the well is found not to comply with the minimum separation distances or any other provision of this chapter, the well must be abandoned at the direction of the local or district health director; and that a variance will not be considered if the improper location of the well is a result of the failure by the owner, his agent, or the well contractor to provide complete or accurate information on the site plan submitted with the application or to install the well in accordance with the permit.

2. Address and directions to the property;

3. The proposed use of the well;

4. The name, address, telephone number, ~~Class B (minimum) license number~~ Water Well Pump (WWP), and signature of the well ~~driller~~ contractor who is to construct the well;

5. A statement signed by the property owner (and not his agent) granting the department access to the site for the purposes of inspecting the property and the well during and after its installation until the well is approved by the department or any required abandonment is completed; and

6. A site plan showing the proposed well site, property boundaries, recorded easements, and accurate locations of actual or proposed sources of contamination (including, but not limited to those listed in Table 3.1) within 100 feet of the proposed well site, and at the option of the applicant a proposed well design.

7. For a proposed IIIC or IV If the proposed well site ~~is~~ located on or at the base of sloping topography, the minimum separation distances shown on the site plan for any sources of contamination within a 60 degree arc slope of the proposed well site must be increased 25 feet for every 5.0% slope. See Appendix I for example and explanation of 60-degree arc rule.

12VAC5-630-270. Issuance of express Class IV construction permits and final inspection.

A. Issuance of express Class IV construction permit. Upon receipt of a complete and approvable application, as defined in 12VAC5-630-260, by a local or district health department with multiple ~~sanitarians~~environmental health specialist, the department shall exercise all due diligence to issue a permit either on the date of receipt or the following business day. If the local or district office has only one assigned ~~sanitarian~~environmental health specialist, the local or district department will exercise all due diligence to issue the permit as soon as possible. Failure by the department to issue the permit within the specified time does not authorize the construction of the well without a permit. If applicable, the applicant shall comply with 12VAC5-630-340 prior to the issuance of the permit.

B. Validity of express Class IV construction permits. Express Class IV construction permits shall only be valid for a period of 30 days from the date of issuance.

C. Inspection. If, upon inspection of the well, it is found that the well location does not comply with the minimum separation distances or any other provision of this chapter, no inspection statement shall be issued and the well shall be immediately abandoned by the property owner in accordance with 12VAC5-630-450 upon notification and direction by the local or district health director. The commissioner shall not grant a variance if the improper location of the well is a result of the failure by the owner, his agent, or the well ~~driller~~contractor to provide complete or accurate information on the site plan submitted with the application or to install the well in accordance with the permit.

The construction of the well shall also comply with this chapter.

12VAC5-630-271. Express geothermal well permits.

A. The issuance of an express geothermal permit is contingent upon proper registration and payment of application fees and applies to the construction of wells used solely for a closed-loop geothermal heating system.

B. A single application and a single fee are required for any geothermal well system. The fee is the same as for a single private well. A registration statement for closed loop construction permitting shall be made on a form provided and approved by the division. The registration shall include the following information:

1. The property owner's name, address, and telephone number;
2. The address of and directions to the property;
3. The proposed use of the well;
4. The name, address, telephone number, and contractor license number of the well driller;
5. A statement signed by the property owner granting the department access to the site for the purpose of inspecting the property and the well during and after the well installation until the well is approved by the department or any required corrections are made;
6. A site plan, drawn to scale, showing the proposed well site or sites, property boundaries, recorded easements, and accurate locations of actual or proposed sources of contamination (including but not limited to those listed in Table 3.1 of 12VAC5-630-380) within 100 feet of the proposed well site or sites; and
7. A statement signed by the licensed well driller that the location and construction of the well or wells will comply with the requirements of this chapter.

C. A single application fee is required for any geothermal well system, regardless of the number of wells included in the system. The fee is the same as for a single private well.

12VAC5-630-272. Issuance of express geothermal well construction permit, inspection, and final approval.

A. Issuance of the express geothermal well permit. Upon receipt of a complete registration statement and the appropriate fee, the department will acknowledge receipt of the registration statement and issue the permit with a copy given to the contractor. The construction of the geothermal heating system may begin immediately upon submission of a complete registration statement and counter-signature denoting receipt by the department.

B. Inspection. The department, at its sole discretion, may inspect the closed-loop geothermal well any time after acceptance of the registration statement until after the installation is approved. If, upon inspection of the well, it is found that the well location does not comply with the minimum separation distances or any other provision of this chapter, no inspection statement shall be issued until the deficiencies have been corrected.

C. Final approval. Upon receipt of the Uniform Water Well Completion Report, as required in 12VAC5-630-440, and completion of any inspections deemed necessary to ensure compliance with this chapter, or unless the department has evidence to indicate that the well is not in

compliance with the requirements of this chapter, the local health department will provide the owner with a statement that the wells are approved for use.

12VAC5-630-280. Denial of a construction permit.

If it is determined that the proposed design is inadequate or that site, geological, hydrological, or other conditions exist that do not comply with this chapter or would preclude the safe and proper operation of a private well system, or that the installation of the well would create an actual or potential health hazard or nuisance, or the proposed design would adversely impact the ground water resource, the permit shall be denied and the owner shall be notified in writing, by certified mail, of the basis for the denial. The notification shall also state that the owner has the right to appeal the denial.

12VAC5-630-290. Revocation of construction permits or inspection statements.

The commissioner or his or her designee may revoke a construction permit or inspection statement for any of the following reasons:

1. Failure to comply with the conditions of the permit;
2. Violation of any of this chapter for which no variance has been issued;
3. Facts become known which reveal that a potential health hazard would be created or that the ground water resources may be adversely affected by allowing the proposed well to be installed or completed.

12VAC5-630-300. Voidance of construction permits.

Null and void. All well construction permits are null and void when (i) conditions such as house location, sewage system location, sewerage system location, topography, drainage ways, or other site conditions are changed from those shown on the application, (ii) conditions are changed from those shown on the construction permit, or (iii) more than 1854 months have elapsed (54 months for well-only) from the date the permit was issued. Reapplication for the purposes of having an expired permit reissued shall be the responsibility of the owner, and such reapplication shall be handled as an initial application and comply fully with 12VAC5-630-230.

12VAC5-630-310. Statement required upon completion of construction.

~~Upon~~ Within 30 days of completion of the construction, alteration, rehabilitation, abandonment or extension of a private well, the WWP shall furnish the district or local health department a completed GW2 form. The form as shown in the back of this chapter shall be owner or agent shall submit to the district or local health department a statement, signed by the contractor, upon the form set out in ~~12VAC5-630-490~~, that the well was installed,

constructed, or abandoned in accordance with the permit, and further that the well complies with all applicable state and local regulations, ordinances and laws.

12VAC5-630-320. Inspection and correction.

No well shall be placed in operation, except for the purposes of testing the mechanical soundness of the system, until inspected by the district or local health department, corrections made if necessary, and the owner has been issued an inspection statement by the district or local health department.

Replacement wells shall not be used for human consumption until approved by the local health department.

12VAC5-630-330. Issuance of the inspection statement.

Upon satisfactory completion of the requirements of 12VAC5-630-310, 12VAC5-630-320, 12VAC5-630-370, 12VAC5-630-430 and 12VAC5-630-440, the commissioner shall issue an inspection statement to the owner. The issuance of an inspection statement does not denote or imply any warranty or guarantee of the water quality or quantity by the department or that the private well will function for any specified period of time. It shall be the responsibility of the owner or any subsequent owner to maintain, repair, replace, or to comply with the requirements to abandon any private well.

12VAC5-630-340. Requirement for easement.

Whenever a private well subject to this chapter is proposed to be installed on property other than the owner's, an easement in perpetuity shall be recorded with the clerk of the circuit court prior to issuance of a construction permit. The easement shall be of sufficient area to permit access, construction (including well equipment and spoils area), placement of the water line, and maintenance of the well.

Part III
Design and Construction Criteria
Article 1
General Requirements

12VAC5-630-350. General.

This chapter does not apply to private wells constructed, altered, rehabilitated or extended prior to the effective date of these regulations unless the well construction is modified or expanded after the effective date of these regulations.

The class of well to be constructed shall be determined by the local or district health department, or the division, in consultation with the owner and/or a WWP.

12VAC5-630-360. Classes of water wells.

The following classes of private wells are established for purposes of this chapter. These classes are in addition to those established in the current Commonwealth of Virginia Waterworks Regulations (12VAC5-590-10 et seq.) and are intended for use for private well systems:

1. Class III - Private wells constructed to be used as a source of drinking water. There are three subclasses:

a. Class IIIA - Drilled wells in which the annular space around ~~the a minimum~~ casing depth of 100 feet is grouted to a minimum depth of 100~~20~~ feet.

~~(1) The well shall be drilled and cased to a depth of at least 100 feet.~~

~~(2) The cased drill hole shall pass through at least 50 feet of collapsing material such as caving sand, gravel or other material that will collapse against the casing.~~

b. Class IIIB - Drilled wells in which the casing is installed to a minimum depth of 50 feet and the annular space around the casing is grouted to at least 50 feet.

c. Class IIIC - Drilled, bored, driven or jetted wells other than Class IIIA and Class IIIB. Minimum depth of casing and grout is 20 feet.

2. Class IV - Private wells constructed for any purpose other than use as a source of drinking water and meeting Class III construction standards.

A. Class IVA wells are drilled wells cased a minimum of 100 feet and grouted a minimum of 20 feet.

B. Class IVB wells are drilled wells cased a minimum of 50 feet and -grouted a minimum of 50 feet.

C. Class IVC wells are wells drilled, bored, driven or jetted to a minimum depth of 20 feet and grouted a minimum depth of 20 feet.

A Class IV well may be converted to a Class III well, if it meets the construction standards as set forth in this chapter and if it receives a bacteria-free water sample per 12VAC5-630-370.

12VAC5-630-370. Water quality and quantity.

A. ~~A.~~ Class IV wells exempt. The water quality requirements contained in this section apply only to Class III private wells. Class IV private wells (wells not constructed as a source of drinking water) are not subject to any quality requirements. ~~These regulations contain no well yield requirements.~~ See 12VAC5-630-460 for suggested minimum well yields for residential supplies.

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B. Conversion of Class IV well to Class III potable well. The owner shall provide the following information to the local health department.

1. A complete application indicating the intent to convert the well classification with supporting documentation described below:

2. Documentation that the well meets Class IIIA, Class IIIB, or Class IIIC construction standards in accordance with this chapter. This shall be in one of the following ways: a GW2 form, Uniform Water Well Completion Report, WWC contractor's report, a report from a professional geologist, or other documentation acceptable to the local health department.

3. A negative bacteria free water sample in accordance with E, F, and G below.

A site visit will be made by the Environmental Health Specialist to verify the information. If the well is in compliance and the required information submitted, the owner will be notified in writing that the well is now considered to meet Class IIIA, Class IIIB, or Class IIIC standards.

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CB. Sample tap. A sample tap shall be provided at or near the water entry point into the system so that samples may be taken directly from the source; this requirement may be met by utilizing the first tap on a line near where the plumbing enters the house (may be a hose bib), provided the tap precedes any water treatment devices.

DC. Disinfection. The entire water system including the well shall be disinfected prior to use (12VAC5-630-430 and 12VAC5-630-470). Disinfection is recommended anytime the pump is pulled or maintenance performed that interrupts the sanitary integrity of the system. See 12VAC5-630-470 for chlorination dosage.

ED. Sampling. After operating the well to remove any remaining disinfectant, a sample of the water from the well shall be collected for bacteriological examination. The sample may be

collected by the owner, well ~~contractor~~, or other person in accordance with procedures established by the department and provided the sample is submitted to a private laboratory certified by the Department of General Services, Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services, for analysis.

~~F.E.~~ Test interpretation. A Class III private well shall be considered satisfactory if the water sample(s) test(s) negative for coliform organisms as described in subdivision 1 or 2 below. Sources with positive counts shall be tested as described in subdivision 3 below to determine if the water supply is amenable to continuous disinfection ~~(chlorination)~~. Samples that exhibit confluent growth shall be considered inconclusive and another sample shall be collected.

1. Where a private well has no unsatisfactory water sample within the previous 12 months, one water sample which tests negative for coliform bacteria shall be considered satisfactory for coliform organisms.

2. Where a private well has had one or more positive water samples within the past 12 months for coliform bacteria, at least two consecutive samples must be collected and found negative for coliform organisms before the supply may be considered satisfactory for coliform organisms. The samples must be collected at least 24 hours apart and the well may not be disinfected between samples.

3. When a private well does not test satisfactory for coliform organisms continuous disinfection may be recommended to the homeowner if the water supply is found to be suitable for continuous disinfection. A minimum of 10 samples shall be collected and tested for total coliform using an MPN methodology. The geometric mean of the samples shall be calculated and if the result is less than 100 organisms per 100 ml, the supply shall be considered satisfactory for continuous disinfection.

~~G.F.~~ Water treatment. If tests indicate that the water samples test positive for coliform organisms and do not meet the standards described in "F. Test Interpretation" above is ~~unsatisfactory~~ and no other ~~approved~~ source is available, adequate methods of water treatment shall be applied. The treatment device shall be ~~and~~ demonstrated to be effective pursuant to 12VAC5-630-370 E 3 prior to the issuance of an inspection statement. The district or local health department shall be consulted when treatment is necessary.

12VAC5-630-380. Well location.

A. Sanitary survey. Any obvious source of toxic or dangerous substances within 200 feet of the proposed private well shall be investigated as part of the sanitary survey by the district or

local health department. Sources of contamination may include, but are not limited to, items listed in Table 3.1, undocumented, permanently abandoned wells not approved by the local health department, pesticide treated soils, underground storage tanks, any existing or intended onsite sewage disposal system, and other sources of physical, chemical or biological contamination. If the source of contamination could affect the well adversely, and preventive measures are not available to protect the ground water, the well shall be prohibited. The minimum separation distance between a private well and structures, topographic features, or sources of pollution shall comply with the minimum distances shown in Table 3.1. ~~Where the minimum separation distances for a Class IV well cannot be met, a permit may be issued under this chapter for a well meeting all of the criteria in 12VAC5-630-400 and 12VAC5-630-410 and the separation distance requirements for either a Class IIIA or IIIB well, without deviation, and such Class IV well shall not be required to meet the water quality requirements of 12VAC5-630-370.~~

TABLE 3.1 DISTANCES (IN FEET) BETWEEN A WELL AND A STRUCTURE OR TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURE

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Structure or Topographic Feature	Class IIIC- or IVC	Class IIIA- or IIIB, IVB	Class IIIA, IVA
Building foundation	10	10	<u>10</u>
Building foundation (termit <u>with pesticide or other contaminant</u>)	50 ¹	<u>2550</u> ¹	<u>15</u>
House sewer line <u>Fuel Storage Tank (>550 gallons)</u>	<u>20050</u> ²	<u>10050</u> ²	<u>50</u>
Sewer main, including force mains <u>Fuel Storage Tank (<500 gallons)</u>	<u>10050</u> ³	<u>5050</u> ³	<u>50</u>
Sewerage system (<u>e.g. sewer line, force main</u>)	50	<u>2550</u>	<u>10</u>
Pretreatment system (e.g. septic tank, aerobic unit, etc.)	50	50	<u>35</u>
<u>Active</u> Sewage disposal system or other contaminant source (e.g., drainfield, underground storage tank, barnyard, hog lot, etc.) (Inactive sewage disposal system)	100 (<u>50</u>)	50 (<u>50</u>)	<u>50 (35)</u>
Cemetery	<u>50</u> 100	<u>2550</u>	<u>15</u>
Sewage Dump Station	<u>50</u> 100	50 ¹	<u>35</u>

¹See 12VAC5-630-380

²Private wells shall not be constructed within 50 feet of a house sewer line except as provided below. Where special construction and pipe materials are used in a house sewer line to provide adequate protection, and the well is cased and grouted to the water bearing formation, all classes of private wells may be placed as close as 10 feet to the house sewer line. Special construction for house sewer lines constitutes cast iron pipe with water tight caulked joints or mechanical joints using neoprene gaskets, or solvent welded Schedule 40 or better polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe. It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide documentation from the contractor that such construction and pipe materials have been installed. In no case shall a

~~private well be placed within 10 feet of a house sewer line.~~

~~³Private wells shall not be constructed within 50 feet of a sewer main except as provided below. Where special construction and pipe materials are used in a sewer main to provide adequate protection, and the well is cased and grouted to the water bearing formation, Class III wells may be placed as close as 35 feet to a sewer main and Class IV wells as close as 10 feet. Special construction for sewer mains constitutes ductile iron pipe with water-tight joints, solvent-welded Schedule 40 or better polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipe (SDR 35 plastic PVC with neoprene gaskets). It is the responsibility of the applicant to provide documentation from the local building official or sanitary district that such construction and pipe materials have been installed. In no case shall a Class III well be placed within 35 feet of a sewer main. Likewise, in no case shall a Class IV well be placed within 10 feet of a sewer main.~~

B. ~~B.~~ Downslope siting of Class IIIC and IVC wells from potential sources of pollution.

Special precaution shall be taken when locating a well within a 60 degree arc (see "arc" schematic in Appendix I) directly downslope from any part of any existing or intended onsite sewage disposal system or other known source of pollution, including, but not limited to, buildings ~~subject to termite or vermin treatment~~, or used to store polluting substances or storage tanks or storage areas for petroleum products or other deleterious substances. The minimum separation distance shall be: (i) increased by 25 feet for every 5.0% of slope; or (ii) an increase shall be made to the minimum depth of grout and casing in the amount of five feet for every 5.0% of slope.

No increase in separation distance is required from a termiticide-treated foundation or when sewage effluent is treated to secondary standards or better,

C. Sites in swampy areas, low areas, or areas subject to flooding. No private well covered by this chapter shall be located in areas subject to the collection of pollutants such as swampy areas, low areas, or areas subject to flooding. Wells located in low areas must meet Class IIIB or IVB construction standards and have an 18 inch well terminus. The low area must have positive drainage. Wells located in flood plains shall be adequately constructed so as to preclude the entrance of surface water during flood conditions. At a minimum, such construction will include extending the well terminus 18 inches above the annual flood level and positive drainage provided to divert water away from the well. Other requirements may be made as determined on a case by case basis by the division. If a drainage way is to be used for a well location, then it must have positive drainage and only a Class IIIB or Class IVB well may be constructed.

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D. Property lines. There is no minimum separation distance between a private well and a property line established by this chapter. The owner is responsible for establishing a separation distance from property lines such that the construction and location of the well will be on the owner's property and comply with any local ordinances.

E. Utility lines. There is no minimum separation distance between a private well and utility lines (electric, gas, water, cable, etc.). The minimum separation distance may, however, be established by the individual utility company or local ordinance. When possible, a well should be a minimum of 20 feet from overhead utility lines.

F. Inactive sewage systems. The following criteria is to determine if a sewage system is considered inactive and subject to a reduction in standoff distance to the location of a well:

a. The drainfield has been abandoned and inactive for at least 24 consecutive months. This must be verified by presentation of evidence of its inactivity.

b. The abandoned drainfield is no longer connected to a structure or other sewage source.

c. The septic tank and distribution box shall be pumped, limed, crushed and either filled or removed for the site.

d. The owner of the abandoned drainfield provides a notarized statement that the above conditions exist and that the drainfield will not be reactivated. Such statement shall be recorded and indexed in the grantor index of the land records of the circuit court having jurisdiction over the site where the sewage system is located.

e. The local health department verifies that the above conditions exist.

~~G.F. Pesticide and termite treatment. No Class III private well shall be placed closer than 50 feet from a building foundation that has been chemically treated with any termiticide or other pesticide. No Class IV private well shall be placed closer than 50 feet to a building foundation that has been chemically treated with any termiticide or other pesticide except as provided below. Further, no termiticides or other pesticides shall be applied within five feet of an open water supply trench. A Class IV well may be placed as close as 10 feet to a chemically treated foundation if the following criteria are met:~~

1. The aquifer from which the water is withdrawn must be a confined aquifer (i.e., there must be an impermeable stratum overlying the water bearing formation).
2. The well must be cased and grouted a minimum of 20 feet or into the first confining layer between the ground surface and the water bearing formation from which water is withdrawn, whichever is greater. When the first confining layer is encountered at a depth

greater than 20 feet, the well shall be cased and grouted to the first confining layer between the ground surface and the water bearing formation from which water is withdrawn.

3. The material overlaying the confined aquifer must be collapsing material.

HE. Exception for closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells. Closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells, depending upon construction, may not have to comply with the minimum separation distances for Class ~~IV~~III wells listed in Table 3.1. If the well is grouted 20 feet, the minimum separation distances must comply with those listed for Class ~~IV~~C wells. If the well is grouted a minimum of 50 feet, the separation distances shall be those listed for Class ~~III~~A/IVB or IIIB wells. If the well is grouted the entire depth of the well, the well does not have to comply with the minimum separation distances contained in Table 3.1.

Their location shall be permanently marked or mapped for easy location in the future.

A reduction in setback for other ground-source heat pump wells will be considered by the local health department on a case by case basis.

12VAC5-630-390. Site protection/Maintenance.

A. No objects, articles, or materials of any kind which are not essential to the operation of the well shall be placed or stored in a well, well house, on the well head or well pump or water treatment system, or within close proximity to them.

B. Fencing of an area around the well, or the placement of other barriers or restrictions, may be required as a condition of the permit under certain circumstances, such as to prohibit livestock access to the well head or to prohibit vehicles from damaging or polluting the area around the well head. Also, see Section 12VAC5-630-435, Maintenance.

C. The area around the well shall be graded to divert surface water away from the well.

12VAC5-630-400. Materials.

A. General. All materials used in private wells shall have long-term resistance to corrosion and sufficient strength to withstand hydraulic, lateral and bearing loads.

B. Casing. Materials used for casing shall be watertight and shall consist of ~~wrought iron~~fiberglass, concrete tile, ~~clay tile~~, steel, stainless steel or plastic, all designed for water well use or other suitable materials as determined by the division. The division shall maintain a list of approved casing materials.

C. Product reviews done by the Division shall be done in a timely manner.

D4. Driven casings shall consist of ductile iron, steel or stainless steel and shall be equipped with a suitable drive boot.

E2. Casings used for Class IIIA or IIIB wells shall be steel, stainless steel or plastic.

EG. Screens. Where utilized, screens shall be constructed of stainless steel, plastic or other suitable materials as determined by the division. Screens shall be constructed of materials which will not be damaged by any chemical or corrosive action of the ground water or future cleaning operations. Additionally, screens shall be constructed of materials which will not degrade ground water quality.

GD. Joints. Joints shall be watertight and mechanically sound. Welded joints shall have smooth interior surfaces and shall be welded in accordance with acceptable welding practice.

HE. Gravel. Gravel utilized for gravel packed wells shall be uniformly graded, cleaned, washed, disinfected and of a suitable size.

I. Water. Water used during well construction shall be from an approved source which is within reasonable distance from the drilling site. The water must be free of bacteria may include a water well or a public water supply or a surface water source.

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1. Water from surface sources shall be treated to a minimum concentration of 100 mg/L of chlorine, i.e., 2 gallons of sodium hypochlorite (unscented, laundry bleach, approximately 5% available chlorine) per 1000 gallons of drilling water.

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2. Water may not be used from a sewage lagoon or treatment plant or an industrial waste lagoon or treatment plant.

3. Water may not be used from any stream, pond, or surface water body receiving sewage or industrial waste discharges for a distance of at least one mile below or above the discharge point.

4. A reasonable distance may be considered as 1 to 5 miles, dependent on road conditions and quantity of water required.

J. Notice. WWP contractors shall notify the local health department, during state business hours, of their construction activities within 48 hours of commencement of work.

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12VAC5-630-410. Construction; general.

A. Casing.

1. Class IIIA and IVA wells shall be cased to a depth of at least 100 feet.
2. Class IIIB and IVB wells shall be cased to a depth of at least 50 feet.

3. ~~Except as provided in subdivisions a through e below, all Class III-C and IV wells shall be cased to a minimum depth of 20 feet or terminated not less than one foot in bedrock when bedrock is encountered at a depth less than 20 feet.~~

~~a. When in collapsing material, the casing shall terminate in the aquifer but in no instance be less than 20 feet.~~

~~b. Where an aquifer is encountered at less than 20 feet, Class IV wells may be cased to within one foot of the water bearing strata. In the instance of Class IV wells the intent of this chapter is to protect ground water quality, and not to ensure a potable water supply.~~

~~Exception: Class IV wells placed closer than 50 feet from a building foundation treated with a chemical termiticide or other pesticide shall comply with the minimum casing depth requirements of 12VAC5-630-380 F-2.~~

~~c. Alternate casing depths may be accepted for bored wells when the only aquifer lies between 11 and 20 feet provided the casing is placed within one foot of the aquifer and must not be less than 10 feet in depth from the ground surface.~~

~~d. Class III-C driven wells shall be cased to the water bearing strata; however, in no case less than 10 feet. No minimum casing requirements apply to Class IV driven wells except that in order to protect ground water they shall be capable of meeting the minimum grouting requirements as described in subdivision C-5-e of this section.~~

~~ae. Closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells do not have to be cased.~~

4. All private well casings shall be extended at least 12 inches above ground except as referenced in 12VAC5-630 Der 12 inches above a concrete floor in well house with a gravity flow drain. The following wells are exempted from this requirement; however, their location shall be permanently marked for easy location in the future:

~~a. Drilled shallow well suction pump systems that will not operate unless a vacuum is maintained. The casings for these wells are also the suction lines through which water is drawn.~~

~~b. Deep well ejector pump systems that utilize a casing adaptor and must maintain a vacuum to operate.~~

~~c. Closed-loop ground-source heat pump wells.~~

~~d. Heat pump return wells that are completely sealed.~~

5. All steel casings shall meet or exceed the material specifications found in 12VAC5-630-480.

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~~6. No plastic well casing shall be installed which will exceed 80% of its RHCP (resistance to hydraulic collapse pressure). When experience has shown, in the division's opinion, that the prevailing geologic conditions are subject to collapse or shifting, or where heavy clay or unstable backfill materials occur, plastic well casings may not exceed 50% of the RHCP rating. It shall be the responsibility of the well driller to submit calculations to the division demonstrating that individual well casings do not exceed these ratings. Plastic well casing shall be used and installed according to manufacturer recommendations.~~

B. Screens. Wells withdrawing water from a sand aquifer must utilize a screen. ~~When used for the prevention of entry of foreign materials,~~ Screens shall be free of rough edges, irregularities, or other defects. A positive watertight seal between the screen and the casing shall be provided when appropriate. Filling of open bore holes with gravel in a sand aquifer is not permitted.

C. Grouting.

1. General. All private wells shall be grouted by a WWP licensed in Virginia. ~~It is preferred that no openings are made in the side of the well casing.~~

2. Purpose. The annular space between the casing and well bore is one of the principal avenues through which undesirable water and contaminants may gain access to a well. The goal of grouting a well is to preclude the entrance of undesirable water and contaminants. Therefore, the annular space shall be filled completely with a neat cement grout, a mixture of bentonite and neat cement or bentonite clay grout specifically approved by the manufacturer for use as a grouting material.

3. Specifications. The grouting material used shall meet the appropriate specification listed below:

- a. Neat cement grout shall consist of cement and water with not more than six gallons of water per bag (94 pounds) of cement.
- b. Bentonite clay may be used in conjunction with neat Portland cement to form a grouting mixture. The bentonite used must be specifically recommended by the manufacturer as being suitable for use as a well grout material and cannot exceed 6.0% by weight of the mixture.
- c. Bentonite clay used for grouting shall be sodium bentonite with a minimum of 20% clay solids by weight of water. The bentonite clay shall be specifically recommended by the manufacturer for use as a grouting material.

Exception: (i) When exceptional conditions require the use of a less fluid grout, to bridge voids, a mixture of cement, sand and water in the proportion of not more than two parts by weight of sand to one part of cement with not more than six gallons of clean water per bag of cement may be used if approved by the district or local health department, or (ii) for bored wells only, a concrete (1 part sand -1 part cement -2 parts pea gravel) mix with all aggregates passing a ½-inch sieve) grout with not more than six gallons of clean water per bag of cement may be used provided a minimum three-inch annular space is available and its use approved by the district or local health department.

In cases where an open borehole has been drilled below the depth to which the casing is to be grouted, the lower part of the hole must be backfilled, or a packer must be set in the hole, to retain the slurry at the desired depth. Backfilling the hole with gravel and capping with sand is an acceptable practice. Material ordinarily sold as plaster or mortar sand is usually satisfactory; more than half the sand should be of grain sizes between 0.012 inches and 0.024 inches.

4. Other materials. Other grouting materials may be approved by the division on a case by case basis. Review and approval shall be based on whether the proposed material can consistently be expected to meet the intent of grouting expressed in 12VAC5-630-410 C 2. The proposed material must be an industry acceptable material used for the purpose of grouting water wells.

5. Depth.

- a. All Class IIIA and IVA wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of 20 feet.
- b. All Class IIIB and IVB wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of 50 feet.
- c. All Class IIIC and Class IV wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of 20 feet when the casing depth is equal to or greater than 20 feet. ~~When the casing depth is less than 20 feet, the casing shall be grouted in accordance with this subsection, from the lower terminus of the casing to the surface.~~
~~Exception: Class IV wells placed closer than 50 feet from a building foundation treated with a chemical termiticide or other pesticide shall comply with the minimum grouting depth requirements of 12VAC5-630-380 F 2.~~
- d. ~~Alternate grouting depths may be accepted for bored wells when the only aquifer suitable for a private well lies between 11 and 20 feet provided the grouting shall~~

~~terminate at least one foot above the aquifer but must not be less than 10 feet in depth from the ground surface.~~

~~e. Driven wells shall be grouted to a minimum depth of five feet by excavating an oversize hole at least four inches in diameter larger than the casing and pouring an approved grout mixture into the annular space.~~

6. Installation. ~~Whenever the grouting depth exceeds 20 feet, G~~grout shall be installed by means of a grout pump or tremie pipe from the bottom of the annular space upward in one operation until the annular space is filled, ~~whenever the grouting depth exceeds 20 feet.~~ Pouring of grout is acceptable for drilled wells whenever grouting depth does not exceed 20 feet. Pouring of grout is acceptable for bored wells whenever the grouting depth does not exceed 30 feet provided there is a minimum of a 3-inch annular space. Grouting shall be brought to the ground surface and flared to provide a one foot radius around the casing at least six inches thick. However, whenever pitless adapters are used, the grout shall terminate at the base of the pitless adapter. When an outer casing is necessary to construct a new well, where possible, the outer casing shall be pulled simultaneously with the grouting operation or grouted inside and outside if to be left in place.

7. Annular space. The clear annular space around the outside of the casing and the well bore shall be at least 1.5 inches on all sides except for bored wells which shall have at least a 3-inch annular space.

D. Additional casing and grouting. When a well is to be constructed within 100 feet of a subsurface sewage disposal system, which has been or is proposed to be installed at a depth greater than five feet below the ground surface, the casing and grouting of the water well shall be increased to maintain at least a 15-foot vertical separation between the trench bottom and the lower terminus of the casing and grouting.

E. Well head.

1. General. No open wells or well heads or unprotected openings into the interior of the well shall be permitted. Prior to the ~~driller~~contractor leaving the well construction site, the owner shall have the ~~driller~~contractor protect the bore hole by installing a cover adequate to prevent accidental contamination.

2. Mechanical well seals. Mechanical well seals (either sanitary well seals or pitless adapters) shall be used on all wells and shall be water and air tight except as provided in 12VAC5-630-410 F 4.

3. Other. Bored wells greater than eight inches in diameter shall be provided with a watertight overlapping (shoebox) type cover, constructed of reinforced concrete or steel. No well head shall be modified to prevent a lid or cover from fitting properly.

All wells shall be provided with a water-tight and vermin-proof cover.

4. Well caps and pitless adapters shall be certified on the published list by the Water Systems Council.

F. Appurtenances passing through casing.

1. General. All openings through well casings shall be provided with a positive water stop.

2. Pitless well adapters. Pitless well adapters shall be subject to approval by the division. All pitless adapters shall be installed according to the manufacturers recommendations.

3. Sanitary well seals. Sanitary well seals shall be subject to approval by the division. All sanitary well seals shall be installed according to the manufacturers recommendations.

4. Venting. Venting, where necessary as determined by the district health department, shall be provided in such a manner as to allow for the passage of air, but not water, insects, or foreign materials, into the well.

12VAC5-630-420. Observation, monitoring, and remediation wells.

~~A. Except as provided in subsections B and C of this section, observation and monitoring wells are exempted from this chapter.~~

A. All environmental sampling wells, except those authorized by or under the jurisdiction of the Department of Environmental Quality, must have department approval prior to installation. Department approval will be in the form of a permit; however a site evaluation prior to permit issuance is at the discretion of the local health department.

B. Observation or monitoring wells shall be constructed in accordance with the requirements for private wells ~~if they are to remain in service after the completion of the ground water study.~~

C. Observation or monitoring wells shall be properly abandoned in accordance with 12VAC5-630-450 within 90 days of cessation of use.

D. Testing borings, greater than 20 feet in depth and where groundwater is encountered, shall be abandoned according to 12VAC5-630-450 A within 48 hours of cessation of use.

12VAC5-630-425. Environmental Sampling Wells.

1. General requirements.

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- a. All environmental sampling wells shall be drilled, constructed, maintained, operated, and/or abandoned to insure that underground sources of drinking water are not contaminated.
- b. All environmental sampling wells shall yield water samples that are representative of the zone sampled.
- c. Due to the nature and purpose of an environmental sampling well, the depth and location requirements in respect to surface water bodies, potential contamination sources, etc., are variable, and shall be approved on a case-by-case basis by the Department. Prior to construction of any environmental sampling well, the following information, along with a completed application, must be submitted to and approved by the department:
1. Proposed location(s) on a scaled map or plat.
 2. Proposed construction detail.
 3. Intended purpose of the environmental sampling well(s).
 4. Well owners name and mailing address.
 5. Property owners name and mailing address if different from the well owner.
- d. The well owner shall submit all analytical data obtained from each environmental sampling well to the department within 30 days of receipt of laboratory results.
2. Direct push wells. Direct push wells are a type of environmental sampling well. In addition to meeting the general requirements of construction, direct push wells installed by a device using direct push technology to obtain groundwater samples where no annular space is created and where the sampling device will be in the subsurface 24 hours or less, shall meet the following specific requirement:
- a. Direct push wells cannot be installed below a confining unit unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the department that cross-contamination of the aquifer systems can be prevented.
 - b. Abandonment of direct push wells that do not penetrate a confining layer shall be abandoned by removing all casing from the subsurface and pressure grouted from the total depth to the land surface.
 - c. Abandonment of direct push wells that penetrate or breach a confining layer shall be abandoned by pressure grouting the borehole as the casing is removed from the subsurface. Abandonment must occur during the initial withdrawal from the original push borehole.

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12VAC5-630-430. Disinfection.

All Class III private wells, except for monitoring and observation and environmental sampling wells, shall be disinfected before placing the well(s) in service. Disinfection may shall be accomplished by maintaining a 100 mg/l solution of chlorine in the well for 24 hours utilizing the dosage rates set forth in 12VAC5-630-470. Other methods of disinfection must be approved by the division or the local health department.

12VAC5-630-435. Maintenance

The owner must maintain the well in safe and sanitary condition to help assure protection of drinking and ground water.

No permanent structure shall be built over the well. Construction of new well pits are prohibited.

12VAC5-630-440. Information to be reported.

~~A copy of a Uniform Water Well Completion Report (see 12VAC5-630-490) shall be provided to the district or local health department within 30 days of the completion of the well or completion of alterations thereto.~~

12VAC5-630-450. Well abandonment.

~~A. Well abandonment is governed jointly by the Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Health pursuant to § 62.1-44.92(6) of the Ground Water Act of 1973 (Repealed). In addition, the abandonment of any private well governed by this chapter, or any private well abandoned as a condition of a permit issued under this chapter, shall be administered by the Department of Health in conformance with this section. Abandonment of all private wells, except for monitoring or observation and environmental sampling wells, shall be completed by a WWP contractor licensed in Virginia.~~

Monitoring, observation, and environmental sampling wells shall be abandoned in accordance with this chapter. It is recommended there type wells be abandoned by a WWP.

B. A temporarily abandoned well shall be sealed with a water-tight cap or well head seal. Such a well shall be maintained so that it will not be a source or channel for contamination to ground water during temporary abandonment.

C. Permanent abandonment. The object of proper permanent abandonment is to prevent contamination from reaching ground water resources via the well. A permanently abandoned well shall be abandoned in the following manner:

1. All casing material may be salvaged.

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2. Before the well is ~~abandoned~~plugged, it shall be checked from land surface to the entire depth of the well to ascertain freedom from obstructions that may interfere with ~~plugging (sealing)~~ abandonment operations.

3. The well shall be thoroughly chlorinated, using dosage rates in 12VAC5-630-470, prior to ~~plugging (sealing)~~abandonment.

4. Bored wells, ~~and uncased rock or brick-lined wells, and uncased wells~~ shall be backfilled with clean fill to the water level. A two-foot-thick bentonite plug shall be placed immediately above the water level. Clean fill (including coarse sand or pea gravel) shall be placed on top of the bentonite plug and brought up to at least five feet from the ground surface. The top five feet of the well casing, if present, shall be removed from the bore hole. ~~If~~ an open annular space is present around the well casing, the annular space shall be filled with grout to the maximum depth possible, but not less than or equal to 20 feet. A one-foot-thick cement or bentonite grout plug that completely fills the bore void space shall be placed a minimum of five feet from the ground surface. The remaining space shall be filled with clean fill which is mounded a minimum of one foot above the surrounding ground surface. Clean fill may include gravel or coarse sand.

~~Bored wells or uncased wells abandoned in this manner shall be treated as wells with respect to determining the minimum separation distance to sources of contamination listed in Table 3.1. More stringent abandonment methods, suited to site-specific conditions encountered, may be required when abandoning a well where reduced setback distances are necessary.~~ The location of these wells shall be permanently marked for future location. See 12VAC5-630-450 D and Table 3.2 (Appendix).

If the casing and screens are left in-place, the screened section(s) must be filled with a bentonite slurry or other material approved by the Department. The remainder of the well from above the screened section(s) shall be filled with sand or gravel to within 20 feet of the surface and the remainder shall be filled with neat cement grout or 20% high solids bentonite grout.

5. Wells constructed in collapsing material shall be completely filled with grout ~~or clay slurry~~ by introduction through a pipe initially extending to the bottom of the well. Such pipe shall be raised, but remain submerged in grout, as the well is filled. Remove as much of the well casing as possible prior to sealing.

6. Wells constructed in consolidated rock formations or which penetrate zones of consolidated rock may be filled with sand or gravel opposite the zones of consolidated rock. The top of the sand or gravel fill shall be at least five feet below the top of the consolidated rock and

at least 20 feet below land surface. The remainder of the well shall be filled with grout ~~or clay~~ slurry.

7. Other abandonment procedures may be approved by the local health department~~division~~ on a case by case basis.

8. Test and exploration wells shall be abandoned by completely filling with an approved grout material and in such a manner to prevent the well from being a channel for the vertical movement of water or a source of contamination to ground water.

9. When bored wells are bored and a water source is not found, and the casing has not been placed in the bore hole, the bore hole ~~shall~~may be abandoned by backfilling with the bore spoils or clean fill to at least five feet below the ground surface. A two-foot-thick bentonite grout plug shall be placed at a minimum of five feet from the ground surface. The remainder of the bore hole shall be filled with the bore spoils.

10. Any well that acts as a source of channel of contamination shall be repaired or permanently abandoned within 60 days of receipt of notice by the department.

D. Alternative well abandonment procedures.

Any environmental health specialist, subject to the approval of the district environmental health manager (or environmental health supervisor in districts without a manager) may issue a permit where a well has been abandoned in accordance with this section.

Well abandonment methods.

Bentonite plug method. This method refers to wells abandoned using the method described in 12VAC5-630-450.C.4.

Enhanced bentonite plug method. This refers to bored wells and uncased wells backfilled with clean fill to the water level. A two-foot bentonite plug shall be placed immediately above the water level. Clean fill shall be placed on top of the bentonite plug and brought up no closer than twenty-five feet from the ground surface. At a minimum, the top five feet of the well casing, if present, shall be removed from the bore hole. If a continuous annular space is present around the well casing, the annular space shall be filled with grout to the maximum depth possible, up to twenty feet deep. A twenty-foot thick cement or bentonite grout plug that completely fills the bore void space shall be placed to fill the bore hole from a depth of twenty-five feet to a minimum of five feet from the ground surface. The remaining space shall be filled with clean fill which is mounded a minimum of one foot above the surrounding ground surface. When the well is less than twenty-five deep, the procedure described in this paragraph shall be followed to the greatest extent possible, including removing at a minimum, the top five feet of

casing and grouting any open annular spacing as described above. The bore hole itself shall be completely filled with bentonite or cement.

Other procedures. The Division will review other well abandonment procedures and setback distances on a case by case basis. Any applicant interested in reducing setback distances more than allowed by this section, should retain the services of a certified professional geologist. The role of the geologist will be to describe the geologic formation, the well construction method, and present condition of the well. Further, the geologist will identify the method of abandonment that will minimize the risks of contamination to the greatest extent possible and, using their best professional judgement, establish reasonable setback distances under the conditions of the specific request. This information, along with an agreement to have the certified professional geologist monitor the abandonment process, should be submitted to the Division when making the request. Submission of this information will allow the Division to review the application and give proper consideration to the proposal. Submission of the information does not assure the methods or setback distances will be approved.

Table 3.2

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<u>Distance Between Bored Well and Drainfield System Type</u>	<u>Abandonment Method and System Type</u>
<u>75' to 100' and well is up slope</u>	<u>Abandon using the bentonite plug abandonment method. Pretreatment of wastewater is not required.</u>
<u>50' to 74' and well is up slope</u>	<u>Abandon using enhanced bentonite plug method or pretreat effluent with sand filter or biofilter to 30/30 or better.</u>
<u>25' to 49' and well is up slope</u>	<u>Abandon by filling completely with bentonite or cement and pretreat effluent with sand filter or biofilter to 30/30 or better.</u>
<u>75' to 100' and well is not up slope</u>	<u>Abandon using bentonite plug method or pretreat effluent with sand filter or biofilter to 30/30 mg/l or better.</u>
<u>50' to 74' and well is not within a 60 degree arc down slope of drainfield.</u>	<u>Abandon by filling completely with bentonite or cement and pretreat effluent with sand filter or</u>

	<u>biofilter to 30/30 or better.</u>
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12VAC5-630-460. Water system yields for residential use wells.

A. All drinking water systems that utilize one or more Class III wells shall be capable of supplying water in adequate quantity for the intended usage. All such systems, with a capacity less than three gallons per minute, shall have a capacity to produce and store 150 gallons per bedroom per day and be capable of delivering a sustained flow of five gallons per minute per connection. Systems with a capacity of three gallons per minute or more do not require additional storage.

B. The certified water well systems provider shall certify the storage capacity and the yield of the well on the Uniform Water Well Completion Report.

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12VAC5-630-470. Chlorination dosage rates.

Casing Diameter (Inches)	Volume per 100 Feet (Gallons)	70% Sodium Hypochlorite (Oz. Dry Wt.)	5% Sodium Hypochlorite (Liquid Meas.)
2	16	0.5	4 oz.
4	65	2	18 oz.
6	147	4	40 oz.
8	261	6	4.25 pts.
10	408	8	7 pts.
12	588	12	10 pts.
16	1045	20	2 gal.
20	1632	32	3.3 gal.
24	2350	48	4.67 gal.
30	3672	70	7.3 gal.
36	5288	101	10.5 gal.

12VAC5-630-480. Well casing specifications.

Steel Casings				
Nom. Size (inches)	Weight (lbs./ft.)	Thickness (inches)	External Diameter	Internal Diameter
4	10.79	.188	4.5	4.026
6	13.00	.188	6.625	6.25
8	24.70	.277	8.625	8.071
10	31.20	.279	10.75	10.192

(permissible 5% variation)

Water Hauler Application

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Date:

Applicant/Company Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Source of Water:

Provide documentation from owner of water source showing permission to use water:

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____

Health Department Use:

Application complete: Yes _____ No _____

Vehicle inspection data:

Approved: Yes _____ No _____

If not approved, state reasons:

Permit issued: Yes _____ No _____ Date _____

If denied, state reasons for denial:

Appendix I

"60 Degree Arc Rule"

Only those wells located in shaded area need to have additional grouting [5 ft.] or separation distance [25 ft.] for every 5% slope. (12VAC5-630-380 C)

No increase is made for less than 5% slope.

To determine 30 degree angle:

Tan A = a/b or

Tan A (30°) = 0.5774

Therefore if b = 100 ft. and a = 58 ft.

58

_____ = .58

100

Need to have length and width downgradient area (triangle) proportional to .58 to determine 30 degree angle. When measuring downhill area for 30° triangle, it requires proportionally 10 feet down (b) and 6 feet over (a).

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