

## **MACON COUNTY WELL PROGRAM PROCEDURES**

**Effective July 1, 2008, NO PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED, REPAIRED, OR ABANDONED IN MACON COUNTY WITHOUT AN AUTHORIZED WELL CONSTRUCTION/REPAIR PERMIT, OR APPLICATION FOR WELL ABANDONMENT FROM THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT (ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION).**

*A Certificate of Completion* shall not be issued unless the certified well drilling contractor has a documented grout and well head inspection, and has provided a copy of the *Well Construction Report* (NC State Form GW-1a) to the Health Department.

### **Application:**

Before proceeding with any drilling operations, the Certified Well Drilling Contractor or property owner must submit a completed *Application for Construction/Repair of a Private Drinking Water Well* and pay the required **fee of \$375.00**. Existing On-Site Waste Water (OSWW) permits and a site plan/plat must be attached to this application. The application and site conditions will be reviewed by Environmental Health staff and, when counter-signed by an authorized agent, the drilling contractor may proceed. Health Department review of the Site Sketch or OSWW Permit attached to the *Application for Well Construction/Repair* will include designating the area of the property suitable for well construction. Exact location of the well within this area is at the discretion of the well drilling contractor. A copy of the application signed by an authorized DENR agent must be on site at all times during drilling activities.

### **Grouting Inspection:**

According to NCAC the Certified Well Contractor must contact the Health Department by the end of the business day before the grouting is to occur and schedule a time before proceeding with grouting. Macon County Environmental Health Section will make every effort to be responsive and available for well grouting inspections by continuing to take inspection requests during regular business hours. The area of the County in which the drilling site is located may impact this schedule, so contractors are encouraged to give as much advance notice as possible to the Health Department staff. If an Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) is not on-site within one hour of the requested and scheduled time for a grouting inspection, the Certified Well Contractor may proceed with the grouting. If grouting is done with no EHS on-site, self-certification verifying proper grouting shall be attested by the Well Contractor's signature and date on the NC State Form GW -1a, *Well Completion Report* (a *Grout Self-Certification* form provided by the Health Department can also be completed). **Depth of grout will be further verified and documented during a subsequent site visit by Environmental Health staff.** A copy of the Certificate of Completion with the 'grout inspection' portion signed by an authorized State Agent will be issued as a 'Finals Held' until such time as the well head installation requirements have been satisfied.

### **Well Head Inspection:**

The Certified Well Contractor, Pump Installer, or Property Owner shall notify the Health Department when the well head installation is complete (pump installed, vent, hose bib, seal, well identification tag, and pump identification tag). An Environmental Health Specialist will then inspect the well head, collect a clearance water quality sample and issue the *Certificate of Completion*. [NOTE: Laboratory analysis times vary, but in most cases the *Certificate of Completion* can be released 24-48 hours after the water sample has been collected and submitted to the lab.]

### **Water Quality Sampling**

The local Health Department will collect a water quality sample from the well head no less than 24 hours after the disinfecting agent has been purged from the well and within 30 days of the successful well head completion inspection. The water sample will be tested for Total and Fecal Coliform, and further analyzed for Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Fluoride, Lead, Iron, Magnesium, Manganese, Mercury, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Silver, Sodium, Zinc, and pH.

### **Abandoning Wells**

The owner of a well must abandon the well within 30 days of a Notice to Abandon issued by the local Health Department. Within 30 days of commencement of construction, the owner or Certified Well Drilling Contractor must abandon a well that will not be placed into service. Abandoning of a well must be documented on North Carolina State Form GW-30, *Well Abandonment Form*. The local Health Department must be given a minimum 24 hours notice of all well abandonment activities.

### **Records:**

A signed *Well Construction Report* or *Well Abandonment Form* shall be submitted to the Health Department and to the State by the Certified Well Contractor completing the construction, repair or abandonment of a private drinking water well. The well construction report must be received by the Health Department within thirty (30) working days after completion of the well. The North Carolina State Form GW-1a is acceptable and recommended as the *Well Construction Report*.

**Business hours are 8:30am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday. Inspections can not be scheduled on weekends or holidays. Phone (828) 349-2072 (or 349-2490).**