

Well Driller's License Requirements

4.1 Any person, public or private, who is engaged or intends to engage in the drilling of wells, is required to apply for a Wells Driller's License. Such licenses are required not only of those who make a regular business of well drilling, but all who may construct wells for their own purposes, for others as an incident to any line of business activity, or for the exchange or barter of services. A copy of the Well Driller's License application form is available from the Division. The application shall be submitted to the Chief on forms supplied by the Division, and shall include at a minimum the following information:

- a. Name and business address/telephone number of well drilling company;
- b. Name of duly authorized individual representing well drilling company;
- c. Commonwealth Contractor and Business license numbers;
- d. Documents detailing the applicant's bonding and financial capability, and insurance for comprehensive and general liability coverage;
- e. Evidence of the applicant's qualifications and experience in conducting well drilling activities in the CNMI;
- f. Signature of the applicant or authorized representative thereof indicating under penalty of perjury that the information provided in the application is true and accurate to the best of his or her knowledge.

4.2 A non-refundable fee of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), payable to the Division, shall accompany each application for a new Well Driller's License. A non-refundable fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), payable to the Division, shall accompany each Well Driller's License renewal application.

The fee may be waived for Government Agencies. However, the license for these agencies shall be limited to wells for government usage approved by DEQ. Failure to comply will result in the revocation of the license.

4.3 No well drilling of any kind shall be performed except by those well drillers with a valid license. The well driller's license number shall be prominently displayed on the side of the drill rig.

4.4 An applicant for a Well Driller's License must prove the following to the satisfaction of the Chief. The Chief shall have the discretion to require additional information as deemed necessary for a specific application.

- a. The applicant is in possession of the necessary equipment to properly perform well drilling work and related tasks.

4.5 An applicant for a Well Driller's License must obtain a Performance Bond in the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000), to remain in effect for the full period in which the Well Driller's License is to be valid. The Bond shall be made payable to the Division, and the Chief shall use the proceeds from the Bond to pay for any corrective action to any well(s) not located or constructed in accordance with these Regulations.

The requirement may be waived for Government Agencies. However, the license for these agencies shall be limited to wells for government usage approved by DEQ. Failure to comply will result in the revocation of the license.

4.6 An applicant's field crew chief(s) (those individuals with actual direct supervisory authority over well drilling activities in the field) must have the following qualifications:

a. Have at least two (2) years continuous work experience in well drilling and field testing techniques;

b. Demonstrates knowledge of lithologic sampling methods; aquifer testing; pump testing; and water quality sampling through trial demonstration under the direct supervision of Division staff. 4.7 The Chief shall deny an application for a Well Driller's License or renewal thereof if the information submitted by the applicant does not demonstrate that the applicant satisfies the requirements pertinent to the license. The applicant may appeal the Chief's decision in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of these Regulations.

4.8 A well driller's license shall not, under any circumstances, be transferable from one location to another, or from one person to another, without the approval of the Chief.

4.9 The license shall be valid for a period of one (1) year starting from the date of issuance.

4.10 A fully completed well drilling license application shall be submitted to the Chief for review at least thirty (3) calendar days prior to the scheduled start of any well drilling business activities.

4.11 Renewal application of a well driller's license shall be submitted at least thirty (30) calendar days before expiration of such license.

4.12 Failure to apply for renewal of a well driller's license within one (1) year after its expiration will result in the requirement to apply for a new Well Driller's License, and to pay the new well driller's license fee.

4.13 Reinstatement of any well driller's license which has been revoked by the Chief, as provided for under Section 17 of these Regulations, requires the submission of a new well driller's license application, and payment of the new well driller's license fee.

4.14 All current well driller's licenses shall remain valid until their stated expiration date, after which all currently licensed well drillers must apply for license renewal pursuant to these regulations. Current well driller's licenses failing to meet the minimum requirements set forth

in this section shall not be granted renewal of their well drilling license. Individuals not employed by the well driller on a full-time basis (i.e., consultants) may not be used to satisfy the personnel qualifications requirements of this section.

4.15 "Provisional" or "temporary" well driller's licenses shall not be issued by the Chief, with the exception of such licenses to Local and Federal Agencies for studies on a case by case basis by the Chief.

4.16 No person shall deface, alter, forge, counterfeit, or falsify a well driller's license.