Iowa DNR
Well Program Update

Russ Tell
515-725-0462
Russell.tell@dnr.iowa.gov
Private Well Permitting Stats

- FY 09  2255 permits issued
- FY 10  1890 permits issued
- FY 11  1929 permits issued
- FY 12  1052 - so far as of 12/5/11
Other PWTS Stats FY 2011

- Water tests entered: 6058
- Wells plugging entered: 1862
- Wells renovated: 114
Geothermal Rules – On Hold

- Chapter 48 – Terminated to work with stakeholder groups on a difficult topic - Commercial installations –
  - Engineers, loop contractors and water well contractors will be involved as well as representatives of AWWA and local municipal governments.

- At issue - grouting and aquifer protection, specifications for commercial system… and more.
Geothermal

- Geothermal permits are 34% of all permits issued.
- Up to 1020 boreholes on one single site and permit.
- The lessons learned with increased geothermal drilling activity...
Contaminated Sites

- Older industrialized areas are the main concern, although...
- These sites can be anywhere.
L.U.S.T.

- Abundant - all over the place...
- Suspect anyplace that sells fuel products - now and historical
- Take the extra precaution of talking with the department.
Areas of Karst Features

- Karst complicates drilling sites...
  - Drilling
  - Grouting
  - Downward leaking
  - Moving contaminants
  - Long-term liability issues for owners
AND THEN -

- Only permit the well if the site provides no indications that past activities may lead to contamination issues.
- If there are any doubts, call IDNR and ask for guidance.
Well Permitting Guidance

- Before you permit any well, go to the site and look at the area from a 360° vantage point.
- Look for past and present signs that there may be localized contamination.
  - gas stations, auto and farm equipment shops, dry cleaners, dumps/landfills, industry, power company, railroad storage areas, farm chemical preparation or storage areas, etcetera.
- Tools -

- Iowa DNR One Stop Facility Explorer
- New Private Well web pages
Iowa’s Private Water Well Program

Private Well Hot Topics -

**Attention well users in areas where wells may be affected by flood waters** -
The Iowa DNR has flood guidance available if your well is in an area subject to flooding. [What should I do when my well floods?](#)

**Attention well users who live in areas of Karst terrain** -
The Iowa DNR has basic information available to help you understand contamination concerns in shallow groundwater sources found in areas of Karst terrain. This information is available in the "**Special Considerations for Wells located in Karst Bedrock Conditions**" section on the [Water Supply Wells](#) web page.

**Notice regarding Proposed GHEX Rules known as Chapter 48** -
The rule making process for proposed Chapter 48 has been terminated until further stakeholder group meetings can be held to work on a number of issues presented during public hearings. Look for additional updates at this location in the next few weeks.
Contractor Certification

- 2012 will be a certification renewal year for well contractors
- There are always a number of well contractors who fail to re-certify
- A “no longer certified” list will be published soon on August 15, 2012
- Check the list – do not issue well permits to non-certified contractors
Public Water Supply Wells

- Remember the criteria
  - 25 or more individuals served
  - Or 15 or greater service connections
    - For 60 or more days out of the year
- You do not issue private well construction permits for these supplies
- Contact my office if you have a supply that is questionable.
Examples of Public Water Supplies
- Churches - 52 weekly services plus weddings, funerals, worship groups, etc.
- Restaurants, Coffee Shops, Bars, Taverns, Adult Entertainment Facilities, etc.
- Manufacturing or Industrial Facility
- Some daycare facilities

Qualifying as a PWS is numbers driven – Meet or exceed the numbers served and the timeframe and the water supply is a PWS.
28E Agreements

- New 28E agreements have been approved by the EPC
- Used to document your local well permitting authority.
- Look for correspondence regarding the agreements in your email very soon.
Other PWTS Changes

- Fixing of bugs…. Ongoing.
- Water use entry area
- Developing a new mapping product
  - Multiple Orthophoto overlays
  - Contaminated sites overlay – spot nearby documented contaminated sites
  - Existing well overlay – spot nearby wells
Proposed General Well Information

Well Number: Not Asnd

permit Well Status: Active

E911 House No. E911 Street Add. E911 City Parcel Number

Construction Date: * Depth: * Well Capacity in Gallons Per Minute: *

[Date] / [Date] / [Date] [Depth] [Capacity]

Map Type: * ○ Get Map ○ GPS Readings

Well Location Latitude: * Longitude: * PLS Coordinates

[Get Map...] [Latitude] [Longitude] [PLS Coordinates]

Purpose: *

- Household
- Livestock
- Irrigation
- Commercial
- Dewatering
- Injection
- Recreational

Variance Requested: Special Conditions:

[Additional Details]

Save  Cancel  Delete
Well Safety

- Be safe in your field work – understand what confined spaces exist in your work –

- Remind homeowners about the hazards of:
  - Unplugged wells
  - At grade large diameter wells/well pits

- Well areas can be both environmental and safety hazards!
Resources

- Iowa DNR Facility Explorer

- New Iowa DNR Private Well web pages
Questions – Comments - Concerns

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