



MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
Land Use & Environmental Services Agency  
Groundwater & Wastewater Services

**Questions from Drillers**

- 1. Are there any additional requirements when abandoning a water supply well in an Area of Regulated Groundwater Usage?**  
No, but there are additional abandonment requirements if the well is contaminated.
- 2. Do Well Contractors need to carry a completion bond?**  
No, however a new well will not be approved and the occupancy hold will not be released until the well construction has been approved and analytical results indicate that the groundwater sample meets the groundwater quality standards for the required parameters.
- 3. If well placement is determined by GWS but is later found to not meet setback requirements, who is responsible for abandonment?**  
*Example: The well is sited by the county and once drilling had started it is determined that the well was closer than setbacks allowed to the septic field on the lot next door.*  
Ultimately the driller is responsible for a well. The Health Specialist measures onsite and offsite distances based on the information provided by the homeowner.
- 4. How long after chlorination will a driller be held responsible for the appearance of bacteria in a well?**  
Once the analytical results indicate that there are no bacteria in the well the driller has met the permit obligation. However, the driller will continue to be held to the construction standards for the well.
- 5. How much protection from liability are they getting from our on-site inspection process?**  
None, however the driller will have access to the documentation in our files that work that has been completed to a specified standard.
- 6. How will we handle financial hardship cases, that is, people that can not afford the permit fee? (Variance, payment plan similar to CMU tap fees).**  
We do not have an avenue at this time.
- 7. Can a Driller register any time of the year? *Some of the contractors that only work in Mecklenburg occasionally didn't want to spend the \$200 until they knew they had work here.***  
Yes, however a driller may not begin drilling a well in Mecklenburg County until they have completed the registration. Turn around time on a registration is three working days. Each registration is valid until the end of the calendar year. We place a list of registered drillers on the Web page. This will be update quarterly.

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8. **What method of grout placement is acceptable under the ARGU restrictions, tremie or pressure?**  
Either method is acceptable under the regulation. It is up to the driller to use their best professional judgment in determining which method is best for a particular well.
  
9. **If the well is denied because of an area of regulated groundwater usage will the permit fee be refunded?**  
Yes
  
10. **Do I need a SIP to abandon existing monitoring wells installed prior to 1/1/05?**  
Yes, however any monitoring well installed before 1/1/05 and abandoned prior to 6/30/05 will not be charged an annual fee. An abandonment record is required to document the abandonment.
  
11. **Do I need to get a SIP to install Geotechnical borings?**  
No, as long as a well is not being set for sampling or used as a piezometer.  
Geotechnical borings must be drilled by a Registered Well contractor and all abandonment requirements apply. Mecklenburg County reserves the right to inspect the site for proper abandonment.
  
12. **The foot valve needs to be replaced on a buried well. Is that considered a major repair?**  
No, a foot valve replacement is considered part of a pump repair or replacement, which is a minor repair.
  
13. **Is a hand augured soil boring for the purpose of sampling the soil considered a monitoring well?** No the definition of a permanent monitoring well excludes devices used to investigate the characteristics of the unsaturated zone. Soil borings do not require a SIP.