

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

3550 N. Central Ave. Suite 200, Phoenix, Arizona 85012

Telephone (602) 771-8500

Fax (602) 771-8691



Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Herbert R. Guenther
Director

RE: One Hundred (100) Foot Separation between Proposed Well Location and Septic Systems or other Hazards

Dear Applicant:

The Department has received your Notice of Intent (Notice) to Drill a Well. On your Notice, the county environmental health authority has indicated "Insufficient Information to Make a Determination" that the proposed well will not be within 100 feet of a septic tank or sewer system. Your Notice is therefore incomplete and incorrect, and the administrative completeness review of your Notice is suspended until additional information is received.

State law requires a 100-foot separation between the well and any septic tank or sewer system to reduce the possibility of contracting viral and bacterial infections from contaminated water. Please be aware that that the distance of 100 feet is only a **minimum** construction standard and does not necessarily result in water of sufficient quality (or quantity) for domestic purposes.

In order to continue with the review, please submit **either** of the following to the Department:

- 1) A signed certification from the applicant stating that the proposed well location is not within 100 feet of any septic tank or sewer system on the applicant's parcel or any adjacent parcel, based on a reasonable investigation, or
- 2) Additional illustrations showing the relationships between your proposed well location and nearby septic tanks and sewer systems. Such maps and site plans can usually be obtained from county environmental health departments.

The first option requires use of the attached certification form. Under this option, you (or your agent) must perform all reasonable investigations necessary to ascertain whether any septic tanks or sewer systems on your property or any neighboring properties are located within 100 feet of the proposed well location. This could include checking available county records for your parcel and nearby parcels, as well as communicating with your neighbors or other persons that have knowledge of septic tank and sewer system locations on nearby parcels.

Once you have completed your investigation, sign and date the certification statement before returning it to the Department. In the event that you discover that the proposed well site is located within 100 feet of a septic tank or sewer system, you may request a variance from the Department. A variance request will require an extensive investigation and certification by a professional engineer or registered geologist. Please contact the Department for additional information on this process.

If you choose the second option, you must submit three illustrations:

- ◆ A revised site plan, drawn to scale, that shows the parcel boundaries, the proposed well location, the location of any septic tanks and sewer systems on the parcel, and all other buildings and cultural features on the parcel. All distances between the proposed well location and the parcel boundaries must be indicated, as well as distances to all septic tanks, sewer systems and other buildings and features.
- ◆ A map that shows your parcel in relation to all other surrounding parcels. Each surrounding parcel must be labeled with county tax assessor's identification number for that parcel. You should be able to obtain the information needed for this map from your county tax assessor's office, or for some counties, print out a map from your county's Web site.
- ◆ Documentation for each surrounding parcel from the county environmental health authority, to the extent that it is available, that shows the approved location for the septic system, including leach lines and septic tank, for that parcel such that this Department can evaluate the proposed well location against all surrounding septic tanks and sewer system locations. This documentation should be in the form of a copy of the approved plot plan sketch, submitted as part of the septic tank or sewer system permit approval process for each surrounding parcel. If these records are not available from your county environmental health authority, then indicate on the map which parcels have no records. If surrounding parcels have no septic tank or sewer systems located on them, then indicate on the map which parcels have no septic tanks or sewer systems.

Please return all the requested information within sixty (60) days, or the Notice may be denied. You would then have to re-initiate the Notice of Intent to Drill process to receive a drilling authority for this location. For information on the legal requirements under which the Department issues drilling authorities, please see the attached language from Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) § 45-596(F) and (G). If you have any questions, please call the Water Management Support Section at 602-771-8646. Thank you for your cooperation.