

# ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## NOTICE OF POLICY REGARDING VARIANCES FOR GEOTECHNICAL WELLS

All licensed well drillers and well drilling consultants are hereby notified that Geotechnical Wells, as defined below, will be granted an expedited variance from certain well construction standards of the Department of Water Resources, if requested.

A "Geotechnical Well" is defined as a hole drilled for the exclusive purpose of collecting geotechnical data, including soil samples, vapor samples, and water samples obtained through bailing, driven sampler or other similar methods.

**TO QUALIFY FOR A "GEOTECHNICAL WELL VARIANCE" THE BOREHOLE MUST BE ABANDONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A.A.C. § R12-15-816 BEFORE THE DRILL RIG IS REMOVED FROM THE SITE.**

Pursuant to A.A.C. § R12-15-820, a person intending to drill a Geotechnical Well which will meet the above requirements will be granted a variance from the minimum well construction standards of A.A.C. § R12-15-811 and the set back requirements of A.A.C. § R12-15-818. All other applicable well construction rules shall remain in effect, including A.A.C. § R12-15-817(C) which requires the filing of a completion report after abandonment. Geotechnical Wells must be drilled and abandoned by a licensed well driller.

Interested persons may apply for a Geotechnical Well Variance by filing a "Notice of Intent to Drill and Abandon Exploration Well" form available from the Department of Water Resources. In item 6 of the form ("Purpose of Well Being Drilled") the words "with variance" must be written in the space opposite the word "Geotechnical." The Geotechnical Well Variance will be granted but shall not become effective until receipt by the well drilling contractor of a Drilling Card stamped "Geotechnical Well Variance Issued."

**DO NOT REQUEST A GEOTECHNICAL WELL VARIANCE UNLESS YOU INTEND TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS NOTICE. ONCE A GEOTECHNICAL WELL WITH VARIANCE IS DRILLED, IT MAY NOT BE CONVERTED TO A MONITOR, PIEZOMETER OR OTHER TYPE OF WELL. IT MUST BE ABANDONED BEFORE THE DRILL RIG IS REMOVED FROM SITE.**

The Director may modify or revoke this policy at any time.

EFFECTIVE DATE:  
August 16, 1995

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rita P. Pearson  
Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources