

Report from the Ministry of Environment



We hope that everyone is gearing up and excited for the summer! Please read below for the Ministry's latest update. This month we discuss the regulations coming into effect November 1, 2010, compliance activities, new brochures available and drought planning.

Maintaining Certification Regulations in Effect November 1, 2010

As you may be aware, regulations concerning maintaining certification to be registered as a Qualified Well Driller or Qualified Well Pump Installer come into effect November 1, 2010. Information regarding these changes was mailed to CGWA certified members in March 2009.

For those of you who have a CGWA certificate as a Well Drilling Technician or Well Pump Installer, you'll know that continued membership with the CGWA and continuing education hours are requirements for maintaining your certification. Failure to maintain these requirements may result in you no longer being certified with the CGWA. Beginning November 1, 2010, the Comptroller will have the authority to remove individuals on the registries of Qualified Well Drillers or Qualified Well Pump Installers who have not maintained their requirements for certification. For those of you who have let your CGWA certification lapse but intend on continuing to work as a Qualified Well Driller or Qualified Well Pump Installer, please make sure you are certification is up-to-date before November 1, 2010.

If you are unsure if your certification is up-to-date, please contact the Canadian Ground Water Association at (902) 845-1885 or info@cgwa.org.

GWPR Compliance for 2009/2010

In 2009/2010, Ministry staff conducted inspections on 119 water supply wells. Thirty-seven were random audit inspections. The rest (82) were inspections carried out (mostly of newly drilled wells but also some older wells) that were a result of 11 separate complaints. One complaint alone involved 45 wells in a new residential subdivision on Saltspring Island, involving capping of wells. Table 1 summarizes the types and levels of non-compliance encountered in the inspections in relation to well construction standards. The percentage of non-compliance for some requirements (e.g., capping, wellhead completion) is skewed because of the high percentage of inspections related directly to complaints.

Table 1. Summary of types and levels of non-compliance based on inspections carried out by Ministry staff in 2009/10.

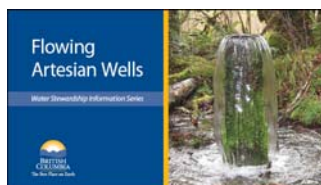
Non-compliance	Number of non-compliance (% non-compliance)	Discovered as a result of a complaint?	Resolution
Well capping	30 (25%)	28	Many of these wells were on two residential subdivisions on Saltspring Island. Well owners

			were requested to cap their wells and they complied. In one instance, two orders were issued to cap a well near Nanaimo.
Wellhead completion (e.g., grading, stick-up, hole in production casing)	14 (12%)	8	Remedial measures requested.
Surface seal	1 (1%)	0	Well owner requested to have a surface seal retrofitted on the well.
Uncontrolled artesian flow	5 (4%)	3	Order issued to well driller to control flow in one well flowing at 50+ gpm. Another well was voluntarily closed by the well owner. The other flowing wells were properly capped to stop artesian flow.
Junk in wells	2 (2%)	2	Well owners requested to have debris cleaned out of the wells.
Well deactivation or closure	10 (8%)	6	Order issued to well owner to close well. Other well owners requested to deactivate or close wells. All complied.
Well identification plate	9 (8%)	8	Requested to attach well ID plates on wells. All complied.

Two orders were issued to contractors who were not qualified to cease installing pumps in wells. Another order was issued to a water supply system owner to cease using the well until an assessment can be done to demonstrate that pumping can be controlled and will not cause intrusion of salt water into the aquifer. Experience this past year highlights the importance of inspections, especially inspections in response to complaints where a higher proportion of non-compliance issues were observed. We thank the individuals who observed suspected non-compliance and brought it to the attention of the Ministry. We also thank those well drillers who voluntarily submitted well construction reports which allowed Ministry staff to randomly audit those newly drilled wells.

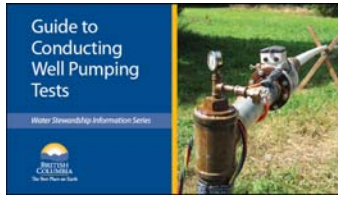
New Brochures

Three new brochures have recently been published - *Flowing Artesian Wells*, *Guide to Conducting Well Pumping Tests* and *Upgrading Wells in Pits*. At this time, there are a limited number of hardcopy brochures; however, the brochures can be downloaded and printed from our website.



Flowing Artesian Wells - This brochure helps provide insight into various issues related to flowing wells for well drillers, groundwater consultants and well owners. Examples of topics covered include how to determine whether a flowing artesian well might be encountered in the field, general guidelines for constructing a flowing artesian well, how flowing artesian wells should be closed and much more. The brochure is available from

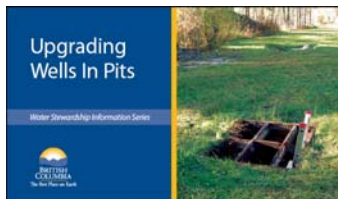
http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/flowing_artesian_wells.pdf



Guide to Conducting Well Pumping Tests - This guide provides general information and guidance on best pumping test practices for qualified well drillers and pump installers. In addition, the guide offers general information to developers and local governments on the pumping test requirements for determining if there is sufficient groundwater

available for residential developments. Topics covered in this guide include who is authorized to conduct a pumping test, determining when a pumping test is needed and key things to consider when designing and planning a pumping test. The brochure is available from

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/guide_to_conducting_pumping_tests.pdf



Upgrading Wells In Pits - The purpose of this brochure is to provide information to individuals who own a well in a pit on why wells in pits should be upgraded, who can upgrade wells in pits and how upgrading can be done. The brochure is available from

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/plan_protect_sustain/groundwater/wells/upgrading_wells_in_pits.pdf

Drought Planning

Summer is coming and it is predicted to be a hot dry one. With that in mind, be diligent with water use and follow applicable regulations with respect to taking water from streams for drilling. Please contact regional Water Allocation Staff to check if there are any issues or special concerns in your area related to taking water from streams for drilling. A list of regional office contacts can be found at <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/contacts.html>.

For up-to-date drought information please visit the Ministry's Drought website at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/public_safety/drought_info/index.html

Ministry Contact Information

Office	Name	Statutory Title	Phone	E-mail
Nanaimo	Pat Lapcevic, P. Geo.	A/Reg. Water Manager	250-751-3149	Pat.Lapcevic@gov.bc.ca
	Jillian Kelly	Officer	250-751-3265	Jillian.Kelly@gov.bc.ca
	Graeme Henderson	Officer	250-751-7119	Graeme.Henderson@gov.bc.ca
Surrey	Steve Dankevy, P. Geo.	Officer	604 582-5209	Stephen.Dankevy@gov.bc.ca
	Mike Simpson, GIT	Officer	604-582-5205	Mike.Simpson@gov.bc.ca

Penticton	Oleg Ivanov, P. Geo.	A/Reg. Water Manager	250-490-2218	Oleg.Ivanov@gov.bc.ca
	Skye Thomson	Officer	250-490-8276	Skye.Thomson@gov.bc.ca
Kamloops	Kevin Bennett, P. Eng.	Engineer	250-371-6319	Kevin.A.Bennett@gov.bc.ca
	Laurie Lyons	Officer	250-371-6280	Laurie.Lyons@gov.bc.ca
Prince George	Vacant	Engineer		
	Kirsten Heslop	Officer	250-656-6445	Kirsten.Heslop@gov.bc.ca
Smithers	Emily Bulmer	Officer	250-847-7350	Emily.Bulmer@gov.bc.ca
Victoria	Lindsay Macfarlane	Officer	250-953-3408	Lindsay.Macfarlane@gov.bc.ca
	Kevin Ronneseth, P. Geo.		250-356-5180	Kevin.Ronneseth@gov.bc.ca
	Vicki Carmichael, P. Ag.		250-387-9465	Vicki.Carmichael@gov.bc.ca
	Mike Wei, P. Eng.	Dep. Comptroller	250-356-5062	Mike.Wei@gov.bc.ca