

WELL ABANDONMENT ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, ch. NR III, Wisconsin Administrative Code, directs suppliers of water of municipal water systems to require the abandonment of all unused, unsafe or non complying wells located on the premises served by their system, by local ordinance or water utility rule, to prevent such wells as acting as channels for contamination or vertical movement of water and to eliminate all existing cross-connections and prevent all future cross-connections.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town of Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin, does ordain as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

To prevent contamination of groundwater and to protect public health, safety and welfare by assuring that unused, unsafe or noncomplying wells or wells which may serve as conduits for contamination or wells which may be illegally cross-connected to the municipal water system, are properly abandoned.

SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY

This ordinance applies to all wells located on premises served by the Town of Florence municipal water system.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Municipal water system" means a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption when such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 year-round residents owned or operated by a city, village, county, town, town sanitary district, utility district or public institution as defined in s.49.10(12)(f)1., Wisconsin Statutes, or a privately owned water utility serving any of the above.
- B. "Noncomplying" means a well or pump installation which does not comply with the provisions of ch. NR 112, Wisconsin Administrative Code, in effect at the time the well was constructed, a contamination source was installed, the pump was installed or work was done on either the well or pump installation.
- C. "Pump installation" means the pump and related equipment used for withdrawing water from a well including the discharge piping, the underground connections, pitless adaptors, pressure tanks, pits, sampling faucets and well seals or caps.
- D. "Unsafe" means a well or pump installation which produces water which is bacteriologically contaminated or contaminated with substances in exceedance of the standards of chs. NR 109 or 140, Wisconsin Administrative Code, or for which a Health Advisory has been issued by the Department of Natural Resources.
- E. "Unused" means a well or pump installation which is not in use or does not have a functional pumping system.
- F. "Well" means an excavation or opening into the ground made by digging, boring, drilling, driving, or other methods for the purpose of obtaining groundwater for consumption and other use.

- G. "Well Abandonment" means the filling and sealing of a well according to the provisions of ch. NR 112 Wisconsin Administrative Code.

SECTION 4. ABANDONMENT REQUIRED

All wells located on premises served by the municipal water system shall be abandoned in accordance with the terms of this ordinance and ch. NR 112 Wisconsin Administrative Code by December 31, 1991 or no later than one year from the date of connection to the municipal water system whichever occurs last, unless a well operation permit has been obtained by the well owner from the Town of Florence through the Florence Utility Commission.

SECTION 5. WELL OPERATION PERMIT

The Town of Florence, through the Utility Commission, may grant a permit to a private well owner for a period not to exceed 5 years providing the conditions of this section are met. An owner may request renewal of a well operation permit by submitting information verifying that the conditions of this section are met. The Florence Utility Commission, or its agent, may conduct inspections or have water quality tests conducted at the applicant's expense to obtain or verify information necessary for consideration of a permit application or renewal. Permit applications and renewals shall be made on forms provided by the Utility. The following conditions must be met for issuance or renewal of a well operation permit:

- (1) The well and pump installation meet or are upgraded to meet the requirements of ch. NR 112, Wisconsin Administrative Code.
- (2) The well construction and pump installation have a history of producing bacteriologically safe water as evidenced by at least 3 samplings taken a minimum of 2 weeks apart. No exception to this condition may be made for unsafe wells, unless the Department of Natural Resources approves, in writing, the continued use of the well.
- (3) There are no cross-connection between the well and pump installation and the municipal water system.
- (4) The proposed use of the well and pump installation can be justified as being necessary in addition to water provided by the municipal water system.

SECTION 6. ABANDONMENT PROCEDURES

(1) All wells abandoned under the jurisdiction of this ordinance or rule shall be abandoned according to the procedures and methods of ch. NR 112, Wisconsin Administrative Code. All debris, pump, piping, unsealed liners and any other obstructions which may interfere with sealing operations shall be removed prior to abandonment.

(2) The owner of the well, or the owner's agent, shall notify the Utility at least 48 hours prior to commencement of any well abandonment activities. The abandonment of the well shall be observed by the Florence Utility Commission.

(3) An abandonment report form, supplied by the Department of Natural Resources shall be submitted by the well owner to the Utility and the Department of Natural Resources within 10 days of the completion of the well abandonment.

Ray Steber

Ray Steber, Chairman

Attest:

Judith Gehlhoff 12/27/90
Judith Gehlhoff, Clerk/Treasurer
Town of Florence

