

Colorado's Water Well Inspection Program

The Context for Well Inspection

37-91-101 C.R.S . Legislative declaration.

(1) The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that:

(a) It has been established by scientific evidence that improperly constructed wells, improperly abandoned wells, and improperly installed pumping equipment can adversely affect ground water resources and the public health, safety, and welfare; and

(b) Therefore, the proper location, construction, repair, and abandonment of wells, the proper installation and repair of pumping equipment, the licensing and regulation of persons engaging in the business of contracting either for the construction of wells or for the installation of pumping equipment, and the periodic inspection of well construction and pump installation are essential for the protection of the public health and the preservation of ground water resources.

- The **Board of Examiners** of Water Well and Pump Installation Contractors (BOE) established (37-91-103 C.R.S.)



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DWR Home



The **Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR)**, also known as the *Office of the State Engineer*, administers water rights, issues water well permits, represents Colorado in interstate water compact proceedings, monitors streamflow and water use, approves construction and repair of dams and performs dam safety inspections, issues licenses for well drillers and assures the safe and proper construction of water wells, and maintains numerous databases of Colorado water information. [More...](#)

New! Rulemaking - Water Well Construction

Water Well Construction Rulemaking Process and Public Comments

New! Rio Grande Groundwater Use Rules

These rules have been filed with the Division 3 Water Court.

New! Rulemaking- Procedural Regulations

Procedural Regulations Rulemaking and Public Comments

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Popular Data and Mapping Tools

- [Map Search \(AquaMap\)](#)
- [Real-time Streamflow](#)
- [Water Rights Search](#)
- [Well Permit Search](#)
- [More Data Search Tools...](#)

Popular Topics

- [Arkansas River Irrigation Improvement Rules](#)
- [Produced Nontributary Ground Water](#)
- [Rio Grande CREP Draft Environmental Assessment](#)
- [San Luis Valley Advisory Committee](#)
- [Well Permits by Type](#)

Popular Resources

- [NEW: Surface Water Supply Conditions](#)
- [Colorado Revised Statutes](#)
- [Flood Threat Bulletin \(CWCB\)](#)
- [Permit Application Forms](#)
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Colorado Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors



The Board of Examiners (BOE) has general supervision and authority over the construction and abandonment of wells and the installation of pumping equipment with the ability to adopt and revise related rules.

BOE has authority to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the licenses of applicants and disseminate information to pump installation contractors and well construction contractors in order to protect and preserve the ground water resources of the state.

Data and Documents

- [Duties of the Board](#)
- [Licensed Well Contractors](#)
- [Map Search \(AquaMap\)](#)
- [Well Permit Search](#)

Quick Links

- [Colorado Water Well Contractors Association \(CWWCA\)](#)
- [National Ground Water Association](#)
- [Colorado Geological Survey](#)



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Designated Basins (CGWC)

Ground Water Administration

Ground Water Levels

Well Contractor Licensing (BOE)

Board Information

Board Members

Previous Board Members

Well Inspection Program

Continuing Education

Frequently Asked Questions

Licensed Contractors

Licensing Requirements

Policies

Rules and Regulations

Well Permitting

BOE Board Members

Secretary

Scott Cuthbertson, P.E., Assistant State Engineer and Director
Colorado Division of Water Resources
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Email: scott.cuthbertson@state.co.us

Colorado Department of Health Representative

Andrew Ross
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
Ground Water Quality Coordinator
WQCD-WS-A-B2
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
Denver, CO 80246
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Governor Appointed Members

Octave George Blouin
Ojo Springs Drilling and Well Service Inc.
PO Box 1068
La Veta, CO 81055
(719) 568-3904
FAX: (719) 738-3280
Email: customersvc@ojospringsdrilling.com
Term Expires: June 30, 2015

Theresa Jehn-DellaPort, P.G.
Quantum Water
3500 S Wadsworth Blvd., Suite 408
Lakewood, CO 80235
(720) 524-4294
Email: theresa@quantumwaterco.com
Term Expires: June 30, 2014

Keith Branstetter
Aztec Drilling Company
P.O. Box 772771
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477
(970) 879-5252
Email: aztec@aztecdrillingco.com
Term Expires: June 30, 2017

DWR staff support for the BOE

- Matt Sares, Chief, Hydrogeological Services Unit
 - Kevin Donegan, Senior Hydrogeologist
 - Andrew Flor, Hydrogeologist
 - Laura Kalafus, Admin Assistant, Licensing
 - Douglas Stephenson, Chief Well Inspector, BOE Administrator
-
- Derek Turner, Assistant Attorney General, State of Colorado

The Board of Examiners (BOE)

- **Well Construction Rules** (2 CCR 402-2)
 - promulgation & enforcement of proper well construction
- **BOE Rules** (2CCR 402-14) - Licensing authority for water well construction and pump installation contractors
- **Authority to prosecute unlicensed contractors**
- **BOE Meetings** – held quarterly on the first Tuesday of January, April, July, and October

The Board of Examiners (BOE)

- Goal: To protect and preserve the groundwater resources of the state of Colorado and protect public health, safety and welfare.
- General supervision and authority over the construction and abandonment of wells and the installation of pumping equipment.
- Review and approval of continuing education requests by contractors; needed for license renewal.

Contractor Licensing Process

You must have two years work experience to be considered for examination in the area(s) indicated on the license application.

Licensing package:

- **Well Construction and/or Pump Installation Contractors License Application Form GWS-26**
- Information on Licensing Process and Instructions for completion of License Application
- **Verification of Employment & Experience form**
- Information on obtaining Study Guides for Contractor Certification Exams through NGWA
- Colorado Water Well Construction Rules and Regulations
- Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) 37-91-101 et seq., governing the licensing of well construction and pump installation contractors

Contractor Licensing Process (cont.)

Review of Licensing paperwork:

- Upon receipt of a completed application, appropriate fees, and the written experience affidavits, the Board of Examiners will review those materials to determine if your work experience meets the statutory requirements.

Written Examinations:

- If qualified by BOE, make an appointment to take the written exams.
- **National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Exams** - technical and practical knowledge of well construction, pump installation, general geology and hydrology.
- **Colorado Rules and Regulations for Well Construction and Pump Installation Exam**
- The written exams should be completed at least 40 days prior to the next regular Board meeting.

Contractor Licensing Process (cont.)

Oral Examination (at scheduled BOE meeting):

- Subject: Water Well Construction Rules
- Subject: Accepted construction, pump installation and disinfection practices related to practical situations.
- Notified of the exam results immediately after the oral exam.
- If you do not pass - must wait 45 days before retaking.
- If you do pass - required to submit 1) license fees and 2) bond of financial responsibility or alternate funds prior to license issuance.

Continuing Education - required for license renewal

- Annually must complete 8 hours of continuing education by attendance at programs or courses accredited by the Board.
(Rule 8, BOE Rules)

Why Well Inspection?

1) It makes sense

2) Our legislature thought it was such a good idea...

They passed a law!

- Senate Bill 03-045 (CRS 37-91-113)
 - (1) The state engineer shall monitor compliance with this article, including by inspecting water well construction and pump installation, and may employ inspectors for such purpose.
 - (2) The costs of such monitoring and inspection shall be paid from the well inspection cash fund created by section 37-80-111.5
- Created as part of the statutes governing Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors (CRS 37-91-101 et seq)

Colorado's Water Well Inspection Program



Casing subsidence, San Luis Valley



Overpressure well blowout,
Park Center Well, Fremont Co.

Well Inspection Program

How?

Through enforcement of minimum well construction and pump installation standards as defined in the BOE Well Construction Rules.

Blowout during well construction
- Park Center Well,
Fremont Co.



Well Inspection Program

The objective of the program is to enforce Colorado Revised Statutes, Rules, and Regulations for Well Construction and Pump Installation. Accomplished by performing the following:

- Inspection of well construction and pump installation
- Complaint investigation
- Education and outreach
- Inspection of monitoring and observation hole/wells
- Review and assistance in complex well abandonment
- BOE support - issuing variances to Rules when necessary

Well Inspection Program

- **Chief Well Inspector –**
Doug Stephenson
- **Inspectors**
 - Divisions 1,2,5,6 –Brian Lake
 - Divisions 3,4,7-Larry Hakes
- **Variances**
 - Casing & grout,
 - Gallery-type wells,
 - Distance from sewer line,
septic or leach field
- **Well Abandonment** – per rules and consultations
- **Data Capture** – Well Construction and Pump Installation data



Well Inspection Program -2014

- **New Complaints Investigated.....27**
 - Complaint Type: Construction violation.....5
 - Permit violation.....19
 - Unlicensed contractor.....3
- **Complaints Resolved (includes some 2013 issues).....31**
 - Dismissed, withdrawn, or otherwise resolved.....4
 - Complied with Order3
 - Fines.....13
 - Letter of admonition/reprimand11
 - Suspension or revocation.....0
- **2014 Permits Issued.....5122**
- **Total Inspections.....857**
- **Inspections as % of Permits Issued16.7%**

Well Inspection Program -2014 (cont.)

- **Variances to Well Construction Rules** = 107
- **New Rulemaking -Water Well Construction Rules**
 - **5 Stakeholder Meetings** to solicit comments from well contractor, environmental, and engineering communities
 - For more information on the Water Well Construction Rulemaking , see our web page:
<http://water.state.co.us/groundwater/BOE/Pages/BOERules.aspx>



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Rules and Regulations

The Colorado Water Well Construction Rules (Rules) enable the Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors (BOE) to protect the public health and preserve ground water resources by ensuring the proper construction and/or abandonment of wells, the proper installation of pumping equipment and the proper installation of cisterns. These Rules specify minimum standards for construction materials and methods.

2nd Draft Proposed Changes to 2005 Rules - 6/26/2015

- [Existing 2005 Rules vs 2nd Draft Red-Line Version](#)
- [1st Draft vs 2nd Draft Draft Red-Line Version](#)
- [2nd Draft Clean Version](#)
- [2nd Draft Cover Letter](#)

Draft Rulemaking Process Timeline - 2015

- [Draft Timeline as of September 10, 2015](#)

1st Draft Proposed Changes to 2005 Rules - 2/10/2015

- [1st Draft Cover Letter](#)
- [1st Draft Red-Line Version](#)
- [1st Draft Clean Version](#)

Download a PDF Fillable Comment Form [HERE](#)

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Questions ?

