



Rule Adoption Notice

WAC 173-160 and WAC 173-162

As a result of legislation passed in 2003 (ESSB 5766) Ecology is required to send out notification to businesses affected by rule adoptions. To comply with this law and to keep the regulated community better informed of Ecology rule adoptions, you are receiving this notification.

For more information or technical assistance:

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For more information:

Online visit the Well Construction website:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/well_home.html

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WAC Track

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Titles of Amended Chapters

- Chapter 173-160 WAC, Minimum Standards for Construction and Maintenance of Wells; and
- Chapter 173-162 WAC, Rules and Regulations Governing the Regulation and Licensing of Well Contractors and Operators.

Requirements of Chapter 173-160 WAC and Chapter 173-162 WAC

The statutory authority for Chapter 173-160 WAC and Chapter 173-162 WAC is Chapter 18.104 RCW. This law authorizes Ecology to adopt rules governing licensing and well construction as may be appropriate to carry out the purposes of the chapter. The standards for well construction under Chapter 173-160 WAC identify specific construction requirements that all wells must meet in order to protect public health, safety, and welfare as well as protect the ground water resource. The licensing rule, Chapter 173-162 WAC, provides for the administration of the licensing of Washington State well drillers.

Summary of the rule changes adopted on November 21, 2006

Chapters 173-160 WAC and 173-162 WAC were revised for several reasons. These include the need to remain consistent with legislative changes that were made to the drilling statute (Chapter 18.104 RCW) in 2005, to be current with new drilling technologies, to clarify provisions of the existing rules, and based on driller request. The newly-adopted rule amendments contain provisions that:

- Address the process and criteria for evaluation of continuing education classes;
- Require Ecology to conduct annual performance reviews of those counties delegated to inspect wells ;
- Establish new categories of licenses for drillers that meet specific requirements;



- Adjust current licensing and application fees.
- Clarify and revise certain well construction terms and definitions;
- Expand some of the technical areas of the well construction requirements;
- Improve the organization of certain sections;
- Add sections on construction standards for direct push resource protection wells, ground source heat pump borings, and grounding wells; and
- Update specific materials and methodologies used in the construction of water and resource protection wells to remain consistent with current drilling technology.

Effective December 22, 2006

The amendments to Chapters 173-160 WAC and 173-162 WAC become effective on December 22, 2006.

Appeal procedures

The adoption of these rules amendments can be appealed under procedures described in the Administrative Procedures Act (RCW 34.05.330). For additional information about appealing this adoption please contact Jerry Thielen, Ecology's Regulatory Affairs Manager at (360) 407-7551 or by email jthi461@ecy.wa.gov.

If you require special accommodations or need this document in an alternate format, please contact the Water Resources Program at (360) 407-6600. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call (877) 833-6341.