



As required by the Washington State Administrative Act, Chapter 34.05 RCW

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF AMENDMENTS TO
Chapter 173-160 WAC, Minimum Standards for
Construction and Maintenance of Wells

11/20/2008

Publication Number: 08-11-049

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Construction and Maintenance of Wells

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Implementation Plan for Chapter 173-160 WAC Minimum Standards for Construction and Maintenance of Wells

1. Please describe how the Agency intends to implement and enforce the rule. Please include a description of the resources the Agency intends to use.

Ecology's Water Resources Program will be the lead in implementing and enforcing this amended rule. Implementation and enforcement will be done by a regional coordinator in each of Ecology's four regional offices, and by county inspectors in the seventeen counties that have delegated authority under the well inspection program.

2. Please describe how the Agency intends to inform and educate affected persons about the rule.

Two Water Resource Program headquarters staff and the four regional coordinators will train and educate affected parties. The trainers will develop a timeline for these activities after the rule amendments are adopted. Within 90 days after adoption of the amendments:

- Ecology's Water Resources headquarters staff will train and educate the four regional coordinators.
- Headquarters staff, with assistance of the four regional coordinators, will conduct a workshop to train and educate other Ecology staff, other state agencies, county inspectors, and other governmental organizations.
- Water Resources communication staff will prepare a focus sheet describing the rule changes which will be distributed to the regional coordinators, agency staff, other state agencies, drillers, and other interested parties. Ecology will also post this focus sheet and related information on the Water Resource well drilling website.

For those counties with delegated authority that do not attend the workshop described above, Water Resource regional coordinators train county staff either:

- Individually, in their office, or
- As a group with other counties, as appropriate.

During the first half of 2009, Water Resource headquarters staff and the regional coordinators will train and educate drillers and related businesses at various continuing-education seminars.

3. Please describe how the Agency intends to promote and assist voluntary compliance for this rule.

Water Resources staff intends to promote and assist voluntary compliance by providing the training (as described above) to drillers, local health departments, other state agencies, consultants, engineers, hydrogeologists and other interested parties.

Water Resources headquarters staff and the regional coordinators will continue to provide technical assistance to interested parties regarding this regulation, as needed. Ecology will mail a focus sheet describing the rule changes to drillers and other interested parties within ninety days after the rule amendments are adopted.

4. Please describe how the Agency intends to evaluate whether the rule achieves the purpose for which it was adopted, including to the maximum extent practicable, the use of interim milestones to assess progress and the use of objectively measurable outcome.

Water Resources staff have developed a quarterly online report used by the delegated counties to report well inspection, decommissioning, and enforcement activities. Ecology will use the information from the quarterly reports to prepare an annual report. Headquarters staff and the four regional coordinators will meet quarterly to discuss progress in each region. Water Resources staff will also meet with delegated counties on an annual basis to discuss enforcement and compliance. Ecology will use information gathered from the quarterly reports and the internal and external meetings to evaluate whether or not the rule amendments are achieving their intended purpose.

5. Please describe how the Agency intends to train and inform Ecology staff regarding new rule or rule amendment.

Within ninety days after the adoption of the rule amendments, Water Resources headquarters staff will:

- Train and educate the regional coordinators.
- Hold a workshop for Ecology as well as other state agency staff, county inspectors, and other governmental organizations.
- Distribute a focus sheet describing the changes to the regional coordinators, agency staff, and interested parties.

6. Please identify supporting documents that may need to be revised because of the rule amendment. Or Identify new supporting documents that need to be developed because of a new rule.

Documents that will need to be revised include:

- Important Well Information for Private Owners
- Home Owners Guide to Well Construction

Documents that will need to be developed include:

- A focus sheet describing the rule changes.