

## WELL ABANDONMENT GRANTS

**Authorization:** s. 281.75, Wis. Stats., and ch. NR 123, Wis. Admin. Code

**Budget:** 2010-2011 Fiscal Year = \$552,000 shared with Well Compensation Program.

**Objective:** To provide financial assistance for individuals to properly abandon unused private wells.

### **Eligible Claimant Must Meet All the Following:**

- The landowner or landowners spouse, heir, assignee/legal representative, or renter.
- Prior calendar year family income was less than \$65,000.
- A private well(s) is located on your property that is unused and needs to be abandoned.

**Level of Assistance:** 75% of allowable costs, but not more than \$9,000. The amount of the grant is reduced by \$.30 for each \$1.00 of the applicant's annual family income over \$45,000.

**Priorities:** Applications are processed on a first-come, first-served basis until available funds are exhausted.

**Eligible Cost:** The well abandonment cost only, this grant reimbursement is for 75% of total cost for a maximum possible grant award of \$9,000:

- Properly abandoning the unused well;
- Other cost if deemed necessary and approved by the DNR Ground Water Program Manager.

The eligible cost amounts for these activities are set by DNR funding tables. Well abandonment work must be done according to DNR specifications and the unused private well must be properly abandoned and filled before payment will be made.

**IMPORTANT:** The costs for any work done before your application claim receives issuance of a grant award agreement or notice to proceed indicating DNR "Approval to Proceed" with the work to abandon your well are not eligible for a grant award.

**Applications:** The application forms may be found in the appendix of the web site listed at the bottom of this document. For a hard copy of the application material, contact one of the program managers listed below.

**Contacts:**

Thomas Riewe  
Drinking & Groundwater Program Manager  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
Drinking Water & Groundwater  
101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921  
(608) 266-8697  
[Thomas.Riewe@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Thomas.Riewe@Wisconsin.gov)

Jeff Soellner  
Grant Manager  
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources  
Community Financial Assistance  
101 S. Webster St., PO Box 7921  
Madison, WI 53707-7921  
(608) 267-7152  
[Jeffrey.Soellner@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.Soellner@Wisconsin.gov)

**History:** The Wisconsin Legislature expansion of the Well Compensation Program includes claims for compensation for a well that is subject to abandonment because it is unused or poses a hazard to health or safety. This program expansion has created a condensed grant program effective October 26, 2007 called: “Well Abandonment Grants.”

**Website:** <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/grants/wellabnd.html>