

# Nonpressurized Conduits

## A fact sheet for drillers and pump installers

The ch. NR 812 Wis. Adm. Code compliance of a nonpressurized conduit (NPC) depends on several factors; the date it was installed, the type of pump serving the well (offset or submersible), how many housing units the well serves and in some cases, the results of a pressure test.

### SOME IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT NONPRESSURIZED CONDUITS (NPC):

- **NPCs INSTALLED ON OR AFTER FEBRUARY 1, 1991** – Suction lines (discharge lines connected to an offset pump) are not allowed in a NPC that was installed on or after February 1, 1991. Submersible pump discharge lines may be contained in a NPC that was installed before or after February 1, 1991. However, a submersible pump discharge line installed in a NPC on or after February 1, 1991 requires approval through a variance. (See NR 812.31).
- **NPCs INSTALLED BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1991** – NPCs installed before February 1, 1991 must serve a maximum of 3 residential units and pass a pressure test (only required if the well is entered for pump work) to remain in service. The NPC must also be at least four inches in diameter, have an approved well seal at the basement end, meet the casing material requirements of NR 812.17 and the lowest point must be at least six inches above the floor.
- **WHEN TO CONDUCT A PRESSURE TEST** – A pressure test of a NPC is required when a well is entered for pump work, the NPC is for a pre-February 1, 1991 suction line or the NPC has a submersible discharge line passing through it and the owner wants to keep it in service. If the NPC fails the pressure test it must be removed and replaced. The replacement depends on what type of pump the well has. On an offset pump the NPC must be replaced with a pressurized line. On a submersible pump the NPC must be replaced with a buried discharge line.
  - A pressure test method for NPC is not defined in ch. NR 812 Wis. Adm. Code. When a pressure test of an NPC is done, the DNR recommends that the professional conducting the test set up and record the results in a format that shows that a sufficient and reliable test was performed. A similar test for a pitless adapter is described in s. NR 812.31(2)(c) Wis. Adm. Code.
  - A pressure test of a NPC is not typically part of a real estate transfer well inspection since the well is not entered for pump work.
- **SERVICE TO > 3 RESIDENTIAL UNITS** – All NPCs (no matter when it was installed) that serve > 3 residential units (apartments or homes) must be completely cut off below where the NPC connects to the well casing. On an offset pump the NPC must be replaced by pressurized line. On a submersible pump the NPC must be replaced by a buried discharge line.

This fact sheet and flow chart do not replace or supersede specific code language for nonpressurized conduit, which is found in ss. NR812.17, NR812.31, NR812.36(3)(b)1, NR812.42(6), and NR812.42(11)(e) Wis. Adm. Code

*This document is intended solely as guidance and does not contain any mandatory requirements except where requirements found in statute or administrative rule are referenced. Any regulatory decisions made by the Department of Natural Resources in any matter addressed by this guidance will be made by applying the governing statutes and administrative rules to the relevant facts.*

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**DOES A NONPRESSURIZED CONDUIT COMPLY WITH ch. NR 812 Wis. Adm. Code? Check the flowchart on the next page.**



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# Nonpressurized Conduit Flowchart

