

# GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SECTION POLICY DIRECTIVE # 1

## GRANTING A VERBAL AUTHORITY TO DRILL JANUARY 2, 1997

Effective immediately, a verbal authority to drill may be granted only by the following personnel within the Groundwater Management Support Section (GW MGT SPT Section):

- Manager, GW MGT SPT Section
- Chief, Technical Support Unit
- Supervisor, NOI Team

A verbal authority to deepen or replace a well pursuant to R12-15-810.C., or § 45-597, may be granted only by the senior individual present in the section at the time the request is made. In the absence of the section manager, the next senior employee as listed above may grant a verbal to drill, if the request meets the following requirements:

- A. There exists an extraordinary situation not requiring a permit, but only a notice of intention (NOI) to drill.
- B. The request for verbal authority must be made by the properly licensed well driller who will construct or deepen the well, and only when that driller is ready to **immediately** begin the work.
- C. If a verbal authority is granted, it is granted only to the well driller authorized to perform the work. Within 72 hours, the driller must file a written statement regarding the nature and reason for the request, the date, and the ADWR employee that granted the verbal. The Notice of Intention (NOI) must be filed by the owner within the same 72 hour period if such a notice has not previously been filed.

Examples that may constitute an emergency and are therefore excellent candidates for granting a verbal authorization:

- 1. The source of water for domestic or stockwatering purposes has been lost (dry, caved-in, etc) and a new source of water is urgently needed to replace the former source.
- 2. An irrigation grandfathered right holder's nonexempt well fails and the well must be replaced in the same location or deepened as soon as possible in order to irrigate the crop.

Examples where a verbal authorization is **NEVER** appropriate:

OPERATIONS POLICY DIRECTIVE # 1		
SUBJECT	GRANTING A VERBAL AUTHORITY TO DRILL	1/10/92

Effective immediately a verbal authority to drill may be granted only by the following personnel within the Operations Division.

Operations Division Manager  
 Supervisor - Groundwater Systems Section  
 Supervisor - Groundwater Unit  
 Supervisor - System Support Unit

A verbal authority to deepen or replace a well in the same location pursuant to R-12-15-809 C may be granted only by the senior individual present in the Operations Division at the time the request is made. In the absence of the Division Manager, the next senior employee as listed above may grant a verbal authority to drill, if the request meets the following requirements.

- A. Verbal authorities may be granted in extraordinary situations not requiring a permit, but only a notice of Intent (NOI) to drill. See A.R.S. 45-596 and 45-597.

For example:

1. A domestic well becomes non-operational and the owner must drill a replacement well to restore domestic service to his house and parcel.
2. An Irrigation grandfathered right holder's non-exempt well fails and the well must be either replaced or deepened as soon as possible in order to irrigate his crop.
3. A dairy well must be replaced in order to continue the milking process.

Each of these examples constitute an emergency and therefore are excellent candidates for granting a verbal authority to drill.

- B. A Verbal may never be issued in the following circumstances:

1. On monitor or exploration wells.
2. On a well within an AMA that requires a permit or a right to withdrawal as outlined in A.R.S. 45-598.
3. Wells which may require a variance from the minimum construction standards, or a review by the Hydrology Division.
4. Wells located along the Colorado River and are subject to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation contract requirements.

- C. If a Verbal Authority to Drill is granted, it is granted to the driller. Within 72 hours the driller must file a written statement regarding the nature and reason for the request, the date and the ADWR employee that granted the Verbal. The Notice of Intent (NOI) must be filed by the owner within the same 72 hour period if such a notice has not previously been filed.