

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

WL 7

NOTICE OF POLICY REGARDING VARIANCES  
FOR GEOTECHNICAL WELLS

All licensed well drillers and well drilling consultants are hereby notified that Geotechnical Wells, as defined below, will be granted an expedited variance from certain well construction standards of the Department of Water Resources, if requested.

A "Geotechnical Well" is defined as a hole drilled for the exclusive purpose of collecting geotechnical data, including soil samples, vapor samples, and water samples obtained through bailing, driven sampler or other similar methods.

**TO QUALIFY FOR A "GEOTECHNICAL WELL VARIANCE" THE BOREHOLE MUST BE ABANDONED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A.A.C. § R12-15-816 BEFORE THE DRILL RIG IS REMOVED FROM THE SITE.**

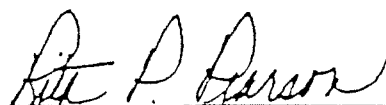
Pursuant to A.A.C. § R12-15-820, a person intending to drill a Geotechnical Well which will meet the above requirements will be granted a variance from the minimum well construction standards of A.A.C. § R12-15-811 and the set back requirements of A.A.C. § R12-15-818. All other applicable well construction rules shall remain in effect, including A.A.C. § R12-15-817(C) which requires the filing of a completion report after abandonment. Geotechnical Wells must be drilled and abandoned by a licensed well driller.

Interested persons may apply for a Geotechnical Well Variance by filing a "Notice of Intent to Drill and Abandon Exploration Well" form available from the Department of Water Resources. In item 6 of the form ("Purpose of Well Being Drilled") the words "with variance" must be written in the space opposite the word "Geotechnical." The Geotechnical Well Variance will be granted but shall not become effective until receipt by the well drilling contractor of a Drilling Card stamped "Geotechnical Well Variance Issued."

**DO NOT REQUEST A GEOTECHNICAL WELL VARIANCE UNLESS YOU INTEND TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS NOTICE. ONCE A GEOTECHNICAL WELL WITH VARIANCE IS DRILLED, IT MAY NOT BE CONVERTED TO A MONITOR, PIEZOMETER OR OTHER TYPE OF WELL. IT MUST BE ABANDONED BEFORE THE DRILL RIG IS REMOVED FROM SITE.**

The Director may modify or revoke this policy at any time.

EFFECTIVE DATE:  
August 16, 1995

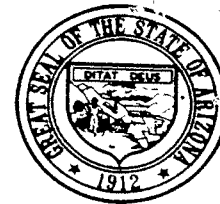
  
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Rita P. Pearson  
Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Groundwater Management Support Section

500 North Third Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85004-3921

Telephone (602) 417-2470 Fax (602) 417-2422



JANE DEE HULL  
Governor

RITA P. PEARSON  
Director

August 2, 1999

Re: Variance Procedure for Geotechnical Wells

The Director of the Department of Water Resources adopted a policy in 1995 to expedite the issuance of variances for certain types of geotechnical wells (boreholes). A copy of this policy is on the reverse side of this letter. As it has been almost four years since this advisory was sent as a part of a mass mailing, I thought it would be a good idea to refresh your memories on the subject. The only change in the policy letter is found in paragraph five, third line down. Where it says "item 6", change it to read "item 5." Someone had the nerve to modify the form.

This policy established the procedure that was required in order to obtain a variance from the 100-foot set back requirement (A.A.C. R12-15-818). The procedure applies **only** to boreholes drilled for the exclusive purpose of collecting geotechnical data, including soil samples, vapor samples, and water samples obtained through bailing, driven sampler or other similar methods. **The procedure may only be used if the borehole is abandoned immediately in accordance with A.A.C. R12-15-816 before the drill rig is removed from the site.** This procedure does not apply to monitor, piezometer or other types of wells.

A geotechnical well variance under this procedure may be obtained by filing a NOTICE OF INTENTION TO DRILL AND ABANDON EXPLORATION WELL(s) form (DWR 55-43b Rev 1/99) and by inserting the words "with variance" in item 5 opposite the word "Geotechnical." An example is enclosed. A variance from the 100-foot set back requirement and the well construction standards will then be granted. **However, the Geotechnical Well Variance will not become effective until receipt by the well drilling contractor of a drill card which is stamped "Geotechnical Well Variance Issued."**

Geotechnical wells must be drilled and abandoned by a licensed drilling contractor. All other applicable well construction rules remain in effect, including the requirement that a Well Driller Report/Log of Well form and Well Abandonment Completion Report form (referred to in condition 6 on the reverse side of the NOI) be filed after abandonment.

**Do not request a Geotechnical Well Variance unless you intend to comply with the requirements of the policy. Once a geotechnical well with a variance is drilled, it may not be converted into a monitor, piezometer or other type of well. It must be abandoned before the drill rig is removed from the site.**

If you have any questions regarding this matter, feel free to contact me at (602) 417-2470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael I. Ball".

Michael I. Ball  
Chief, Technical Support Unit