

NRD	ADDRESS; EMAIL	PHONE
Central Platte	215 N. Kaufman Ave., Grand Island 68803 cpnrd@cpnrd.org	308-385-6282
Lewis & Clark	608 N. Robinson Ave., PO Box 518, Hartington 68739 lcnrd@hartel.net	402-254-6758
Little Blue	100 E. 6 th , PO Box 100, Davenport 68335 mherbek@galaxycable.net	402-364-2145
Lower Big Blue	805 Dorsey St., Beatrice 68310 sobotka@lbbnrd.org	402-228-3402
Lower Elkhorn	601 E. Benjamin Ave., PO Box 1204, Norfolk 68701-1204 jwragge@lenrd.org	402-371-7313
Lower Loup	2620 Airport Dr., PO Box 210, Ord 68862 lschultz@nctc.net	308-728-3221
Lower Niobrara	410 Walnut St., PO Box 350, Butte 68722-0350 lnnrd@nntc.net	402-775-2343
Lower Platte North	511 Commercial Park Rd., PO Box 126, Wahoo 68066 lpnnrd@lpnnrd.org	402-443-4675
Lower Platte South	3125 Portia St., PO Box 83581, Lincoln 68501-3581 lpsnrd@lpsnrd.org	402-476-2729
Lower Republican	30 N. John St., PO Box 618, Alma 68920 lnnrd@lnnrd.org	308-928-2182
Middle Niobrara	526 East 1 st St., Valentine 69201 mnnrd@shwisp.com	402-376-3241
Middle Republican	220 Center, PO Box 81, Curtis 69025 office@mrnrd.org	308-367-4281
Nemaha	62161 Hwy 136, Tecumseh 68450 nnrd@nemahanrd.org	402-335-3326
North Platte	1054 Rundell Rd., PO Box 36, Gering 69341 cacek@npnrd.org	308-436-7111
Papio-Missouri River	8901 S. 154 th St., Omaha 68138-3621 papadmin@papionrd.org	402-444-6222
South Platte	551 Parkland Dr., PO Box 294, Sidney 69162 rlhorn@hamilton.net	308-254-2377
Tri-Basin	1308 2 nd St., Holdrege 68949 tribasin@tribasinrd.org	308-995-6688
Twin Platte	PO Box 1347, North Platte 69103-1347 amapes@tpnrd.org	308-535-8080
Upper Big Blue	105 Lincoln Ave., York 68467 ssnell@upperbigblue.org	402-362-6601
Upper Elkhorn	301 N. Harrison, O'Neill 68763 bwalsh@uenrd.org	402-336-3867
Upper Loup	E. Hwy 2, PO Box 212, Thedford 69166 ulnrd@nebnet.net	308-645-2250
Upper Niobrara- White	430 E. 2 nd St., Chadron 69337 weatherly@unwnrd.org	308-432-6190
Upper Republican	135 W. 5 th St., Imperial 69033 urnrd@urnrd.org	308-882-5173

Grant Program

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) has received funding from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund (NETF) in 2006 to offer, in cooperation with the Natural Resources Districts' well closure programs, 100% funding to properly close abandoned wells in Wellhead Protection Areas and the associated community.



So, how does this work?

Interested communities will be at some stage in the development of a local Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan. A complete local WHP plan will have the following components (for more information about the WHP program, go to NDEQ's web site at www.deq.state.ne.us):

1. **A Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) map.** All community public water supply systems now have a WHPA map drawn by or adopted by the NDEQ.
2. **A Contaminant Source Inventory.** People familiar with the WHPA (with or without NRD, Nebraska Rural Water Association, or NDEQ help) inventory potential sources of contamination. NDEQ has the publication "The Contaminant Source Inventory Guidebook for Nebraska" available to help with this step (not on-line, call or write for a copy). Examples of potential sources of contamination include illegal wells that need to be properly abandoned, storage of fuels or chemicals, waste lagoons (livestock or municipal), etc.
3. **Manage potential contaminant sources.** Closing abandoned wells, implementing protective ordinances or zoning, encouraging voluntary actions are a few examples of management.
4. **Plan ahead** for emergencies, contingencies, drought, and future growth.
5. **Involve and educate** the public throughout the entire process.

Funding will not last forever and the grant has a "lifespan" of only a couple years. If funding becomes limited (because of popularity), preference will be given to communities with approved WHP plans or farther along the WHP plan development process. **Preference will also be given to closing "groups" of wells over individual wells.** Also, a higher priority will be given to abandoned wells located closely to municipal wells in areas where ground water is particularly vulnerable compared to abandoned wells that are closer to the outer edges of a WHPA combined with conditions that are more protective of ground water.

How to Proceed

The following list of program steps is not intended to be a “step by step” guide but rather a listing of the activities that generally need to occur. Some of the steps occur simultaneously, some will be completed before the abandoned well closure program begins, and some will occur in different order.

1. Community desire to participate
2. Notify NDEQ and participating Natural Resources District (NRD)
3. Identify most current Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA) map
4. Public awareness of well abandonment program
5. Inventory/locate abandoned wells
6. Landowners sign authorization forms
7. Well driller provides bid for closure
8. Complete and submit the Cooperative Agreement Information Form to NDEQ, include the well drillers bid
9. NDEQ will prepare the Cooperative Agreement and send it to the community
10. The community and NRD sign the Cooperative Agreement and return it to NDEQ
11. NDEQ signs Cooperative Agreement and returns a copy to the Community and the NRD. Well decommissioning can now begin.
12. Community hires licensed well driller
13. Well driller completes closure activities
14. Well driller submits bill to community
15. Community provides original bill to NDEQ and copy of bill to NRD
16. NRD and NDEQ submit payments to community

Who Pays For What?

Different NRDs have different cost-share policies for well abandonment. To simplify the Agreement and payment process, the payment for well abandonment will be done on the following basis:

- ☞ NRD will pay 60% of the cost up to the NRD's maximum single well pay out.

☞ NDEQ (using Nebraska Environmental Trust and EPA Clean Water Act funds) will pay 40% of the cost and any cost past the NRD's maximum single well pay out.

For example if a single well costs \$400 to close, the NRD will pay \$240 and NDEQ will pay \$160. If a single well costs \$1000 to close and the NRD's single well maximum pay out is \$300, the NRD will pay \$300 and NDEQ will pay \$700. There is also a \$2000 per well limit on NDEQ funding. Additional community funding may be needed if the NRD and NDEQ limits are exceeded.

Following this page are some example public information documents and forms that the community is welcome to use when publicizing and organizing the project. If you would like any of these in electronic form, please e-mail brad.routt@ndeq.state.ne.us.

Prepared by
Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
Ground Water Unit
PO Box 98922
Lincoln, NE 68509-8922
(402) 471-0096
or toll free 877/253-2603



Nebraska Department
of Environmental Quality



The Nebraska
Environmental Trust

Preserving NATURAL NEBRASKA™ for future generations



Direct questions to Brad Routt,
NDEQ Ground Water Unit, 402/471-3381
or e-mail brad.routt@ndeq.state.ne.us.

Cooperative Agreement Information Form

City/Village: _____
 City/Village Federal Identification Number: _____
 City/Village Contact Name and Phone (and e-mail if available)

Return this form and the Cost Worksheet to:
 Brad Routt
 NDEQ – GW
 PO Box 98922
 Lincoln, NE 68509

NRD name: _____
 NRD Contact Name and Phone (and e-mail, if available):

Number of wells to abandon: _____

FUNDING

Please attach copy of driller's bid and fill out Cost Work Sheet, below. After NDEQ receives this information, a cooperative agreement will be sent to you.

Cost Work Sheet

NRD maximum pay out for a single well closure varies from NRD to NRD and sometimes by the size or type of well. Check with the NRD to find out particular details of their well closure program. Funding availability must be confirmed with the NRD prior to proceeding.

For this grant, the NRD will pay 60% up to the maximum pay out for a single well closure and NDEQ will pay 40% plus anything over the NRD's single well maximum pay out up to \$2000 (the maximum NDEQ per well pay out). The community will pay the well contractor and NDEQ and the NRD will reimburse the community.

For example if a single well costs \$400 to close, the NRD will pay \$240 and NDEQ will pay \$160. If a single well costs \$1000 to close and the NRD's single well maximum pay out is \$300, the NRD will pay \$300 and NDEQ will pay \$700.

EXAMPLE NRD Maximum Pay Out (per well) \$ 300, **YOUR NRD Maximum Pay Out** (per well) _____

EXAMPLE WORK SHEET BELOW

Well	A Total Cost of Well Closure (from driller's bid)	B 60% <u>or</u> Max. Pay Out (smallest of the 2 numbers) NRD Portion	C Column A minus Column B = NDEQ portion
Jones 1	\$683	\$300	\$383
Smith 2	\$250	\$150	\$100
Johnson 3	\$312	\$187	\$125
TOTAL	\$1245	\$637	\$608

FILL OUT WORK SHEET BELOW FOR YOUR CITY/VILLAGE (add more lines as needed)

Well	A Total Cost of Well Closure (from driller's bid)	B 60% <u>or</u> Max. Pay Out (smallest of the 2 numbers) NRD Portion	C Column A minus Column B = NDEQ portion
TOTAL			

MEMORANDUM

TO: To Local Residents

RE: Closure of Abandoned Wells

DATE:

The _____ Village Board is working with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and the _____ Natural Resources District to properly close the abandoned wells in our community. We believe this is an important step to protect our drinking water source and prevent ground water contamination for future generations and us.

A licensed water well/pump installer will be in our community in the near future to close all abandoned wells. Please read the attached flyer regarding the program and call the Village office at _____ if you have questions or to report the location and type of abandoned wells.

Thank you,

(Names of Board Members and/or Village Clerk)

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER BY PROPERLY CLOSING ABANDONED WELLS

What are “abandoned wells?”

An abandoned well is any water well that is not in a good state of repair and the owner is not going to use it in the future. The pump (and other equipment) has been removed and the well is not covered in a manner that is protective of the ground water.

Why are we concerned about closing abandoned wells?

Our Community receives our drinking water from ground water. An abandoned well, which is not properly closed, can be a direct route for numerous types of pollutants into the ground water. Contamination can result from runoff from agricultural and lawn care fertilizers and herbicides; insecticides; and leaking oil and anti-freeze from vehicles and equipment. Sometimes abandoned wells are used to dispose of sewage and other wastes. These occurrences are literally like pouring waste directly into our drinking water and the health risks can't be overstated.

How will we close our abandoned wells?

The Village Board is working with the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), and the _____ Natural Resources District. These agencies will provide funding and assistance to hire a licensed well driller/pump installer to close our abandoned wells.

What is the closure process?

The well is filled with varying layers of sand or gravel and bentonite or concrete to within 3 feet of the ground surface. The upper 3 feet of the well casing is removed and the area is backfilled and packed with native soil. These activities are done according to Title 178 Regulations Governing Water Well Construction, Pump Installation and Water Well Decommissioning Standards, by a licensed well contractor.

When is the project scheduled?

The licensed well driller/pump installer will be in our community in the next several months. You will be notified of the exact date prior to the closure.

How much will it cost?

Average costs for closing wells is between \$100 and \$700 depending on the size and depth. The _____ Natural Resources District will cover part of the costs and the NDEQ, through a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund, will pay the remaining costs. However, donations to the community for the service are welcome.

How can you help?

The first step is preparing an inventory of all abandoned wells. The Village is collecting this information and can use your help. Please call the Village offices at _____ to report the location and type of abandoned well or complete the attached authorization form and stop by the Village offices to mark the location on our map no later than _____.

Village / City of _____ Authorization Form for Closing Abandoned Wells

I, _____, as the legal owner of the property located at _____ do hereby give my permission for a licensed well driller/pump installer, hired by the Village / City Board, to enter my property and complete the closure of an abandoned well located on said property.

I hold the Village / City harmless of any liability. The licensed well driller/pump installer assumes entire responsibility and liability for losses, expenses, damages, demands, and claims in connection with or arising out of any injury or alleged injury.

I understand that I am not liable for costs associated with the closure. However, I can donate funds toward the closure cost.

Signature of Landowner

Date

Printed Name of Landowner

Signature of Witness

Date

Note:

If your well is difficult to locate, please sketch a map of your property including the location of the well and proximity to buildings on the back of this sheet.