



# South Platte Natural Resources District

551 Parkland Drive, PO Box 294 Sidney, Nebraska 69162  
(308) 254-2377 FAX (308) 254-2783 www.spnrd.org

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## SOUTH PLATTE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

### WATER WELL ABANDONMENT PROGRAM

The South Platte Natural Resources District's Water Well Abandonment Program was first established by the Board of Directors in December 1992 to help individual landowners with protecting ground water supplies by encouraging properly "decommissioned" water wells in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations. Unused wells or what is termed "illegal water wells" are a direct pathway to ground water where harmful sediments, chemicals, waste or rodents can cause contamination. In addition, illegal water wells can be safety hazards for children and animals. The District's Water Well Abandonment Program was revised in August 1994 to be eligible for the State's Water Well Decommissioning Fund created by section three of LB981, 93rd Legislature, Second Session (1994), and administered by the Nebraska Natural Resources Commission, Title 259. This program is also funded in part by the Natural Resources Enhancement Fund.

#### Definitions:

1. Abandoned water well – shall mean any water well 1) the use of which has been accomplished or permanently discontinued, 2) which has been decommissioned as described in the rules and regulations of the Nebraska Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, and 3) for which notice of abandonment required by subsection (8) of § 46-602 has been filed with the Department of Natural Resources by the licensed water well contractor or pump installation contractor who decommissioned the water well or by the water well owner if the owner decommissioned the (driven sandpoint) water well.
2. Decommission – when used in relation to a water well, shall mean the act of filling, sealing, and plugging a water well in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services Regulations and Licensure Rules and Regulations.
3. Illegal water well – 1) shall mean any water well which has not been properly decommissioned and which meets any of the following conditions:
  - a. The water well is in such a condition that it cannot be placed in active or inactive status;
  - b. Any necessary operation equipment has been removed and the well has not been placed in inactive status;
  - c. The water well is in such a state of disrepair that continued use for the purpose of which it was constructed is impractical;
  - d. The water well was constructed after October 1, 1986, but not constructed by a licensed water well contractor or by an individual on land owned by him or her and used by him or her for farming, ranching, or agricultural purposes or as his or her place of abode;
  - e. The water well poses a health or safety hazard;
  - f. The water well is an illegal water well in accordance with section 46-706; or

g. The water well has been constructed after October 1, 1986, and such well is not in compliance with the standards developed under the Water Well Standards and Contractors' Licensing Act.

2) Whenever the Department classifies a water well as an illegal water well the landowner may petition the Department to reclassify the water well as an active status water well, an inactive status water well, or an abandoned water well.

4. Water well – shall mean any excavation that is drilled, cored, bored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or otherwise constructed for the purpose of exploring for ground water, monitoring ground water, utilizing the geothermal properties of the ground, obtaining hydrogeologic information, or extracting water from or injecting fluid as defined in section 81-1502 into the underground water reservoir. Water well does not include any excavation made for obtaining or prospecting for oil or natural gas or for inserting media to repressure oil or natural gas bearing formations regulated by the Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

State law requires that abandoned wells be properly decommissioned, and it prescribes the correct procedures. As an incentive to properly decommission wells in the District, the South Platte NRD will provide funds upon application and approval to any landowner based on completion of program requirements. Applications must be made on forms provided by the District and all necessary well information must be supplied. All work must be performed in cooperation with a Licensed Water Well /Pump Installation Contractor in accordance with the Nebraska Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, Title 178, Chapter 12, Section 12-012.

For purposes of this program, the landowner is responsible for the removal of all obstructions (below ground pipe, above ground pipe, towers, pumps, motors, concrete slabs, etc.) that may hinder the decommissioning process, and for contacting a Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor. The attached application along with a cost estimate of the decommissioning, from the Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor, must be returned to the South Platte NRD to be considered for approval by the Natural Resources Coordinator. The landowner will be contacted immediately following the acceptance or denial of the application.

The landowner has 180 days to contact the Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor and complete work after receiving an approval letter from the District, or from the day the replacement well was constructed pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 46-602(2). The District at its discretion may discontinue the obligated cost-share funds if the project is not completed within the specified time period. It is important that the landowner coordinate with the Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor the necessary activities to properly decommission the well.

The District must be notified in advance when the well is to be decommissioned. It may be required that a District employee be on site during the actual decommissioning process. Failure to notify the District when the decommissioning occurs may lead to the discontinuation of obligated cost-share funds for the project. Inspection of the abandoned water well is required by the South Platte NRD prior to payment.

**COST-SHARE AVAILABILITY AND LIMITATIONS:**

Applications for the South Platte NRD's Water Well Abandonment Program will be accepted and approved anytime throughout the year. The District's program is available for at least thirty water wells per year. Applications will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis and will continue until budget funds are expended. All categories of water wells are eligible for cost-share assistance. Cost of decommissioning does not include removal of obstructions in or around the well.

Cost-share assistance of 65% of the actual costs for labor and material to decommission an unused well is available for District landowners. The maximum contribution by the District is not to exceed \$600.00 for drilled water wells, and \$700.00 for hand-dug water wells. A landowner is eligible to receive funding assistance for three abandoned wells annually.

Any well decommissioned prior to cost-share approval is not eligible for payment.

**POST ABANDONMENT REQUIREMENTS:**

The Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor must certify completion of work on a Notice of Water Well Decommissioning form supplied by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. The form is to be filled out showing methods and quantities of material used in decommissioning the well as outlined in the Nebraska Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, Title 178, Chapter 12, Sections 12-012.09 and 12-012.10. This form must be mailed to both the South Platte NRD and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources within 60 days of the decommissioning. A copy of the final bill for the decommissioning must be mailed to the South Platte NRD.

Payment will be made to the landowner following successful completion of the work, and that the Licensed Water Well /Pump Installation Contractor is entirely reimbursed for services and materials provided.

File: F:\k\liebig\Well Abandonment\W-ABANDO.FIN.doc Date: Revised August 13, 1996, October 12, 1999 and January 10, 2007

South Platte Natural Resources District  
PO Box 294, 551 Parkland Drive  
Sidney, NE 69162-0294  
Telephone: 308-254-2377 Fax: 308-254-2783

**WELL ABANDONMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION**

(Please Print or Type)

**LANDOWNER INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security #/Tax I.D. #: \_\_\_\_\_

**LICENSED WATER WELL OR PUMP INSTALLATION CONTRACTOR INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
License/Certification #: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

**WELL INFORMATION**

Legal Location: \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ Section: \_\_\_\_\_, Township: \_\_\_\_\_ N, Range: \_\_\_\_\_ W  
County: \_\_\_\_\_ Lat/Long (decimal degrees): \_\_\_\_\_ or  
\_\_\_\_\_ feet from north/south section line \_\_\_\_\_ feet from north/south section line

Attach FSA aerial photo with an "X" denoting location of well.

Well Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Registration #: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Drilled: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Well Depth: \_\_\_\_\_ Water Table Depth: \_\_\_\_\_

Well Casing Material: \_\_\_\_\_ Casing Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe any obstructions over or near well: \_\_\_\_\_

Miscellaneous Information: \_\_\_\_\_

**COST ESTIMATE FOR DECOMMISSIONING WELL**

Please attach a cost estimate from a licensed Water Well/Pump Installatin Contractor. Work must be completed within 180 days of application approval or from the time the replacement well was constructed.

(over)

Social Security #/Tax I.D. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Check appropriate box:     Individual/Sole Proprietor     Corporation     Partnership

Limited liability Company. Enter the tax classification (D=disregarded entity; C=corporation, P=partnership)\_\_\_\_\_

Other (see instructions)\_\_\_\_\_

Under penalties of perjury, I certify the following: 1. The TIN/EIN is correct; 2. I am not subject to backup withholding because: (a) I am exempt from backup withholding; or (b) I have not been notified by the IRS that I am subject to backup withholding as a result of a failure to report all interest or dividends or (c) the IRS has notified me that I am no longer subject to backup withholding, and; and 3. I am a U.S. person. **“The Internal Revenue Service does not require your consent to any provision of this document other than the certifications required to avoid backup withholding.”**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Landowner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**WELL ABANDONMENT PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

**LANDOWNER WILL:**

- 1) Hire a Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor to plug the well approved by the South Platte NRD.
- 2) Provide advance notice when well is to be plugged and sealed.
- 3) Complete the reverse side of this form in cooperation with Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor hired.
- 4) Remove all obstructions from the well and around the well that could hinder the plugging procedure.
- 5) Allow the South Platte NRD employees and the Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor access to the area where the well is to be abandoned.
- 6) Not hold the South Platte NRD responsible for the actions of the Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor.
- 7) Follow the well plugging procedure according to the Nebraska Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure, Title 178, Chapter 12, Section 12-012.
- 8) Work with the Licensed Water Well/Pump Installation Contractor to fill out the Notice of Water Well Decommissioning form. Then, provide a copy of the form to both the South Platte NRD and the Department of Natural Resources.

**SOUTH PLATTE NRD WILL:**

- 1) Reserve the right to inspect the site before, during, and/or after the well decommissioning process.
- 2) Pay the landowner 65% of the actual costs of labor and material to properly abandon the well not to exceed amount stipulate in the South Platte NRD Water Well Abandonment Program guidelines.

I understand and will comply with the preceding information and to the best of my knowledge consider the information on the reverse side of this form to be correct.

Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contractor: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

South Platte NRD Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

APPROVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit to:**

Department of Natural Resources  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 94676  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4676  
Phone (402) 471 2363

**STATE OF NEBRASKA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

This form is required to be filed  
within **60 days** of decommissioning  
of the water well.

**NOTICE OF WATER WELL DECOMMISSIONING**

**FOR DEPARTMENT USE ONLY**

Date Filed \_\_\_\_\_ Owner Code No. \_\_\_\_\_ Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Well ID \_\_\_\_\_ NRD

1. Well Owner's First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Attention Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

2. Contractor (if applicable). \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Contractor License No. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

3a. Well Registration No. \_\_\_\_\_

3b. Purpose of Well: \_\_\_\_\_

3c. Date Well Last Operated. \_\_\_\_\_ 3d. Date of Decommissioning. \_\_\_\_\_

3e. List complete well location: Legal, Footage and/or GPS Coordinates

Well location: \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ of the \_\_\_\_\_ ¼ of Section \_\_\_\_\_, Township \_\_\_\_\_ North, Range \_\_\_\_\_ E W , \_\_\_\_\_ County.

The well is \_\_\_\_\_ feet from the (N or S ) section line and \_\_\_\_\_ feet from the (E W ) section line.

**OR** Latitude Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Minute: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_.

Longitude Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Minute: \_\_\_\_\_ Second: \_\_\_\_\_.

3f. Location of Water Use: \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Actual Method for Decommissioning of Well**

Placement Depth in Feet		Detailed Description of Material
From	To	

5a. Well Casing Size: \_\_\_\_\_ 5b. Bore Hole Diameter: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that the information provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Contractor (\*\*owner)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\* \*Owner may sign on wells prior to 7/1/2001 or sandpoint or if well no longer exists and it is unknown when decommissioning occurred



<b>Company</b>	<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>City, State</b>	<b>Zip</b>	<b>Phone #</b>
ABC Plumbing Inc.	Loren Giboney	109 Recreation Road	Bridgeport, NE	69336	(308) 262-1738
Ault's Well Service	R. M. Ault	PO Box 107	Julesburg, CO	80737	(970)-520-0441
B & B Well Service, Inc.	Michael Brown	PO Box 490	Kimball, NE	69145	(308) 235-3470
Bowman Irrigation, Inc.	Dale Bowman	6289 I-80 Service Road	Pine Bluffs, WY	82082	(307) 245-3345
Cushing Irrigation	Dan Cushing	240236 Eagle Road	Scottsbluff, NE	69361	(308) 632-7858
Doug's Well Repair	Douglas Fricke	Box 377	Lewellen, NE	69147	(308) 778-5873
Dowell Windmill & Well Service	Rodney Dowell	105 Spring Valley Lane	Gering, NE	69341	(308) 632-2271
Kelly-Deines Irrigation, Inc.	David Deines	2510 North 10th Street	Gering, NE	69341	(308) 635-5344
Hajek Plumbing & Heating	Alan Hajek	1136 Jackson	Sidney, NE	69162	(308) 254-3563
Independent Plbg. & Heating Inc.	Gordon Lacy	1921 Broadway	Scottsbluff, NE	69361	(308) 632-4185
Bowman Irrigation, Inc.	Gary Lamb	6289 I-80 Service Road	Pine Bluffs, WY	82082	(307) 245-3345
M & S Drilling	Mark Monheiser	1325 Front St. PO Box 217	Potter, NE	69156	(308) 879-4224
Midwest Farm Service Co. Inc.	William Pierce	PO Box 336	Gering, NE	69341	(308) 632-6137
Post Agri Service	Robert Post	4073 Hwy. 71	Gering, NE	69341	(308) 436-3797
Rider Drilling, Inc.	Donald Rider	Box 3	Harrisburg, NE	69345	(308) 436-2584
Cross Well Drilling	Harry Cross	Rt. 2 Box 100	Oshkosh, NE	69154	(308) 772-3378
Charles Sargent Irrigation, Inc.	Glenn Taubenheim	PO Box 650	Grant, NE	69140	(308) 352-4379
Sandberg Drilling	Monty Sandberg	Box 47	Harrisburg, NE	69345	(308) 436-4725
Panhandle Geotechnical & Env. Inc.	Meredith Schaff	818 South Beltline Hwy. East	Scottsbluff, NE	69361	(308) 635-1926

The South Platte NRD does not endorse or guarantee the work of any of the contractors listed above. This list is for your convenience only.