

Water Well Construction Rulemaking Workshop

June 26, 2024



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St. Johns River
Water Management District



SJRWMD WWC Program Mission Statement

“To protect the groundwater resource through the consistent interpretation and enforcement of well construction, repair and abandonment regulations”

Chapter 373.302, F.S., Legislative findings.— The Legislature recognizes that the practice of constructing, repairing, and abandoning water wells, if conducted by incompetent contractors, is potentially threatening to the health of the public and to the environment. The Legislature finds that a threat to the public and the environment exists if water resources become contaminated as a result of wells drilled by incompetent or dishonest contractors, and that to prevent contamination, it is necessary to regulate the construction, repair, and abandonment of wells, and the persons and businesses responsible therefor.



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Well Permitting and Local Delegation

- District Water Well Construction program started in 1984
- District well construction rules are part of 40C-3 F.A.C.
- District currently permits all wells:
 - Greater than 6-inches in diameter
 - Wells located in Chapter 62-524 , F.A.C, groundwater contamination delineated areas.
- District issues approximately 250 well construction permits per year.
- Delegates permitting of all other wells less than 6-inches in diameter to local government entities.
- Delegated local programs issue approximately 15,000 well permits per year.



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Well Permitting Local Delegations

- Give some of the delegated entities the ability to permit wells in located in Chapter 62-524, F.A.C. delineated areas.
- Give some of the delegated entities the ability to perform compliance and enforcement as opposed to relying on the District for compliance and enforcement activities.
- Add water well construction permitting delegation to Seminole County.
- Delegation of well construction permitting in seven square miles of Bradford County to the Suwannee River Water Management District.



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Delegation Agreement Updates

- Delegation of enforcement, 62-524 area well permitting, and non-potable well variances
 - Indian River County, Osceola County, Marion County, and Seminole County
- Delegation of enforcement and 62-524 area well permitting
 - Brevard County
- Delegation of enforcement
 - City of Jacksonville



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Proposed Changes to 40C-3 F.A.C.

- Updates to delegation agreements
- Updates to publications incorporated by reference
- Removal of references to 40C-5
- Inclusion of language to allow permitting to parties demonstrating sufficient legal control of a property to install wells



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Rulemaking – Next Steps

- July 12, 2024 -- deadline for public comments
- August 13, 2024 -- staff tentatively plan to request authorization from Governing Board to publish Notices of Proposed Rule to complete rulemaking



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Rulemaking – Public Comments

Please submit any public comments by email to Tom Mayton at:

tmayton@sjrwmd.com

By July 12, 2024

QUESTIONS?



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