

Timeline

Phase I – Scope Statements

- March 2023 - Draft Scope Statements started
- September 27, 2023 – NRB Approves Scope Statements

Phase II - Rule Development

- September 2024 (but NLT 12/27/24) – EIA (Economic Impact) and Board Order

Phase III – Soliciting Comments on Economic Impact

- December 2023 (but NLT 4/27/25) - 14-day comment period on EIA ends

Phase IV – Public Hearings

- March 2025 (But NLT 6/27/25) - Public Hearings held

Phase V – Final rule Adopted by NRB 7 Governor

- August 2025 – NRB meeting requesting Adoption

Phase VI – Legislative Review

- October 2025 (but NLT 2/7/26) – Report to Legislature
- May 1, 2026 – Rule becomes effective (best-case scenario; could take longer)

NR 146 Scope Statement

- Clarify, correct errors and omissions
- Address areas where licensing fails to align competencies with activities authorized by the license
- Reduce administrative tasks through greater use of technology
- Evaluate requirements that impede progress towards driller exam eligibility
- Codify assignment of responsibility in contractual agreements
- Make provision for continuing education completion outside of the current calendar year.

Advisory Committee Recommendations That Require Statute 280 Revision

- Experience requirement for the pump installer license
 - require 20 pump installs before granting license exam eligibility
 - require experience in specific code related activities with verification of completion in each activity
- A separate license for property transfer well inspection
- Experience prerequisite for property transfer well inspectors
- Supervisor signature requirement for pump installer license exam eligibility
- Pump installer employee credential similar to a rig operator registration
- Provision for a master driller license authorizing water well drilling, heat exchange drilling, pump installing, filling and sealing.
- Elevate industry image through trade school and apprenticeship programs

Advisory Committee NR 146 Rule Revision Input

- 1) Accept continuing education credit for training that is not specific to the credential held
- 2) Accept continuing education credit for business practice related training
- 3) Require 1 or 2 credits in compliance related training each calendar year
- 4) Set an earlier continuing education completion date deadline
- 5) Curtail unlicensed activity – address pump installing and well drilling undercutting
- 6) Elevate industry image through trade school and apprenticeship programs
- 7) Maintain robust license eligibility requirements
- 8) Combine water well and heat exchange drilling licenses to one driller license credential

PUMP INSTALLING DEFINITION

NR 146.02(5)

“Pump installing” has the meaning specified in s. 280.01(5), Stats., and includes installing, repairing, replacing or reinstalling a: spring box, reservoir, pump, pump drop pipe, check valve, well cap or seal, pitless adapter, pitless receiver tank, pitless unit, above-ground discharge unit, associated discharge piping and associated connections, valves and appurtenances, pressure tank, sampling faucet, water storage or pressure vessel or structure, the electrical wiring and controls needed to operate a pump or pressure system, and any chemical addition, water treatment device or yard hydrant upstream of the water storage or pressure vessel or building control valve; attaching well casing pipe to extend the well casing pipe to a complying height above grade, or up and out of a pit or a subsurface pumphouse or alcove; or bailing or chemically conditioning a well to return it to its original capacity, production capability or water quality. Pump installing does not include installation of a temporary test pump by a water well driller for the purpose of determining well capacity or water quality and does not include the installation, by a well driller, of a well cap or seal. Opening a well cap or well seal to inspect or chlorinate a well is not considered pump installing unless the well cap or seal is replaced with a different cap or seal, or unless the well has a hand pump installed on it.

“Pump installing” includes:

1. Installing, repairing, replacing or reinstalling:

1. <i>spring box</i>	11. <i>well cap or seal</i>
2. <i>reservoir</i>	12. <i>pitless adapter</i>
3. <i>pump</i>	13. <i>pitless receiver tank</i>
4. <i>pump drop pipe</i>	14. <i>pitless unit</i>
5. <i>check valve</i>	15. <i>above-ground discharge unit</i>
6. <i>valves and appurtenances</i>	16. <i>associated discharge piping and associated connections</i>
7. <i>pressure tank</i>	17. <i>any chemical addition</i>
8. <i>sampling faucet</i>	18. <i>any water treatment device</i>
9. <i>water storage or pressure vessel or structure</i>	19. <i>any yard hydrant upstream of the water storage or pressure vessel or building control valve</i>
10. <i>the electrical wiring and controls needed to operate a pump or pressure system</i>	

“Pump installing” includes: (continued)

- Attaching well casing pipe
 - to extend the well casing pipe to a complying height above grade
 - to extend up and out of a pit up and out of a subsurface pumphouse or alcove
- Bailing or chemically conditioning a well to return it to its original capacity, production capability or water quality.
- **Pump installing** does not include installation of a temporary test pump by a water well driller for the purpose of determining well capacity or water quality and does not include the installation, by a well driller, of a well cap or seal.
- Opening a well cap or well seal to inspect or chlorinate a well is not considered **pump installing** unless the well cap or seal is replaced with a different cap or seal, or unless the well has a hand pump installed on it.

PUMP INSTALLING DEFINITION

Section 280.01(5), Stats.,

“Pump Installing” – Section 280.01(5), Stats., defines “Pump installing” to mean the industry and procedure employed in the placement and preparation for operation of equipment and materials utilized in withdrawing or obtaining water from a well for consumption or use, including all construction involved in making entrance to the well and establishing such seals and safeguards as are necessary to protect such water from contamination.

NR 146.02(5) PUMP INSTALLING DEFINITION

“Pump installing” means the industry and procedures employed in the placement and preparation for operation of equipment and materials utilized in withdrawing or obtaining potable water from a potable well in accordance with applicable requirements of NR 812 Subchapter III.

NR 146.03(2)(c)6

PUMP INSTALL LICENSE EXCEPTION

- **Current:** “A welder installing a welded pitless adapter or pitless unit under contract with or employed by a licensed individual pump installer or registered pump installing business.”
- **Revision:** A **qualified welder** installing a welded pitless adapter or pitless unit under contract with or employed by a licensed individual pump installer or registered pump installing business.
- New definition: NR 146.02(5b) : “**Qualified welder**” means an individual who has passed a 2G vertical fixed pipe welding performance test administered by a certified welding instructor.

NR 146.02(7g)

“UNDER THE SUPERVISION”

- Old: “Under the supervision” means employed by a licensed individual or by a registered person, employing or contracting with a licensed supervisory individual, who is legally and financially responsible for compliance with all applicable laws and rules and any plans, specifications, variances and approvals approved by the department, and who has advance and specific knowledge of water well drilling, heat exchange drilling, pump installing, or well filling and sealing activities..”
- New: “*Under the supervision*” means employed by or contracting with a *licensed or registered person* who is legally and financially responsible for compliance with all applicable laws and rules and any plans, specifications, variances and approvals approved by the department, and who has advance and specific knowledge of water well drilling, heat exchange drilling, pump installing, or well filling and sealing activities.

NR 146.02(7h)

“SUPERVISORY WATER WELL DRILLER”

“**Supervisory water well driller**” means a licensed individual water well driller who operates, holds ownership in, is employed by, or contracts with a water well drilling business, and who by signing the certificate of supervision has accepted legal and financial responsibility for all work performed by employees, contractors and subcontractors of the business and who has knowledge of employee, contractor, and subcontractor activities prior to performance of those activities and is available to provide general or direct supervision of employees, contractors and subcontractors of the business.

NR 146.04(4m) SUPERVISORY WELL DRILLER RESPONSIBILITIES

The supervisory water well driller is responsible for ensuring that potable well drilling and water well filling and sealing work performed by the business and by the business's employees, contractors, and subcontractors is conducted in compliance with all applicable laws and rules and with any plans, specifications, variances and approvals approved by the department. The supervisory water well driller may be held legally and financially responsible for any corrections needed to noncomplying potable well drilling work or noncomplying water well filling and sealing work. The registered water well drilling business may also be held responsible for such corrections. The supervisory water well driller shall have advance and specific knowledge of the potable well drilling and water well filling and sealing activities for all persons which they are responsible to supervise.

146.03(4) EXPIRATIONS

(a) *Business registration expiration.*

All business registrations expire on December 31 following the date of issuance.

(b) *License and rig operator registration expiration.*

Licenses and rig operator registrations issued after October 31 and before December 31 shall expire on the December 31 occurring after the license or rig operator registration has been in effect for one year.

NR 146.04(2)(h) RIG OPERATOR TRAINING

1. Cement or Bentonite Grouting of Wells — 6 hours
 2. Drilling Fluids — 6 hours
 3. Geology of Wisconsin — 3 hours
 4. The Well Codes — 6 hours
 5. Well Filling & Sealing — 3 hours
 6. Safety & First Aid — 3 hours
 7. Welding — 6 hours
- (jm) In lieu of completing the coursework under par. (h)7, an applicant may pass a 2G vertical fixed pipe welding performance test administered by a certified welding instructor.
 - (m) Coursework under par. (h)1 and (h)2 may be waived by request. A license issued to an applicant who has not completed coursework under par. (h)1 and (h)2 will be restricted to well construction methods that do not require grouting or the use of drilling fluids. Coursework under par. (h)1 and (h)2 shall be completed before drilling method restrictions are lifted.

NR 146.04(9)(a)9 RIG OPERATOR TRAINING

HEAT EXCHANGE DRILLING RIG OPERATOR

For applications submitted after January 1, 2020, have completed online, classroom or hands-on coursework approved or sponsored by the department in each of the following subject areas for the specified number of hours:

- 1. Cement or Bentonite Grouting of Wells — 6 hours
- 2. Drilling Fluids — 6 hours
- 3. Geology of Wisconsin — 3 hours
- 4. Filling & Sealing — 3 hours
- 6. Safety & First Aid — 3 hours

NR 146.07 RENEWALS

(b) *Online renewal required.* Renewal applications shall be processed online using the portal provided by the department.

(c) *Online renewal waiver request.* A licensee or registrant must submit a written request to the department to waive the requirement for online renewal. A waiver request must be submitted before September 1 of the applicable renewal period and must include an explanation of circumstances beyond the applicant's control that prevent online renewal processing. A waiver request must be approved by the department. Paper-based renewal application forms specified by the department will be mailed on October 1 to licensees and registrants who have waived the online renewal option.

NR 146.07(3) CONTINUING EDUCATION

CONTINUING EDUCATION. Each calendar year, licensed and registered individuals are required to earn six continuing education hours by attending continuing education sessions sponsored or sanctioned by the department. Continuing education hours shall be earned between January 1 and December 31 of each year except that those who opt to renew by mail shall earn continuing education hours between January 1 and October 15 of each year.

(a) *Grace period.* A one-year grace period is provided for completion of continuing education attendance requirements. The grace period allows continuing education to be completed within 1 year of license or registration expiration. Completion of continuing education attendance during the grace period will result in late renewal and assessment of a \$15 late fee on each license and registration.

NR 146.07(3) CONTINUING EDUCATION

(c) *Training topics.* To be eligible for renewal of a license or registration, the applicant shall complete code compliance training and training specific to the license or registration held. Additional attendance at training outside of these topic areas will be accepted for fulfillment of six continuing education hours that are required each calendar year. Continuing education attendance shall meet the following criteria:

1. 'Pump installer licensee'
 - a. Code compliance related training – 1 credit minimum
 - b. Training specific to pump installing – 3 credits minimum
 - c. Additional credits accepted for attendance at training specific to water well drilling, business practice, safety & first aid.
2. 'Water well driller licensee or water well drilling rig operator registrant'
 - a. Code compliance related training – 1 credit minimum
 - b. Training specific to water well drilling – 3 credits minimum
 - c. Additional credits accepted for attendance at training specific to heat exchange drilling, pump installing, business practice, safety & first aid.
3. 'Heat exchange driller licensee or heat exchange drilling rig operator registrant'
 - a. Code compliance related training – 1 credit minimum
 - b. Training specific to heat exchange drilling – 3 credits minimum
 - c. Additional credit accepted for attendance at training specific to water well drilling, business practice, safety & first aid.

NR 146.105 DRILLHOLE FILLING AND SEALING

(1) This section applies to heat exchange drillholes made for the purpose of installing a geothermal closed-loop heat exchange system.

(2) An individual may not fill and seal a heat exchange drillhole or verify and report that a heat exchange drillhole was properly filled and sealed, unless the individual is a licensed driller authorized by the department to engage in heat exchange drilling.