

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NR 146/NR 812 Advisory Committee Meeting

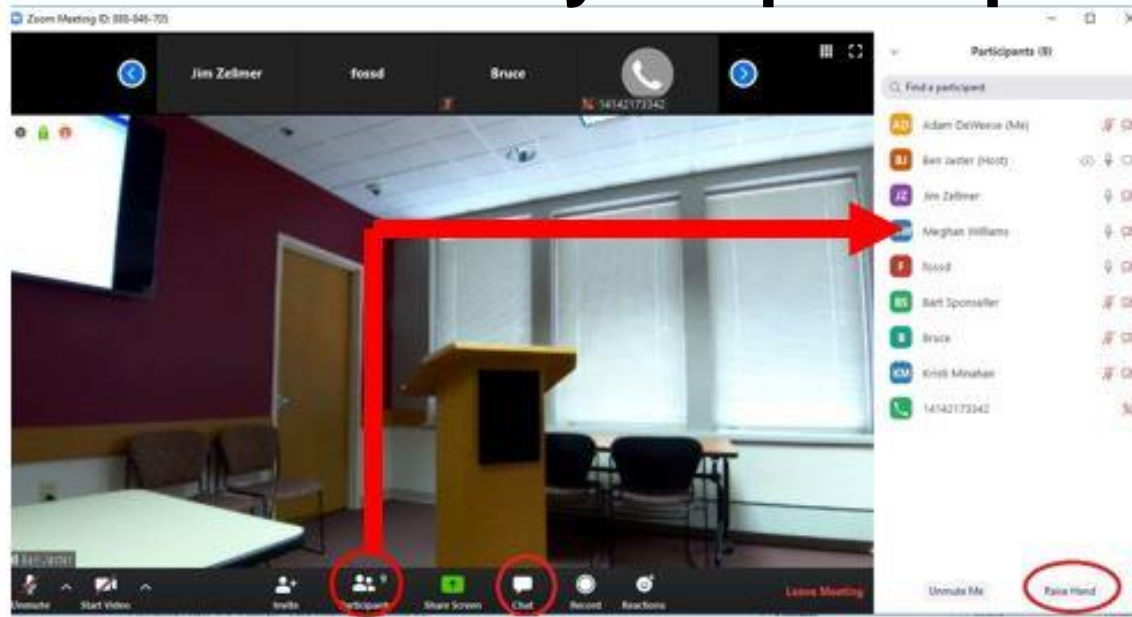
March 25, 2024 – Oshkosh Service Center



ZOOM Information

We will start with open discussion, but if difficulties, we may have to mute you. If so...

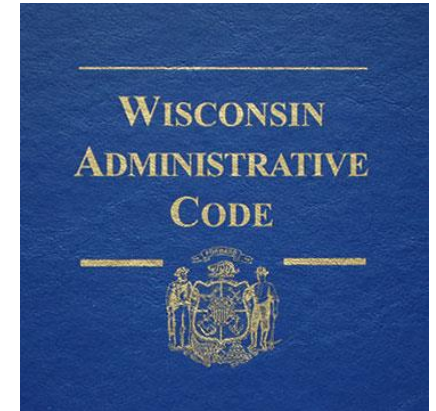
here are two ways to participate:



Type your questions into the
"CHAT" feature

"Raise Hand" and your microphone
will be unmuted by moderator when
called on

AGENDA



1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Neighboring state licensing and registration requirements
3. NR 146 definitions
4. Rig operator training requirements
5. License exams and condition codes that authorize specific license activities
6. One driller license credential for water well and heat exchange drilling activity
7. Statute 280 requirements referenced for revision consideration
8. Criteria for approval of continuing education – review by DG Legal Counsel
9. Business and rig operator registration signature requirements
10. Wisconsin Drilling/Pump Installing Apprenticeship Programs
11. Grouting requirements – Tim Harnois / T & T Well Drilling

Neighboring state license/registration requirements

- Michigan

1. **Water Well Contractor Registration**

- No separate drilling credential required for heat exchange drilling
- Also authorizes engagement in pump installing activity
- 2 years of experience with 20 wells drilled and 20 pumps installed
- 20-minute hands-on testing in submersible pump electrical troubleshooting
- Must be of good moral character

2. **Pump Installation Contractor Registration**

- Not authorized to fill and seal wells
 - 2 years of experience + 20 pump installations
 - 20-minute hands-on testing in submersible pump electrical troubleshooting
 - Must be of good moral character
 - Master plumbers may install pumps without registering as a contractor
- **Continuing education** – no attendance requirements found

Neighboring state license/registration requirements

- Minnesota

- Company is licensed contractor with certified representative

- “Limited Contractor” licenses:

1. **Limited Bored Geothermal Heat Exchange Contractor**

- 3 years of experience in heat exchange drilling or well drilling
- May fill and seal heat exchange bore holes

2. **Limited Pump, Pitless, and Screen Contractor**

- 2 years of experience where a year consists of 1000 hours installing pumps.
- May not do filling as sealing of wells or boreholes

3. **Limited Well Sealing Contractor**

- 3 years of experience required
- A year of experience consists of 5 wells sealed and 1000 hours of clearing obstruction and grouting wells.

Neighboring state license/registration requirements

- Minnesota (continued)

- 4. Well Contractor (Full)**

- May engage in all drilling activities (including water wells & heat exchange boreholes),
 - Authorized to do filling and sealing
 - Authorized to do pump installation
 - Must have 4 years of experience with 10 wells drilled each year and 1000 hours drilling, sealing and installing pumps.

- Continuing Education**

- Attendance at 2 hours of MDH approved training required for renewal
 - No CE preapproval process or attendance reporting by providers
 - Certified representative reports attendance on renewal application
 - Well Contractor (Full) certified representative must attend additional 4 hours of CE

Neighboring state license/registration requirements

- Illinois

- 1. Water Well Contractor License**

- 2 years of experience working under supervision of a licensed water well contractor
 - 2 years means a minimum of 420 working days in 2 years
- 10 water well construction reports signed by supervisor and applicant
- Good moral character – no criminal record

- 2. Water Well Pump Installation License**

- 2 years of experience working under supervision of a licensed water well pump installation contractor
 - 2 years means a minimum of 420 working days in 2 years
- 10 water well pump installation reports signed by supervisor and applicant
- Good moral character – no criminal record
- Licensed plumbers must obtain a license to engage in pump installing activities
 - No application fee or exam or annual license fee is required
 - No annual license fee is required
 - Continuing education attendance is required

Neighboring state license/registration requirements

- Illinois (continued)

3. Water Well and Pump Installation License

- 2 years of experience working under the supervision of licensed water well contractor and water well pump installation contractor
- Submit 10 water well and water well pump installation reports signed by applicant and applicant's supervisor
- Good moral character – no criminal record

NR 146 Definitions

“Welder”

The term “welder” used in NR 146.03(2)(c): A Wisconsin individual pump installer license is not required for ...a “welder” installing a welded pitless adapter

- Change “welder” to “**qualified welder**” and add a definition for “**qualified welder**” as a welder who has passed a qualification test such as a 2G vertical position pipe welding certification test.

“Private well”

Stat. 280.21(2) requires the department to define (by rule) the terms “**private well**” and “**private wells**”.

- A definition is provided by rule under NR 845.04(24) –
- *“Private well” means, for the purpose of this chapter, any drilled, driven point, dug, bored or jetted well constructed for the purpose of obtaining groundwater for potable use, including wells constructed in special well casing depth areas and noncommunity wells. It does not include springs, or private or public wells that require written plan approval from the department.*
- [Private well Definition | Law Insider](#)

NR 146 Definitions

“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.

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NR 146 Definitions

- **“Pump Installing”** – 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)

2. 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

3. 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.

NR 146.04(2)(h) - Rig operator training requirements

- Cement or Bentonite Grouting of Wells — 6 hours
- Drilling Fluids — 6 hours
- Geology of Wisconsin — 3 hours
- The Well Codes — 6 hours
- Well Filling & Sealing — 3 hours
- Safety & First Aid — 3 hours
- Welding — 6 hours
 - 2G vertical position pipe welding certification test



License and registration conditions – NR 146.05

Conditions. The department may condition a license, registration, or renewal issued under this chapter based on the experience, qualifications, equipment and compliance history of the applicant or of the licensed supervisory individual or of the licensed individual supervisory driller. Conditions which may be imposed by the department include restriction of water well drilling or heat exchange drilling to specific methods, equipment, or geologic formations, or advance notification to the department of drilling, pump installing, well filling and sealing or property transfer well inspection activities.

- Examples:
 - Pump installer license code that restricts licensee to engage only in property transfer well inspections
 - Pump installer license code that restricts the license holder from engaging in well filling and sealing activities

One driller license to authorize water well and heat exchange drilling activities:

- 280.15(2m)(am) - *Activities authorized under driller license.* In issuing a driller license under this subsection, the department may specify that the license is limited to the authority to engage only in well drilling or to the authority to engage only in heat exchange drilling.
- 280.15(2m)(f)1m & 280.15(2m)(f)2m - Prerequisites for driller license
 - 1m. The department may not issue a driller license that authorizes well drilling unless all of the following apply:
 - a. The applicant demonstrates competency in well drilling by passing an examination administered by the department.
 - b. Except as provided in par. (g), the applicant has been a registered drilling rig operator for at least 2 years within the 5 years before applying, has complied with training and continuing education requirements under sub. (3g), and has the well drilling experience required by the department by rule.



Statute 280 requirements (move to revise?)

- Provide sound reasoning for why statutory change is needed
- Present as free-standing piece of legislation
 - Experience requirements for pump Installer license exam eligibility
 - Experience requirements for property transfer well inspectors
 - Master driller license authorizing engagement in water well drilling, heat exchange drilling, filling and sealing, and pump installing
 - Remove annual rig operator training requirement for renewal of registration
 - Move required application fees from statute to rule to allow for lower fee requirement and incentive for online renewal vs renewal processed by mailed application.
 - *Tax exemption provide for purchase of drilling equipment??*

Continuing education criteria – review by DG Legal Counsel

- 280.15(2m)(b) - The department shall require continuing education specific to well drilling for individuals seeking to retain a driller license that authorizes well drilling and shall require continuing education specific to heat exchange drilling for individuals seeking to retain a driller license that authorizes heat exchange drilling.
 - Much flexibility is provided in statute – the department can set the number of credits required and categories, so long as the requirements are set by rule.
 - Mandatory compliance related and business-related training can be required by rule and approved for fulfillment of continuing education credit requirements.
- A grace period on completion of continuing education required for renewal eligibility can be provided. Renewal after Jan. 1 requires assessment of a late fee.

Business and rig operator registration signature requirements

- Business registration renewal – NR 146.07(1)(h):
 - The renewal application for a business registration shall be signed by both the licensed supervisory individual driller and the owner of the drilling business.
- Rig operator registration renewal – NR 146.07(1)(i):
 - The renewal application for a registered drilling rig operator shall be signed by the rig operator's employer.

Drilling/Pump Installing Apprenticeship Programs

Fulfillment of NR 146.04(2)(h) rig operator training requirements:

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

Experience requirements of NR 146.04(2) and NR 146.04(9):

- 2 years experience under supervision/30 potable water wells drilled
- 2 years experience under supervision/5000 feet of heat exchange pressure grouted drillhole or 30 pressure grouted wells/2500 feet of pressure grouted casing.

Grouting requirements:

Tim Harnois / T & T Well Drilling

Next Steps



- Next Meeting: Focus on NR 812
- Date and Location to be determined
- Preferences?

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments please!

- At today's public meeting
- By email: Robert.gundrumr@wisconsin.gov
- By US Mail:

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