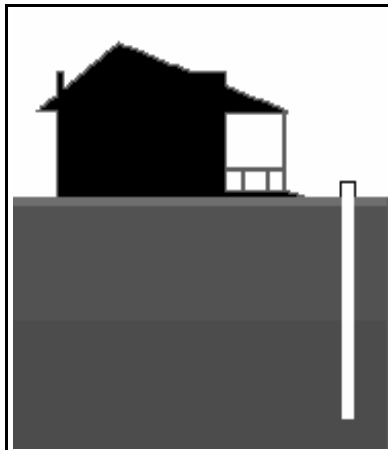


BUREAU OF WATER

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Individual Residential Well and Irrigation Well Permitting

A guide to permitting private water wells



July 2002



South Carolina Department of Health
and Environmental Control

Preface

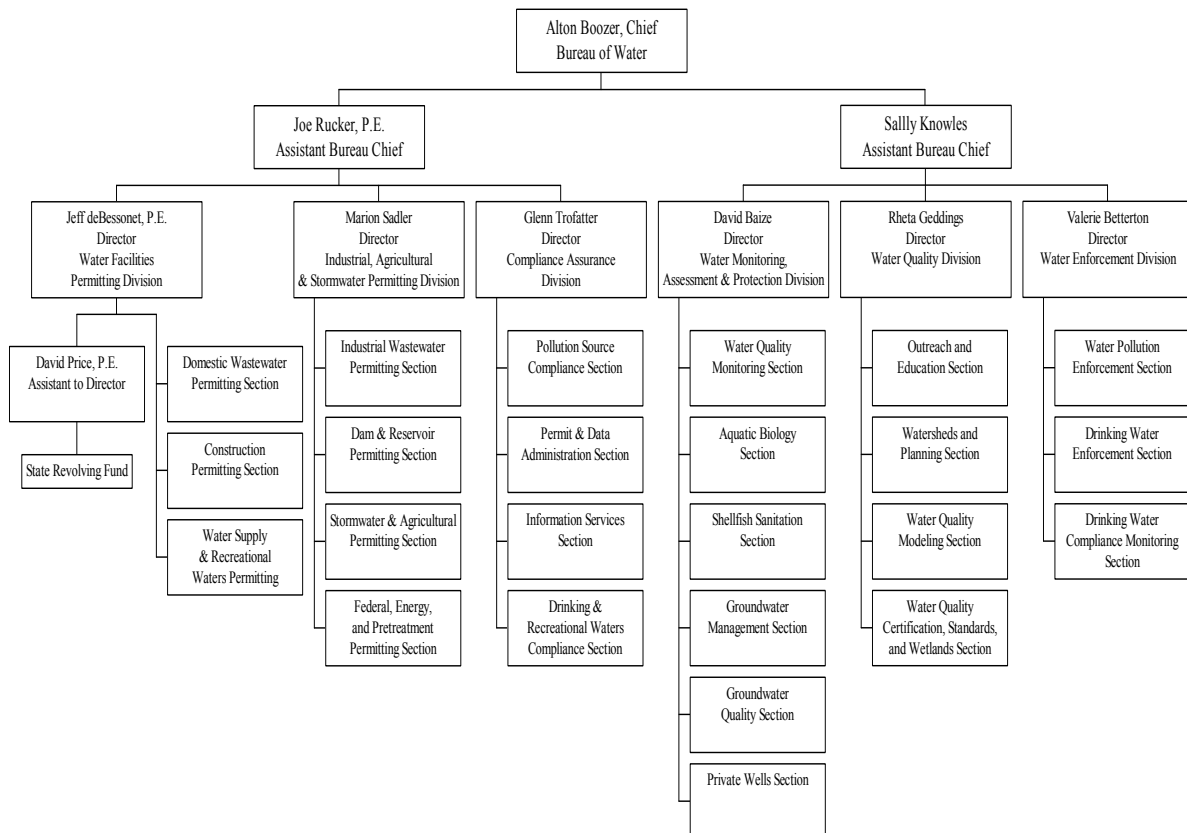
This document has been prepared for use by well drillers, homeowners, developers, industries, and public entities dealing with the Bureau of Water on individual residential well and irrigation well (private well) program issues. It provides:

- ⇒ An overview of the Bureau's responsibilities
- ⇒ A summary of regulatory requirements
- ⇒ Identification of the entities involved in permitting, and
- ⇒ Highlights of the review and approval procedures.

We hope this document will help everyone have a better understanding of the Private Well Program. Through this understanding, we feel it will be easier to go through the administrative and approval processes of the Bureau.

This document provides an explanation of the Bureau's decision-making processes. Our decisions are made with the protection of the environment and public health as the major considerations.

The Bureau is committed to providing quality service in a reasonable time in all aspects of the permit programs. To do this, we need the cooperation of all parties who deal with us in recognizing our responsibilities and the manner in which we implement them. Therefore, please take the time to read this document carefully. This document is not a replacement for the regulations on private wells. If you have any questions, please let us know. We welcome any comments you may have on this document or suggestions on how we can improve our service to you and the public.





Why?



Why is DHEC approval needed for constructing an individual residential well or irrigation well?



It is required by state law/regulations to help insure that proposed well installations will adhere to standards to protect human health and groundwater quality.

South Carolina's Individual Residential Well and Irrigation Well Permitting Regulation (R.61-44) provides the legal authority and mandate for DHEC to issue permits for these wells. These regulations also require DHEC inspectors to conduct a minimum number of well inspections per year.

DHEC's private well permitting and inspection program helps to insure that residential wells and irrigation wells are constructed in accordance with standards that will provide a safe supply of water and maintain good groundwater quality.



Where?



Where do I apply for a permit?

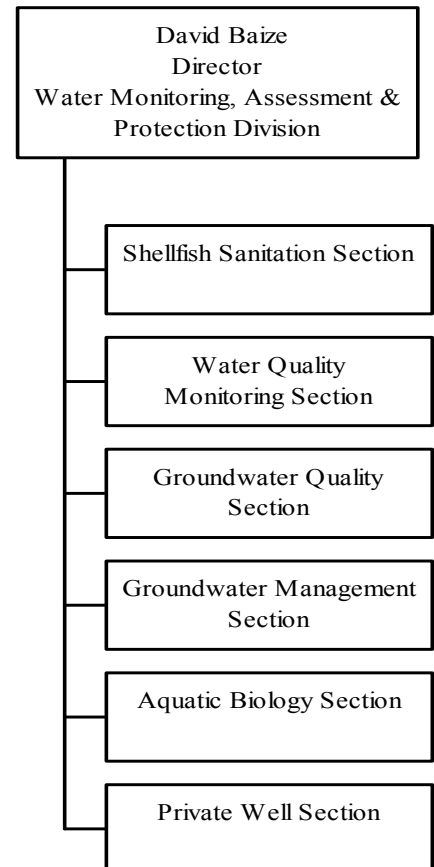


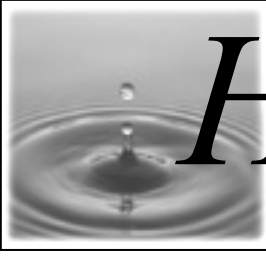
DHEC's Bureau of Water is responsible for private well permitting: 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC 29201.

The Bureau of Water (Bureau) is under the Office of Environmental Quality Control (EQC) of DHEC. The Bureau is responsible for protecting the quality and quantity of the state's surface and groundwater and ensuring safe drinking water for the public. To meet this responsibility, the Bureau issues permits, approvals, and certifications for a variety of wastewater and drinking water projects. This booklet explains the permitting procedures of the Bureau for the Private Well Program.

WATER MONITORING, ASSESSMENT & PROTECTION DIVISION

The Water Monitoring, Assessment & Protection Division handles this permitting responsibility for the Bureau of Water. Applications should be directed to the Private Well Program for review. Permit review status can be directed to any staff within the program.





How?



How do I apply for a permit?



An applicant should supply DHEC with a completed Notice of Intent for construction of an individual well or irrigation well.

The following processes highlight steps for obtaining DHEC permits to construct private wells.

Notice of Intent

Prior to construction of any individual residential well or irrigation well, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to obtain coverage under the general permit is submitted by the well owner, agent of the well owner, or well driller. A fee of \$70.00 for each individual residential well and a fee of \$50.00 for each irrigation well should accompany the NOI for it to be considered a complete application.

Upon receipt of a completed NOI, DHEC has 48 hours to accomplish its review. If notice of denial is not given to the applicant by the end of the 48 hour period, coverage under the general permit will be considered approved. This is “Step One” of the approval process.

The well driller must notify DHEC 48 hours prior to installation of the exact date, time, and location of the proposed well to complete “Step Two” of the process. This 48 hour period may run concurrently with the “Step One” process.

Local DHEC inspectors will schedule inspections (during construction when possible) to determine compliance with R.61-44 and R.61-71. Violations of these regulations noted during the inspection process will result in enforcement action.

Owners can be provided a copy of the inspection results and individual residential well owners may have their first water sample analyzed for the presence of bacteria at no extra charge.