



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

*Private Well Program
Thirteenth Annual Report
2011–2012*

The 2011-2012 Private Well Program report is submitted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in compliance with the reporting requirements set forth in Regulation 61-44. Additional information and resources regarding the Private Well Program may be found at: <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/dwrw.htm>

Introduction

The EPA reports that approximately 15 percent of Americans rely on their own private drinking water supplies. South Carolina reflects this trend as slightly more than 700,000 residents depend on individual wells. Proper well construction is vitally important to help ensure that the groundwater produced from individual wells is a safe and reliable source of water. The purpose of the Private Well Program is to ensure compliance with the well construction standards.

Permitting

August 24, 2012, marked the thirteenth anniversary of the Private Well Program at DHEC. During the thirteenth year, 3,340 Notices of Intent (NOIs) were submitted for residential wells and 1,792 for irrigation wells, totaling 5,132 wells. This total is 136 more than the previous year. Charleston County was the busiest with 464 approvals issued. Lexington County was the next most active with 344 NOIs processed. York County had just under 300 approvals.

Fees

The fees collected during fiscal year 2012 totaled \$229,340 for residential wells and \$90,150 for irrigation wells, totaling \$319,490 for the year. This total is slightly more than the \$319,040 collected for the previous year. These fees are the sole source of funding for the Private Well Program, supporting permitting and technical personnel, EQC well inspectors and operating expenses.

Inspections

The DHEC Well Inspectors conducted 1,081 inspections during the twelfth year of the program. Bureau of Environmental Health staff began inspecting wells during their on-site wastewater treatment system inspections to augment the two Bureau of Water inspectors in the program. A majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71. During the reporting period, a warning letter was sent to one driller.