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# ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet

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## New Hampshire Water Well Board

### **The Mission**

RSA Chapter 482-B established the New Hampshire Water Well Board, which is a seven-member board charged with administering the licensing of well drilling contractors and pump installers in New Hampshire and collection of well construction data.

The purpose of the Board as stated in its enabling legislation is *to protect and improve the general health and welfare of the people of the State of New Hampshire; to protect the groundwater resources of the state; to regulate the construction of water wells and the installation of well pumps; to license water well contractors and pump installers; to provide and make available to the public well construction records relative to the occurrence and distribution of groundwater resources of the state and to provide for penalties for violations of chapter 482-B and the rules of the Board.*

### **Functions**

In response to this mandate, the board performs the following functions:

- Conducts public meetings to promulgate and enforce rules for the construction of wells and installation of pumps.
- Hears consumer complaints relative to improper well construction or pump installation.
- Collects well completion reports for newly constructed wells describing well construction details and geologic and hydrologic formations penetrated.
- Provides information to the public relative to the occurrence and distribution of groundwater resources of the state and the proper construction of water wells.

These efforts are supported by staff within the DES Water Division.

### **The Licensees**

Water well contractors and pump installers working in New Hampshire are required to be licensed and display a 4x6-inch decal on both sides of their drilling equipment and/or pump service trucks designating the year the license is validated. The decal features the New Hampshire state seal and the words “Licensed New Hampshire Water Well Contractor” or “Licensed New Hampshire Pump Installer” adjacent to their license number. Licenses must be renewed by July 1 of each year to be valid. Information on the current license status of a particular company or individual can be obtained by contacting the Water Well Board at (603) 271-1974 or by visiting our webpage at

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/wwb/index.htm>.

**Public Assistance**

The board does not employ inspectors due to budgetary constraints, however, DES staff are always available to assist local code enforcement officials and private citizens regarding well construction and pump installation standards. Questions commonly addressed by staff include water quality and quantity issues as they relate to the method of well construction and the natural environment and setback requirements for wells.

Well completion reports must be completed by licensed contractors for each well constructed. Reports are stored and maintained by the N.H. Geological Survey. Information about the more than 117,000 reported wells is also contained in a geographically-referenced computer database. Efforts to locate and assign geographic coordinates to well sites are ongoing.

Questions about well construction and pump installation standards or requests for information regarding a problem with a well, should be directed to the Water Well Board at (603) 271-1974.

**For Additional Information**

Please contact the Drinking Water and Groundwater Bureau at (603) 271-2513 or [dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov](mailto:dwgbinfo@des.nh.gov) or visit our website at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/dwgb/index.htm>. All of the bureau's fact sheets are online at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/dwgb/index.htm>.

Note: This fact sheet is accurate as of August 2010. Statutory or regulatory changes or the availability of additional information after this date may render this information inaccurate or incomplete.