

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD  
GENERAL PROVISIONS, CHAPTER 201  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
REGULATIONS FOR PRIVATE WELLS

(Added 2/9/1988; amended 7/2/2018, amended 8/2/2021, 9/13/2021)

**§ 201-30.1 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this regulation is to provide for the protection of the public's health, safety, welfare, and the environment by, among other things, requiring the proper siting, construction and testing of all private drinking wells, Irrigation/agricultural wells, and geothermal wells.

**§201-30.2 AUTHORITY**

These regulations are adopted by the Chelmsford Board of Health, pursuant to its authority under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 111, section 31. These regulations supersede all previous Regulations for Private Wells adopted by the Board of Health.

**§201-30.3. DEFINITIONS**

Agent: Any person designated and authorized by the Board to implement, in whole or part, these regulations. To the extent provided by the Board, the agent shall have all the authority of the Board and shall be directly responsible to the Board and under its direction and control.

Agriculture/Agricultural: The cultivation of land, raising crops, and feeding, breeding, and raising livestock; farming; the production of crops, livestock or poultry for profit or personal uses; to include the housing of livestock for profit or personal recreational activities.

Applicant: Any person who applies to have a private well constructed.

Aquifer: A water bearing geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water to wells and springs.

Bentonite Grout: A mixture of bentonite (API Standard 13A) and water in a ratio of not less than one pound of bentonite per gallon of water.

Board: The Board of Health of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, or its authorized agent.

Business of Digging or Drilling: A person who charges a fee for digging or drilling a well, or a person who advertises for hire to dig or drill wells within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Casing: Impervious durable pipe placed in a boring to prevent the walls from caving and to serve as a vertical conduit for water in a well.

Certified Laboratory: A laboratory certified by the Department of Environmental Protection for the analysis of drinking water and required water quality analytes. Provisional certification is acceptable.

Certified Well Driller: Any person certified with the Department of Environmental Protection Well Driller Program to dig or drill wells in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Concrete: A mixture consisting of Portland cement (ASTM Standard C150, type I or API Standard 10, Class A), sand, gravel, and water in a proportion of not more than five parts of sand plus gravel to one part cement, by volume, and not more than six gallons of water. One part cement, two parts sand, and three parts gravel are commonly used with up to six gallons of water.

Dwelling: The building or place of shelter in which individuals live; a place of residence, abode, home

Irrigation only / Other non-potable uses only well: A well that is intended to produce water for uses other than human consumption, to include watering lawns, gardens, and agricultural use for livestock, crops, and the like.

1) Except as hereinafter provided, an irrigation only/other non-potable uses only well, shall not be used as a source of water for human consumption and is a secondary source of water. The Irrigation only / other non-potable uses well shall not be connected at any time to a dwelling or a building unless the well meets the requirements of a Private Drinking Water Well and has the Board's written approval. All Irrigation only wells must have Board approved signage posted on site.

2) An irrigation only / other non-potable uses only well may be plumbed into a structure, such as a barn, stable, or silo, which houses livestock or in which crops are cultivated or stored, for the sole purpose of providing for the care of such livestock and crops, and the maintenance of the structure which houses the livestock, or in which the crops are being cultivated and stored, with the prior written approval of the Board in each instance. Written approval of the Board shall be at the sole discretion of the Board and shall require at a minimum clear and convincing evidence (a) that the irrigation only / other non-potable uses only well will not be available for use as a source of water for human consumption within the structure, (b) that appropriate controls are in place which will hinder the use of the irrigation only / other non-potable uses only well as a source of human consumption within the structure, and (c) that a notice or notices, in such number, form, dimensions and verbiage as the Board may deem appropriate, are predominantly displayed within and upon the structure strictly prohibiting human consumption of water from the irrigation only / other non-potable uses only well. \*\*Any plumbing of the well must be color-coded and tagged dictating a potable or non-potable well. Plumbing must be green for a potable well and yellow for a non-potable well.\*\*

3) Under no circumstances shall an Irrigation only/ other non-potable uses only well be plumbed into a structure providing a source of water for human consumption, or into a bathroom, kitchen, breakroom, or any living area within any such structure, unless the Irrigation only / other non-potable uses only well meets the criteria of a Private Drinking Water Well and has the prior written approval of the Board. The applicant must provide written documentation to show that a private water line is not accessible in any abutting way and, that permission to tie into such waterline cannot be obtained from the authority having jurisdiction over the water line.

Livestock: Animal, such as cattle, pigs, poultry, or horses, raised for home use or profit, especially on a farm, that have been domesticated and are kept by individuals or businesses as a working animal, food source, or a pet, especially a member of those species that have, through selective breeding, become notably different from their wild ancestors; intending and meaning to exclude from this definition exotic

animals of foreign origin or character, not native or indigenous to its owner's locale; or introduced from abroad and not fully naturalized.

MassDEP: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

Neat Cement Grout: A mixture consisting of one bag (94 pounds) of Portland cement (ASTM Standard C 150, Type I or API Standard 10, Class A) to not more than six gallons of clean water. Bentonite (API Standard 13A), up to two percent by weight of cement, shall be added to reduce shrinkage. Other additives, as described in ASTM Standard C494, may be used to increase fluidity and/or control setting time.

Person: An individual, corporation, company, association, trust, or partnership.

Potable water (also known as drinking water): Water that is safe to drink or to be used for food preparation, without risk of health problems.

Private Drinking Water Well: Any dug, driven, or drilled hole, with a depth greater than its largest surface diameter constructed or used to supply water for human consumption that is not regulated by 310 CMR 22.00

Pumping (Aquifer) Test: A procedure used to determine the characteristics of a well and adjacent aquifer by installing and operating a pump.

Sand Cement Grout: A mixture consisting of Portland cement (ASTM Standard C150, Type I or API Standard 10, Class A), sand, and water in the proportion of one part cement to three or four parts sand, by volume, and not more than six gallons of water per bag (94 pounds) of cement. Up to five percent, by weight of bentonite (API Standard 13A) shall be added to reduce shrinkage.

Static Water Level: The level of water in a well under non-pumping conditions.

Structure: A combination of materials assembled at a fixed location to give-support or shelter, such as a building, framework, retaining wall, fence, or the like.

Surface Waters: is water on the surface of the ground such as lakes, streams, rivers, natural or man-made ponds, impoundments, wetlands or reservoir.

### **§201-31.1. WELL CONSTRUCTION PERMIT**

A Massachusetts Certified Well Driller shall obtain a permit from the Board of Health prior to the commencement of construction of a private well.

Each permit application to construct a well shall include the following:

- 1) The property owner's name and address.
- 2) The well driller's name and proof of valid Massachusetts certification.
- 3) A plan with a specified scale, signed by a registered surveyor or engineer, showing the location of the proposed well in relation to existing or proposed above or below ground structures.

4) a description of prior and current land uses within two hundred (200) feet of a residential site and (400) feet of agricultural, commercial, or industrial site from the proposed well location, which represent a potential source of contamination, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Existing and proposed structures;
- b) Subsurface sewage disposal systems;
- c) Subsurface fuel storage tanks;
- d) Public and private ways;
- e) Utility rights-of-way; and
- f) Any other potential sources of pollution.

5) Proof that the owner of any property abutting the applicant's property has been notified of the applicant's intention to install a well.

6) A permit fee of \$125.00 (As set annually by the Board of Health).

The permit shall be on site at all times that work is taking place. Each permit shall expire 6 months from the date of issuance unless revoked for cause or extended. Permits may be extended for one additional six (6) month period provided that a written explanation for the request is received by the Board prior to the one-year expiration date.

**\*\*Well Construction Permits are not transferable.\*\***

### **§201-31.2. WATER SUPPLY CERTIFICATE**

The issuance of a Water Supply Certificate by the Board shall certify that the private well may be used as a drinking water supply. A Water Supply Certificate must be issued for the use of a private well prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit for an existing structure or prior to the issuance of a building permit for new construction which is to be served by the well.

The following shall be submitted to the Board of Health to obtain a Water Supply Certificate:

- 1) A well construction permit
- 2) A copy of the Water Well Completion Report as required by MassDEP Well Driller Program regulations (310 CMR 46)
- 3) A copy of the Pumping Test Report required pursuant to Section VII of these regulations
- 4) A copy of the Water Quality Report required pursuant to Section VIII of these regulations

Upon the receipt and review of the above documents, the Board shall make a final decision on the application for a Water Supply Certificate. A final decision shall be in writing and shall comprise one of the following actions:

- 1) Issue a Water Supply Certificate
- 2) Deny the applicant a Water Supply Certificate and specify the reasons for the denial.

3) Issue a conditional Water Supply Certificate with those conditions, which the Board deems necessary to ensure fitness, purity, and quantity of the water, derived from that private well. These conditions may include, but not be limited to, requiring treatment and/or additional testing of the water.

### **§201-31.3. WELL SITING**

In locating a well, the applicant shall identify on a plan all potential sources of contamination, which exist or are proposed within two-hundred feet (200') of the site if residential and four hundred feet (400') if agricultural, commercial, or industrial. When possible, the well shall be located up gradient of all potential sources of contamination and shall be as far away from potential sources of contamination as possible, given the layout of the property.

No well shall be permitted for use as a potable water source unless it meets the following setback requirements:

15 feet from the property line

50 feet from public or private roadway

25 feet from right of way

50 feet from building sewer line or septic tank

100 feet from leaching field or drywell

100 feet from stable, barnyard, manure storage

15 feet from power line or overhead distribution line

50 feet from any surface water, including but not limited to wetlands

The Board reserves the right to impose minimum setback requirements from other potential sources of contamination not listed above. All such additional setback requirements shall be listed, in writing, as a condition of the well construction permit.

Each private well shall be located so that it is accessible for repair, maintenance, testing, and inspection. The well shall be completed in a water bearing formation that will produce the required volume of water under normal operating conditions.

Water supply lines shall be installed at least ten (10) feet from and eighteen (18) inches above any sewer line.

Well heads must be 18" above grade. Whenever water supply lines must cross sewer lines, both lines shall be constructed of Class 150 pressure pipe and shall be pressure tested to assure water tightness.

No private residential well, or its associated distribution system, shall be connected to either the distribution system of a public water supply system or any type of waste distribution system.

There shall only be one service by a private well. If two or more dwellings are connected to one private well it shall be treated as a public water supply by this Board and must meet all requirements for testing required by the state statute.

#### **§201-31.4. WATER QUANTITY AND PUMPING TEST**

The applicant shall submit to the Board for review and approval a Pumping Test Report. The Pumping Test Report shall include at a minimum: the name and address of the well owner, well location referenced to at least two permanent structures or landmarks, date the pumping test was performed, depth at which the pump was set for the test, location for the discharge line, static water level immediately before pumping commenced, discharge rate and, if applicable, the time the discharge rate changed, pumping water levels and respective times after pumping commenced, maximum drawdown during the test, duration of the test, including both the pumping time and the recovery time during which measurements were taken, recovery water levels and respective times after cessation of pumping, and reference point used for all measurements.

In order to demonstrate that the well capacity can provide the required volume of water, a pumping test shall be conducted in the following manner:

- 1) The volume of water necessary to support the household's daily need shall be determined using the following equation: (number of bedrooms plus one bedroom) x (110 gallons per bedroom) x (safety factor of 2) = number of gallons needed daily.
- 2) The storage capacity of the well shall be determined using the measured static water level and the depth and radius of the drill hole or casing.
- 3) The required volume shall be calculated by adding the volumes of water in (1) and (2) above. It is this volume of water that must be pumped from the well within a twenty-four (24) hour period.

The pumping test may be performed at whatever rate is desired. Following the pumping test, the water level in the well must be shown to recover to 100 percent of the pre-pumped static water level within a twenty-four (24) hour period.

Example 1: a one-bedroom house with a well six (6) inches in diameter containing 200 ft. of standing water:

- 1)  $1 \text{ bedroom} + 1 \text{ bedroom} = (2 \text{ bedrooms}) \times (110 \text{ gallons per bedroom}) \times (\text{safety factor of } 2) = 440$  gallons needed daily.
- 2) The volume of a 6-inch well is 1.5 gallons for every foot of water column length.

Therefore,  $(200 \text{ ft. of standing water}) \times (1.5 \text{ gal/ft.}) = 300$  gallons.

- 3)  $440 \text{ gallons} + 300 \text{ gallons} = 740$  gallons that must be pumped from the well in 24 hours or less to demonstrate suitable capacity. Recovery to 100% of the static water level must also occur within 24 hours after cessation of pumping.

Example 2: For a 4-bedroom house with a well that is six (6) inches in diameter containing 100 ft. of standing water:

1) 4-bedroom house + 1 bedroom = (5 bedrooms) x (110 gallons per bedroom) x (safety factor of 2) = 1,100 gallons needed daily.

2) the volume of a 6-inch well is 1.5 gallons for every foot of water volume length. Therefore, (100 ft. of standing water) x (1.5 gal/ft.) = 150 gallons.

3) 1,100 gallons + 150 gallons=1250 gallons that must be pumped from the well in 24 hours or less to demonstrate suitable capacity. Recovery to at least 85% of the static water level must also occur within 24 hours after cessation of pumping.

### **§201-31.5. WATER QUALITY TESTING**

After the construction of the well has been completed and disinfected, and prior to using it as a private drinking water well, baseline water quality testing shall be conducted.

A water sample shall be collected either after purging three (3) well volumes or following the stabilization of the pH, temperature, and specific conductance in the pumped well. The water sample to be tested shall be collected at the pump discharge or from a disinfected tap in the pump discharge line. In no event shall a water treatment device be installed prior to sampling.

Initial Water quality testing, utilizing the applicable US EPA approved method for drinking water testing, shall be conducted by a Massachusetts certified laboratory in good standing. The Massachusetts certified laboratory must not be under review or revocation from DEP. The Massachusetts certified lab must include their state issued ID number on the report and shall include analysis for the following parameters:

Alkalinity Magnesium

Ammonia Mercury

Arsenic Nitrate/Nitrite

Calcium Odor

Chloride pH

Chlorine Potassium

Color Sodium

Copper Sulfate

E. coli bacteria Turbidity

Fluoride Total Coliform Bacteria

Hardness VOC 524

Iron

Lead

Manganese

**\*\* When testing for bacteria the sample must not contain chlorine \*\*\*\***

In wells drilled into bedrock the Board of Health requires that in addition to the parameters listed above, a Gross Alpha Screen and Radon test be performed. If the Gross Alpha screen detects radiation of 15 pci/l or more, then the water must be analyzed for Radium and Uranium concentrations.

The owner of every well used for drinking water serving a property which is rented or leased shall have its water tested at a Massachusetts certified laboratory for the following chemical and bacteriological parameters at a minimum of once a year: total coliform bacteria, e. coli bacteria, nitrate, nitrite, pH, sodium, and iron. All other required chemical parameters should be tested at a minimum of every ten (10) years. The Board of Health may require more frequent testing, or testing for additional parameters, where other water quality problems are known or suspected to exist.

The owner of a rental property shall submit results of all water quality tests annually to the Board of Health and make results available to all tenants of the property. In cases where the well water does not meet the water quality standards outlined above, the Board of Health may require the property owner to provide an alternative approved source of drinking water for the tenants.

Prior to selling, conveying, or transferring title to real property, the owner shall have tested the water of every private drinking water well serving that property. A water sample from each well shall be submitted to a Massachusetts certified laboratory for testing for the parameters listed in the Water Quality section of this document. This water quality testing shall have been performed not more than one (1) year prior to transfer of the property. Results of the water quality testing shall be submitted to the Board of Health prior to property transfer.

In addition, the owner shall give copies of all available water quality test results of which he/she has knowledge (regardless of age of results) for the private well in question to any buyer and/or broker involved in the transfer. In the event that there is no buyer at the time the water is tested, a copy of all water test results must be given by the owner to the buyer before the property is put under agreement.

**\*\* For Irrigation only / other non-potable uses only wells, the Board recommends annual testing for E. coli bacteria and Nitrate/Nitrite, as accidental consumption could result in acute exposure.**

Water quality sampling for geothermal wells is not required under this regulation. Parameters required for these types of wells are specified in the MassDEP Ground Source Heat Pump permitting requirements.

The Board reserves the right to require retesting of the above parameters, or testing for additional parameters when, in the opinion of the Board, it is necessary due to local conditions or for the protection of public health, safety, welfare and the environment. All costs and laboratory arrangements for the water testing are the responsibility of the applicant.

Following a receipt of the water quality test results, the well owner shall submit a Water Quality Report to the Board, which includes:

- 1) A copy of the certified laboratory's test results
- 2) The name and contact information of the individual who performed the sampling
- 3) Where in the system the water sample was obtained

This regulation requires that private drinking water wells meet all current Massachusetts' Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards and Guidelines adopted by the MassDEP Office of Research and Standards (ORS). In any case where a private drinking water well does not meet such Standards or Guidelines, as it deems necessary for the protection of public health, safety or welfare, that the Board may take action, but not limited to, requiring the property owner to provide an alternative source of drinking water.

### **§201-31.6 WELL CONSTRUCTION**

Pursuant to 310 CMR 46.02 (1), no person in the business of digging or drilling shall construct a well unless certified by the MassDEP Well Drillers Program.

Any work involving the connection of the private well to the distribution system of the residence must conform to the local plumbing code. All electrical connections between the well and the pump controls and all piping between the well and the storage and/or pressure tank in the house must be made by a pump installer or certified well driller, including the installation of the pump and appurtenance(s) in the well or house.

It is prohibited by 310 CMR 22.22 (2) (j) to have a cross connection between a public water system and a private well used for either drinking water or irrigation purposes.

A physical connection is not permitted between a water supply, which satisfies the requirements of these regulations, and another water supply that does not meet the requirements of these regulations without prior approval of the Board.

#### **A. General Well Design and Construction**

All private wells shall be designed and constructed such that:

- 1) The materials used for the permanent construction are durable in the specific hydro-geologic environment that occurs at the well site.
- 2) No unsealed opening is being left around the well that could conduct surface water or contaminated groundwater vertically to the intake portion of the well or transfer water from one formation to another.

Permanent construction materials shall not leach or contribute toxic substances, taste, odors, or bacterial contamination to the water in the well.

The driller shall operate all equipment according to generally accepted standards in the industry and shall take appropriate precautions to prevent damage, injury or other loss to persons and property at the drilling site.

Well construction design shall ensure that surface water does not enter the well through the opening or by seepage through the ground surface. Construction site waste and materials shall be disposed of in such a way as to avoid contamination of the well, any surface water or the aquifer. During any time that the well is unattended, the contractor shall secure the well in a way as to prevent either tampering with the well and/or the introduction of foreign material into the well.

All water used for drilling, well development, or to mix a drilling fluid shall be obtained from a source, which will not result in contamination of the well or the water bearing zones penetrated by the well. Water from wetlands, swamps, ponds, and other similar surface features shall not be used.

Water shall be conveyed in clear sanitary containers or water lines and shall be chlorinated to an initial concentration between 50 mg/l and 100 mg/l. All drilling equipment including pumps and down hole tools, shall be cleaned and disinfected prior to drilling each new well or test hole.

All drilling fluids shall be nontoxic. Drilling fluid additives shall be stored in clean containers and shall be free of material that may adversely affect the well, the aquifer, or the quality of the water to be pumped from the well. Surfactants shall be biodegradable. The use of biodegradable organic polymers shall, when possible, be avoided.

All wells, including those that have been hydro-fractured, shall be developed in order to remove fine materials introduced into the pore spaces or fractures during construction. One or more of the following methods shall be used for development: over-pumping, backwashing, surging, jetting, air-lift pumping.

The completed well shall be sufficiently straight so that there will be no interference with installation, alignment, operation, or future removal of the permanent well pump.

#### B. Well casing

Private water supply wells shall be constructed using either steel or thermoplastic well casing. The casing shall be of adequate strength and durability to withstand anticipated formation and hydrostatic pressures, the forces imposed on it during installation, and the corrosive effects of the local hydro-geologic environment.

All casing used in the construction of private wells shall be free of pits, breaks, gouges, deep scratches and other defects. If previously used casing is installed, it shall be decontaminated and disinfected prior to installation.

Installation of water well casing shall be done in a manner that does not alter the shape, size, or strength of the casing and does not damage any of the joints or couplings connecting sections of the casing. A standard drive shoe shall be used when casing is installed. The drive shoe shall be either welded or threaded to the lower end of the string of casing and shall have a beveled metal cutting edge forged, cast, or fabricated for this specific purpose.

Upon completion of the installation procedure, the entire length of the casing above the intake shall be watertight.

Well casing shall not be cut off below the land surface unless a pitless adapter or a pitless unit is installed or an abandoned well is being permanently plugged. If a pitless adaptor is installed, it must be inspected annually by a licensed well professional and the report must be submitted to the Board of Health. Well casing terminating above-grade shall extend at least twelve (12) inches above the predetermined ground surface at the wellhead except when the well is located in a floodplain. When a well is located in a floodplain, the well casing shall extend at least two (2) feet above the level of the highest recorded flood. The top of the well casing shall be reasonably smooth and level

#### C. Well screen

A well screen is required for all drilled wells that are completed in unconsolidated formations. All well screens shall be of Grade 304 stainless steel. Wells completed in bedrock do not require a screen unless the bedrock formation is brittle in nature or has a potential for collapse. The well screen aperture openings, screen length, and diameter shall be selected so as not to limit the aquifer's water yielding characteristics while preventing access of soil particles that would detract from well efficiency and yield.

#### D. Grouting and sealing

Private wells drilled in bedrock shall be grouted from the ground surface or to the bottom of the pitless adaptor (if present) to fifteen (15) feet into competent bedrock. Neat cement grout, sand cement grout, or Bentonite grout shall be used. It shall have a permeability of at least  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  and be emplaced using standard grouting techniques as described in the MassDEP Private Well Guidelines, as amended.

All wells completed with the casing extending above grade shall have a surface seal designed to eliminate the possibility of surface water flowing down the annular space between the well casing and the surrounding backfilled materials. The surface seal shall extend to a depth below the local frost line.

#### E. Wellhead completion

All wells shall be equipped with a sanitary seal or watertight cap designed to prevent surface water and foreign matter from entering the well.

All wells except flowing artesian and dug wells shall be vented. The opening of the vent pipe shall be covered with a 24-mesh corrosion resistant screen and shall be large enough to prevent water from being drawn into the well through electrical conduits or leaks in the seal around the pump when the pump is turned on. The vent pipe shall terminate in a downward position at or above the top of the casing.

All connections to a well casing made below ground shall be protected by either a pitless adapter or a pitless unit that complies with the most recent revision of National Sanitation Foundation Standard Number 56, entitled "Pitless Well Adapters."

Above-grade connections into the top or side of a well casing shall be at least twelve (12) inches above the established ground surface or two (2) feet above the level of the highest known flood, whichever is higher. Above-grade connections shall be sealed so that they are watertight.

The ground immediately surrounding the well casing shall be sloped downward and away from the well in all directions to eliminate the possibility of surface water ponding.

#### F. Disinfection

Upon completion of well construction, the well driller shall disinfect the well. If a pump is to be installed immediately upon completion of the well, the pump installer shall disinfect the well and the pumping equipment after the pump has been installed.

If the pump is not installed upon completion of the well, the pump installer shall, upon installation, disinfect the well and the pumping equipment. The pump installer shall also disinfect the entire water supply system immediately after any maintenance or repair work is done on the pump.

When a well is disinfected, the initial chlorine concentration shall be 100 mg/l throughout the entire water column.

For newly constructed or altered wells in which the pump is not immediately installed, the chlorine concentration used to disinfect the well shall be 100 mg/l. Upon installation of the pump, the well, the pumping equipment, and the distribution system, if connected, shall be disinfected with a chlorine concentration of 100 mg/l.

The disinfectant solution shall remain undisturbed in the well for a minimum of two (2) hours. After all the chlorine has been flushed from the water supply system, a water sample shall be collected and submitted to a Massachusetts certified laboratory. For new wells, the sample shall be tested pursuant to Section VI of these regulations.

Only certified well drillers are authorized to physically alter or repair a well. For wells, that have undergone repair, a sample shall be tested for total coliform bacteria and any other parameters deemed appropriate by the Board, prior to being put back in use.

#### **§201-31.7. GEOTHERMAL WELLS (GROND SOURCE HEAT PUMP WELLS)**

Ground Source Heat Pump Wells installed in the Town of Chelmsford must comply with all regulations of the Mass DEP as set forth in the "Guidelines for Ground Source Heat Pump Wells"

Only Closed-Loop GSHPW systems are approved in Town. All other well types require a variance from the Board.

#### **§201-31.8. PROHIBITIONS FOR WELLS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION**

A. Surface water supplies for private water supplies shall be prohibited.

B. Cisterns shall be prohibited for human consumption.

C. Private well water systems intended as sources of potable water shall not be approved where a Public Water Line is accessible in any abutting way and where permission to tie into such water line can be obtained from the authority having jurisdiction over it. The Board of Health may require the owner or occupant of an existing building or buildings, wherever a public water line is accessible in an abutting way to cause such building or buildings to be connected with the public water line in a manner and within a period of time satisfactory to the Board of Health.

D. No dug wells allowed for potable use.

E. No Irrigation only well permit will be issued if a property is located within an aquifer protection district or the zone of influence of a municipal water well.

#### **§201-31.9. DECOMMISSIONING**

Abandoned wells, test holes, and borings shall be decommissioned so as to prevent the well, including the annular space outside the casing, from being a channel allowing the vertical movement of water.

The owner of a private well shall decommission the well if any of the following criteria are met:

1) Construction of the well is terminated prior to completion of the well

- 2) The well owner notifies the Board that the use of the well is to be permanently discontinued.
- 3) The well has been out of service for at least three (3) years
- 4) The well is a potential hazard to public health or safety and the situation cannot be corrected
- 5) The well is in such a state of disrepair that its continued use is impractical or unsafe
- 6) The well has the potential for transmitting contaminants from the land surface into an aquifer or from one aquifer to another and the situation cannot be corrected

The property owner shall ensure that that all abandoned wells and test holes or borings associated with the well installation are properly plugged before work at the site is completed. Only certified well drillers may plug abandoned wells, test holes, and borings.

Abandoned overburden wells or borings shall be completely filled with a low permeability grout, which cures with a final permeability of less than  $1 \times 10^{-7}$  cm/sec. Wells shall be plugged with neat cement grout, sand cement grout, concrete, or bentonite grout.

Regardless of the type used, the grout used for plugging shall:

- 1) Be sufficiently fluid so that it can be applied through a tremie pipe from the bottom of the well upward
- 2) Remain as a homogeneous fluid when applied to the subsurface rather than disaggregating by gravity into a two-phase substance
- 3) Be resistant to chemical or physical deterioration
- 4) Not leach chemicals, either organic or inorganic, that will affect the quality of the groundwater where it is applied

The plugging materials shall be introduced at the bottom of the well or boring and placed progressively upward to a level approximately four (4) feet below the ground surface. Sealing materials shall not be poured from the land surface into the well, borehole, or annular space being sealed.

The well driller shall install a surface seal after the well or boring has been plugged. Before the surface seal is placed, casing remaining in the hole shall be cut off. The remaining four (4) feet at the top of the well or boring shall then be filled with concrete. The top of the seal shall comprise a concrete slab above the top of the plugged well or boring. This concrete slab shall be at least six (6) inches thick and shall be at least two (2) feet greater in diameter than the well casing or borehole wall.

#### **§201-32. ENFORCEMENT**

The Board has authority to investigate suspected or known violations of these regulations and/or violations of any Water Supply Certificate conditions. The Board may take actions, as it deems appropriate, within its authority for the protection of public health, safety welfare, or the environment, and to enforce any of the provisions of this regulation.

If any investigation reveals a violation of these regulations or the Water Supply Certificate Conditions, the Board may order the private well owner to comply with the violated provision(s), and/or take other action within its authority as the Board deems appropriate.

Any Order the Board issues shall be in writing and served in the following manner:

- (a) Personally, by any person authorized to serve civil process,
- (b) By any person authorized to serve civic process by leaving a copy of the Order at the property owner's address
- (c) By sending the property owner a copy of the Order by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or
- (d) By posting a copy of the Order in a conspicuous place on or about the premises and by advertising it for at least three (3) out of five (5) consecutive days in one or more newspapers of general circulation within the municipality where the private well is located, if the property owner's last and usual place of residence is unknown or outside the Commonwealth.

### **§201-33. HEARING**

Any person to whom the Board issues an Order may request a hearing before the Board by filing with the Board within seven (7) days after the day the Order was served a written request for a hearing. Upon receipt of a hearing request, the Board shall set a time and place for the hearing and shall inform the well owner in writing. The hearing shall commence within thirty (30) days from the day on which the written request was made unless a later time is agreed to in writing by the Board and the person requesting the hearing. At the hearing the person requesting the hearing shall be given an opportunity to be heard and show why the Order should be modified or withdrawn. After the close of the hearing, the Board shall issue a written decision to sustain, modify, or withdraw the Order and shall mail a copy of the decision, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person who requested the hearing. If the Board sustains or modifies the Order, it shall be carried out within the time period allotted in the original order or in the modification.

Every notice, order, or other record prepared by the Board in connection with the hearing shall be entered as a matter of public record in the office of the clerk of the city or town, or in the office of the Board.

If a request for a hearing is not filed with the Board within seven (7) days after the day an Order has been served or if after a hearing, the Order has been sustained in whole or any part, each day's failure to comply with the order as issued or sustained shall constitute a separate violation.

### **§201-34. APPEAL**

Any person aggrieved by the final Order, Variance, Well Construction Permit, or Certificate of Water Supply determination of the Board may appeal to any court of competent jurisdiction as provided by the laws of the Commonwealth.

### **§201-35. PENALTIES**

Any person who violates any provision of these regulations, or who fails to comply with any final Order of the Board, for which a penalty is not otherwise provided in any of the Massachusetts General Laws, shall upon conviction be fined not less than twenty five (25) dollars nor more than five hundred (500) dollars. Each day's failure to comply with a final Order or any provision of this regulation shall constitute a separate violation.

#### **§201-36. VARIANCE**

The Board may, grant a variance to any provision of this regulation when, in its opinion, the enforcement would result in manifest injustice, and the applicant has demonstrated that the equivalent degree of protection will be provided without strict application of the particular provision(s) sought to be varied.

Every request for a variance shall be in writing shall state the specific provision of this regulation from which variance is sought, the reasons for seeking the variance and proof of the notice required below. The request shall also contain the information to establish manifest injustice and equivalent degree of protection. At least ten (10) days prior submission of the application to the Board, the applicant shall provide notice of their intent to the request a variance as follows: a) by certified mail, return receipt requested to all abutters of the property upon which the private well will be or is located and b) publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the town or city in which the private well will be or is located. The notice shall include at a minimum: the name and address of the applicant, a statement of the provision(s) of this regulation from which a variance is sought, and the reason for seeking the variance. Any grant or denial of a variance shall be in writing and shall contain a brief statement of the reasons for approving or denying the variance. A copy of each variance shall be conspicuously posted for thirty (30) days following its issuance and shall be available to the public at all reasonable hours in the Office of the Town Clerk or Office of the Board of Health. No work shall be done under any variance until thirty (30) days elapse from its issuance, unless the Board certifies in writing that an emergency exists.

The Board may issue a variance subject to such conditions as it deems necessary to public health, safety, welfare, or the environment. Any such conditions shall be stated in writing in the Board's grant of the variance. The Board may revoke, modify, or suspend, in whole or in part, a variance after the property owner has been notified in writing and is afforded an opportunity to be heard, pursuant to Section XI of these regulations.

#### **§201-37. SEVERABILITY**

If any provision of these regulations or the application thereof is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity shall be limited to said provision(s) and the remainder of these regulations shall remain valid and effective. Any part of these regulations subsequently invalidated by a new state law or modification of an existing state law shall automatically be brought into conformity with the new or amended law and shall be deemed to be effective immediately, without recourse to a public hearing and the customary procedures for amendment or repeal of such regulation.

#### **§201-38.1 EFFECTIVE DATE**

These regulations were originally approved by vote of the Chelmsford Board of Health, at their regularly scheduled meeting held on May 14, 2018. A public hearing was held at the June 4, 2018, regularly scheduled Board of Health meeting. Before said date of June 4, 2018, these regulations shall be published, and a copy placed on file in the Board of Health Office. These regulations were accepted by vote of the Chelmsford Board of Health at their regularly scheduled meeting on July 2, 2018, and are to be in full force and effect on and after July 2, 2018. At its hearing on August 2, 2021, the Board of Health adopted the recodification of these regulations, without making any substantive changes to the provisions herein. At its hearing on September 13, 2021, the Board of Health a adopted the recodification of these regulations, without making any substantive changes to the provisions herein. These regulations or any portions thereof may be amended, supplemented, or repealed from time to time by the Board, as provided by law and applicable regulations.

#### **§201-38.2 DISCLAIMER**

The issuance of a well permit shall not be construed as a guarantee or certification by the Board or its agents that the water system will function satisfactorily or that the water supply will be of sufficient quality or quantity for its intended use.