

Water

Water Supply Well Construction Permit

What Activities Require This Permit? The location and construction of the following types of water supply wells under the jurisdiction of the Division of Water Resources (DWR): (1) a water-well or well system with a design capacity of 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) or greater; (2) a well added to an existing system where the design capacity of the existing well system and added well will equal or exceed 100,000 gpd; and, (3) any well with a design deviation (i.e., variance) from the standards specified under 15A NCAC 02C. The design capacity of a well or well system is the amount of water needed for its intended purpose, including for drinking water, irrigation, etc. whether it is an individual well or connected to a system with a design capacity of $\geq 100,000$ gpd. In cases where the amount of water needed for a design capacity, including projected future use, will not exceed 100,000 gpd, a permit is not needed even if the well is capable of producing $\geq 100,000$ gpd of water.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? To comply with 15A NCAC 02C .0105 and protect the public welfare, safety, health and groundwater resources through proper construction and location of supply wells.

Who Issues This Permit? The N.C. Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Regional Operations Section serving the county where the wells are to be located - visit the following link for regional office contact information: <http://deq.nc.gov/contact/regional-offices>. Please note that the Environmental Health Section, Department of Health and Human Services permits the construction, repair or abandonment of [private drinking water wells](#) pursuant to G.S. 87-85 through the local health departments including variances to these well construction standards.

How Much Will This Permit Cost? Currently, there are no fees for this permit.

What Are My Payment Options for Permit Application Fees? Not applicable.

If Paying by Check, Who do I Make the Check Payable to and Where Do I Send the Check? Not applicable.

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit? Contact your local N.C. Department of Environmental Quality regional office for wells or well systems with a design capacity equal to or greater than 100,000 gpd: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/ground-water-protection/ground-water-applications> (look for the application titled "Large Capacity Water Supply Wells APPLICATION")

For wells requiring a variance from the rules use this application: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/ground-water-protection/ground-water-applications> (look for the application titled "Well Construction Variance Request 2C .0100")

How Long Will It Take To Review My Application? Permits are reviewed and issued within 15 calendar days or less, and must be issued within 15 days from receipt of a complete application.

Where Do I Submit My Application? Permit applications are submitted to the Division of Water Resources, Water Quality Regional Operations Section office serving the county where the wells are to be located: <http://deq.nc.gov/contact/regional-offices>.

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? The permit is typically valid for construction within six months following issuance of the permit, although other periods may be specific to the permit issued.

Notes/Comments: The construction, repair or abandonment of private drinking water wells requires a permit from your local health department. These types of wells include (1) private wells that serve a single residence and (2) transient non-community water supply wells that do not meet the definition of "public water supply" in 15A NCAC 18C (i.e. restaurants, churches, schools, child care facilities, and medical facilities). [Learn more](#) about private drinking water well permitting. You may also need a permit from the N.C. Division of Water Resources, Public Water Supply Section. Please refer to these associated permits within this directory or contact your local [DEQ regional office](#).

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Legal Authority/Statute Reference: G.S. 87-87; 143-215.1 and 15A NCAC 02C Section .0100.

Link: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-resources-permits/wastewater-branch/ground-water-protection/well-program>

Statewide Contact Information:

NC Division of Water Resources
Water Quality Regional Operations Section
1611 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1617
Telephone: (919) 707-9129