

ARTESIAN WATER

Groundwater in aquifers between layers of poorly permeable rock, such as clay or shale, may be confined under pressure. If such a confined aquifer is tapped by a well, water will rise above the top of the aquifer and may even flow from the well onto the land surface. Water confined in this way is said to be under artesian pressure, and the aquifer is called an artesian aquifer. In order to control the flow, these wells must be constructed differently, which will increase the costs of drilling.

DEPTH TO WATER

The depth to water is a major factor in the cost of drilling your well. Well Records and depth to water reports are available on the following website: www.ose.state.nm.us or seek information from drillers in your area. Wells should be drilled deep enough to provide a sustainable water column.

COMMENTS/COMPLAINTS

Comments or complaints regarding a well driller's performance may be submitted to the Office of the State Engineer. All complaints must include a specific and detailed description of the alleged offense, complete with name and mailing address of the person submitting the complaint, and signed by that person.

Complaints of a legal nature (contractual) can be filed with the NM Attorney General and with the Better Business Bureau at the following links:
<http://www.nmag.gov/consumer/file-a-complaint>
<http://www.bbb.org/us/Consumer-Complaints/>

USEFUL WEB-LINKS

www.ose.state.nm.us

www.nmenv.state.nm.us

www.wellowner.org

www.nmgwa.org

www.watersystemscouncil.org

www.epa.gov/safewater/privatewells

Please contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

www.ose.state.nm.us

OFFICE LOCATIONS

District I - Albuquerque:

5550 San Antonio Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109-4127
(505) 383-4000

District II - Roswell:

1900 West Second Street
Roswell, NM 88201
(575) 622-6521

District III - Deming:

321 West Spruce Street
P.O. Box 844
Deming, NM 88030
(575) 546-2851

District IV - Las Cruces:

1680 Hickory Loop, Suite J
Las Cruces, NM 88005
(575) 524-6161

District V - Aztec:

100 Gossett Drive, Ste A
Aztec, NM 87410
(505) 334-4571

District VI - Santa Fe:

407 Galisteo Street-Suite 102
P.O. Box 25102
Santa Fe, NM 87504-5102
(505) 827-6120

District VII-Cimarron:

301 East 9th Street
P.O. Box 481
Cimarron, NM 87714
(575) 376-2918

DRILLING YOUR WATER WELL



New Mexico Office of the State Engineer

Drilling your water well

This brochure provides information to the consumer about the process of obtaining a water well for domestic, livestock water and other uses.

PERMITS

Before you have a well drilled, you must first obtain a permit to drill from the Office of the State Engineer. If the source of groundwater is unclear, you may first acquire an exploratory permit. If that well produces water, you can then obtain the permit to use the water.

Unless prohibited by a local ordinance, wells to be used for domestic purposes are allowed by state law. Domestic use is the use of water for household purposes, which includes the non-commercial watering of domesticated animals and the irrigation of non-commercial lawn, garden, trees, or landscaping up to one-acre.

Permits to drill wells may also be obtained to supply water for drinking and sanitary purposes at a governmental or commercial facility and also for livestock purposes. When drilling on land not owned by you, you must first obtain written authorization to be supplied when you submit a well permit application.

The permits listed above automatically expire unless a well is completed within one year of the date of issuance of the permit. If a permit expires, a new application must be obtained from the district office before a well can be drilled. When a permit expires, you must submit a new application and an additional filing fee for a new permit.

Wells for any purpose other than those described above require a permit that is issued after the permit application is advertised. These permits may allow for a year or more to complete the well.

Be aware that if you are replacing an existing well, regulations require that you plug the old well or

meter both the old and new wells. This will increase your project cost.

LICENSED WELL DRILLER

It is unlawful to drill a water well without a well driller's license. A list of licensed well drillers is available on the Office of the State Engineer web site www.ose.state.nm.us and at each district office. The Office of the State Engineer can not recommend either for or against any particular driller. Construction requirements for water wells may be found in the Well Driller Rules (19.27.4 NMAC). Some online review sites or the Better Business Bureau might provide information on a driller's reputation.

Well repair and deepening are defined drilling activities requiring a New Mexico licensed driller to have a permit from the state engineer.

PUMP INSTALLATION

Pump installation is not considered a well drilling activity governed by the Office of the State Engineer. A well driller license is not required to install or repair pumping equipment, but may require an electrical specialty license to perform activities according to 14.6.6.9 NMAC.

CONTRACTS

An itemized business contract from a well driller may include the following: casing and sealant types, and a breakdown of costs associated with mobilization, drilling, materials, equipment, site cleanup, and applicable gross receipts tax. You should obtain a detailed schedule of payment due dates, and receipts for any payments made to a well driller.

If installation of the pump equipment is subcontracted to others, an itemized contract may specify who is responsible for warranties.

LOCATING YOUR WELL

When determining the drilling location, you need to be aware of physical obstacles:

- Fences or trees to be cut or removed
- Overhead power lines
- Leveling a drilling site, which may include clearing land
- Maintaining future access to the well

WELL SETBACKS

A new domestic well shall be set back a minimum of 50 feet from any existing well that another person owns. The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has established the following setback requirements for domestic wells (NMED's website lists additional setbacks):

Septic Tank	50 feet
Drain Field/1 st opening in leach line	100 feet
Seepage Pit	100 feet
Sewer line	50 feet

POTENTIAL COSTS INCREASES

- Difficult or deep drilling conditions
- Finding artesian water unexpectedly
- Low yielding wells
- Poor water quality
- Having to drill additional boreholes to obtain a sufficiently producing well

WELL RECORDS

The well driller is required to file a complete Well Record with the Office of the State Engineer and the permit holder no later than 20 days after drilling completion. If the Well Record is not received by the expiration date of the permit, it automatically expires and a new permit and fee will be required to drill.