



DRINKING WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION POLICY AND PROCEDURE

DWEHD-368-127-007 - Supervision of Well Drilling Activities

Effective Date: October 15, 2025

ISSUE

The statute that regulates the well drilling industry, Part 127, Water Supply and Sewer Systems, of the Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended, and rules, of the Michigan Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Code, Groundwater Quality Control Rules (R 325.1601 *et seq.*), adopted under authority of Part 127, being MCL 333.12701 *et seq.*, defines a well drilling contractor as “ ... a person ... who supervises the construction of water wells and the installation of pumps, ” R 325.1701, Rule 201, dealing with minimum qualifications of applicants for registration, states that “Well drilling experience shall have been acquired under the supervision of an active Michigan registered well driller.” The administrative rules do not define supervision, nor is it believed that it is appropriate to promulgate regulations that establish rigid criteria for supervision of employees. A contractor should have the flexibility to determine the nature and degree of supervision needed by each employee. Ultimately, the registered contractor is at risk of suspension or revocation of the certificate of registration if inadequate supervision of an employee(s) leads to violation of the state well code.

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

This policy and procedure was developed in 1998 by the former Department of Environmental Quality, Well Construction Unit. Notification was sent to water well contractors and local health departments on July 31, 1998, and was copied to the Ground Water Advisory Committee and the Michigan Ground Water Association. This topic will be included in the next statute/rule revision stakeholder process.

Stakeholders added an expiration date during the April 2015 reformat. This expiration date was removed with Water Well Advisory Committee approval on June 14, 2018.

AUTHORITY

- Michigan Public Health Code, 1978 PA 368, as amended (Act 368).
- Part 127: Groundwater Quality Control Rules promulgated pursuant to Part 127, Water Supply and Sewer Systems, of Act 368.

POLICY

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division (DWEHD), shall use the broad criterion listed below to assess adequacy of supervision when reviewing the credentials of a new applicant for registration. To ensure that an employee will satisfy the minimum field experience requirements of R 325.1701 of Part 127 to qualify for registration, “supervision” should include the following:

1. The registered contractor must be involved in the day-to-day operation of the well drilling business, except for normal vacation absence.
2. The registered contractor must provide occasional direct field supervision of drilling operations by employees and/or inspect completed installations to ensure code compliance and customer satisfaction.
3. If the registered contractor is an employee of a well drilling firm, but not the owner or business partner, the contractor must have supervisory control over employees and well drilling/pump installation practices.
4. Job estimates, billing invoices, advertisements, and other business forms shall be under the name of the registered contractor or firm, not under the employee’s name or a business name other than the name registered with EGLE DWEHD.
5. Water well records are the responsibility of the registered contractor. An unregistered individual cannot legally sign a water well record.

PROCEDURE

Table 1. Procedure Steps

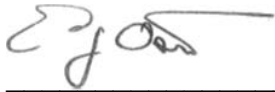
Step	Who	Does What
1	Registered Contractor/ Applicant	Follow this policy when earning and documenting field experience.
2	EGLE DWEHD staff	Apply the above policy when reviewing new registration applications.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Part 127: Water Supply and Sewer Systems, of Act 368 \(Statute\)](#)

[Part 127: Groundwater Quality Control Rules \(Administrative Rules\)](#)

APPROVING AUTHORITY



Eric J. Oswald, Director
Drinking Water and Environmental Health Division



Aaron B. Keatley, Chief Deputy Director

HISTORY

Table 2. Historical Changes

Policy No.	Action	Date	Title
ODWMA-368-127-007	Original	07/31/1998	Supervision of Well Drilling Activities
ODWMA-368-127-007	Revised	06/01/2016	Same as above
DWEHD-368-127-007	Reviewed	10/15/2025	Same as above

Next scheduled review: 09/2030

CONTACT / UPDATE RESPONSIBILITY

Any questions or concerns regarding this policy and procedure should be directed to the Source Water Unit, DWEHD, EGLE, at EGLE-EH@Michigan.gov.

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