



COLORADO

Division of Water Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction
and Pump Installation Contractors

July 10, 2025

Well Construction Rule Amendments 2025

The Colorado Revised Statutes (Title 37, Article 91) establishes, among other things, that the proper location, construction, repair, and abandonment of wells, and the proper installation and repair of pumping equipment are essential for the protection of public health and the preservation of the groundwater resources of Colorado. The Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction and Pump Installation Contractors (Board) is responsible for implementing Article 91 and adopts and amends rules and regulations accordingly.

The Well Construction Rules (Rules) establish minimum standards for well construction, pump installation, and well abandonment. These Rules aim to safeguard public health, prevent water quality impairment and groundwater contamination, and ensure the long-term safety and availability of Colorado's groundwater resources for current and future generations.

In 2022, the Board directed its Staff to initiate a stakeholding process to develop proposed changes to the 2016 version of the Rules. Over a period of approximately two and half years, the Board and Staff held numerous stakeholder meetings with representatives from the groundwater industry including water well contractors, environmental & geotechnical professionals, and others. Collectively, the participants expended considerable time and effort to reach agreement on issues and concerns, and made many compromises and adjustments to reach a reasonable and acceptable level of resource protection and public safety consistent with industry practice.

The Board held a public hearing on the proposed rule changes on May 27-29, 2025 where they heard testimony from interested parties and on May 29, the Board adopted amendments to the Water Well Construction Rules. Further information related to the Hearing and rulemaking process is available on the [Well Construction Rulemaking webpage](#).

The following table highlights some of the changes adopted by the Board and describes why the revisions were necessary.



Well Construction Rule Amendments 2025

Amendment	Reasoning
<p>Created Private Driller & Private Pump Installer Assessments to aid well owners constructing their own well or installing their own pumping equipment in accordance with applicable rules.</p>	<p>This online, open-book assessment ensures well owners have the information needed to construct a well or install pumping equipment in a way that protects public health and prevents groundwater contamination.</p>
<p>Amendments to the Well Construction Requirements for Wells Constructed in Confined (Type 1) Aquifers including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A larger minimum annular space for the placement of grout through tremie pipe or the placement of solid bentonite grout. 2. Seal all confined aquifer wells from the top of the production zone to the top of the well. 3. Remove the requirement for wells penetrating multiple confining units to be constructed with steel casing. Allow solid casing for all confined aquifer wells. 4. Allow solid granular bentonite to be used for the minimum grouting material for confined wells with the exception of the near-surface seal. 	<p>Improper construction of wells in confined aquifers poses a high risk to groundwater contamination or mixing of groundwater from different sources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increases chances for successful tremie insertion and resulting grout placement when challenges such as borehole deviation, well leaning against the borehole wall, physical obstructions, etc may exist. 2. Ensures water from all overlying aquifers or confining units do not contaminate the aquifer from which the well is producing with poor quality water. 3. Allows the driller and well owner flexibility to choose the materials and construction practices applicable to the specific aquifer in which the well will be completed. 4. Allows the driller and well owner flexibility in determining the appropriate grouting method.
<p>Amendments to the Monitoring/ Observation Hole and Well Construction Requirements including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish minimum grouting interval requirements and minimum annular space for the placement of grout. 2. Restrict filter pack to the interval being monitored. 3. Improved abandonment requirements. 	<p>Enhance monitoring/observation construction requirements to protect groundwater resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduces chances for contaminants from the surface entering the hole or well and contaminating the aquifer. 2. Prevents intermingling of water from adjacent aquifers or sources to avoid contamination and provide more accurate monitoring. 3. Protects groundwater from contamination through improperly abandoned monitoring holes or monitoring wells.