



November 5, 2018

**POLICY 2018-1**

**CONCERNING VARIANCE REQUESTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF  
HORIZONTALLY/DIRECTIONALLY-DRILLED  
MONITORING HOLES, MONITORING WELLS, AND TEST HOLES**

**Purpose**

Rule 10.4.12 requires an approved variance prior to constructing a directionally-drilled well. The purpose of this guideline is to clarify the applicability of Rule 10.4.12 to those wells constructed under a monitoring hole notice of intent, a monitoring well permit, and test holes. The requirement for vertically-drilled wells exists under Rule 10 of the Well Construction Rules while the construction requirements for monitoring holes, monitoring wells, and test holes exist under Rule 14.

**Policy**

Wells constructed in accordance with Rule 14 under a monitoring hole notice of intent, a monitoring well permit (with no intention to be converted to a water well), or test hole do not need to be constructed vertically. Therefore, those wells would not require a variance to Rule 10.4.12.

All production water wells must be constructed vertically to comply with Rule 10.4.13 and, per Rule 10.4.12, require a variance to be constructed directionally or horizontally. Additionally, those wells constructed under a monitoring well permit that will be converted to a production water well in the future must obtain a variance to Rule 10.4.12 **prior to construction** and be constructed by a licensed water well construction contractor if that well is to be directionally or horizontally constructed. Issuance of a variance for directional or horizontal completion does not guarantee a permit to convert the well will be approved and permitted by the State Engineer.

Dated this 5 day of November, 2018

Octave George Blouin, Chairperson  
Board of Examiners of Water Well Construction  
and Pump Installation Contractors



## Changes shown in **bold**

### Permit Condition: Convert monitoring well to production well

NOTE: Issuance of this permit does not guarantee that this well can be converted to a production well under a future permit. **A monitoring well can be converted to a production well only if constructed by a licensed contractor to meet the requirements of the Well Construction Rules (2 CCR 402-2) for a water supply well and provided the proper variances are approved prior to construction, if necessary.** Additionally, pursuant to Rule 14.2 of the Water Well Construction Rules (2 CCR 402-2), monitoring holes constructed pursuant to a monitoring hole notice shall not be converted to a production well. (Upon obtaining a permit from the State Engineer, a monitoring hole may be converted to a monitoring well, recovery well for remediation of the aquifer, or a dewatering system for dewatering the aquifer.)

### Monitoring Well Permit Instructions

9. Monitoring/observation wells must be constructed by a Colorado licensed well construction contractor or authorized individual, as defined in the Well Construction Rules, 2CCR 402-2. Only a licensed contractor may construct any monitoring/observation well that penetrates a confining layer, or, is to be converted into a future production well. **If the well is to be converted to a production well it must be constructed in compliance with the Well Construction Rules, unless a variance has been approved allowing an alternative construction design prior to construction.**

