

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

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Director



FY2019 Private Well Annual Report

Pursuant to Regulation 61-44
Individual Residential Well and Irrigation Well Permitting

May 5, 2020

Private Well Program Annual Report FY 2019

The Annual Private Well Program report, for the period July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, is submitted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in compliance with the reporting requirements set forth in Regulation 61-44. Additional information and resources regarding the Private Well Program may be found at:

www.scdhec.gov/environment/bureau-water/residential-wells.

Introduction

The EPA reports that approximately 15 percent of Americans rely on their own private drinking water supplies. South Carolina exceeds the national trend as slightly more than 20% of residents depend on individual wells. Proper well construction is vitally important to help ensure that the groundwater produced from individual wells is a safe and reliable source of water. The purpose of the Private Well Program is to ensure compliance with the well construction standards.

Permitting

During the reporting period, 3,609 Notices of Intent (NOIs) were submitted for residential wells and 1,071 for irrigation wells, totaling 4,680 wells. This total is 8 less than the previous year. Charleston County was the busiest county in the state with 501 approvals followed by Lexington County with 441 and York County with 420.

Fees

Fees collected during the reporting period totaled \$249,973 for residential wells and \$50,460 for irrigation wells, totaling \$300,433 for the year. This total is \$2,246 less than the \$302,679 collected for the previous year.

Inspections

DHEC well inspectors conducted 709 inspections during this period. This is 98% more inspections than the previous year. The majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71. The compliance issues that were encountered during the reporting period were satisfactorily resolved through communications with the well driller and no formal enforcement actions were necessary.