

City of Madison – Private Well Abandonment Reimbursement Program

The purpose of the Well Abandonment ordinance, Madison General Ordinance Section 13.21, is to prevent groundwater contamination of the aquifer supplying City of Madison drinking water wells from unsafe, unused, or non-complying private wells. Effective January 1, 2010, the City of Madison will offer partial reimbursement of the costs to abandon a private domestic well. Generally, the city and water utility are authorized to reimburse up to fifty percent of the cost to abandon a well, to a maximum of \$1000. Reimbursements are limited to actual realized costs to fill and seal the well, and do not include the cost to connect to City water service, if applicable. Funds are limited and some restrictions may apply.

According to city ordinance, owners of private domestic wells must obtain, through the Madison Water Utility, a well operation permit in order to operate a private well located within the City of Madison or the Madison Water Utility service area. In the absence of a valid permit, operation of the private well must cease and the well shall be properly abandoned according to state code. Proper abandonment involves pulling the pumping equipment and filling the well/borehole with an approved, impermeable material. According to state code and city ordinance, the work must be completed by a licensed well driller or pump installer, and the Madison Water Utility must be given a minimum of 48 hours notice to schedule staff to witness the abandonment.

Periodically, an unused or improperly abandoned well is identified during a home inspection. Inspections of this nature often precede the transfer of real estate ownership but may also be initiated by the Madison Water Utility. Any unused or improperly abandoned well, regardless of how it was identified, must be properly abandoned according to the provisions in Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter NR 812. Furthermore, any private well which has not been used in the preceding twelve months must also be abandoned.

The following requirements must be met before any payment will be disbursed:

- Notification to the Water Utility, at least 48 hours prior to the abandonment, in order to allow staff to witness the abandonment
- Completed and signed application
- Original paid receipt from a licensed well driller or pump installer that indicates the location where the work was completed and an itemized list of the costs
- Submit to the Madison Water Utility a copy of the well abandonment form (DNR Form #3300-005: Well / Drillhole / Borehole Filling & Sealing). The original form must be submitted to the DNR within 10 days of the abandonment.

Please mail the completed application, original dated receipt, and any required paperwork to:



Madison Water Utility
c/o Private Well Abandonment
119 East Olin Avenue
Madison, WI 53713





City of Madison Private Well Abandonment Application for Reimbursement



Please read program rules before submitting.

Applicant Information

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number – Home _____ Work/Cell _____

Well Information

Address of well (if different) _____

Additional addresses served by well (if applicable):

Location of abandoned well: Garage Basement Pit Yard

Depth of well: _____ feet

Did the abandonment involve pulling the pumping equipment? Yes No

Type & amount of material used to fill & seal well: _____

Name of licensed professional who performed the work: _____

Date of well abandonment: _____ Total cost to abandon the well: _____

Have you or do you plan to apply for a well compensation grant (income based) through the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources? Yes No

Reimbursement Agreement

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of the Well Abandonment Reimbursement Program. By signing this form, I certify that the well located at the above mentioned address was abandoned by a licensed well driller or pump installer according to requirements of Wisconsin Administrative Code, Chapter NR 812. I further certify that the requested reimbursement is for actual out-of-pocket expenses only and that, once connected to the City water supply, a new well operation permit will not be issued for the property.

Applicant Signature _____ Date _____

Water Utility Use Only:

WQ App _____ Fin App _____ Eng App _____ Amt _____ Date _____