



GROUND WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM

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Agency Reminder on Expectations and Obligations for Reporting Non-Compliance with Water Well Regulations

The Office of Conservation is issuing a reminder to all Louisiana licensed water well drillers as to the agency's expectations, and well drillers' obligations, for reporting non-compliance with state rules and regulations governing the construction, installation, notification, and registration of water wells in the state. In establishing the water well driller license, the State of Louisiana mandated, among other things such as age and technical competency, that the applicant be "of good moral character." The Office of Conservation considers professional ethics in reporting incidents of non-compliance to be a relevant aspect of this "moral character" clause and as such intends to hold water well drillers accountable to this standard.

Water well drillers and other interested parties possessing knowledge of water wells being drilled by unlicensed drillers, without confirmation of prior notification, improperly installed or plugged and abandoned, or lacking in proper registration have an obligation under their license to timely report these situations with sufficient detail to the Office of Conservation. To facilitate reporting, the agency previously established, with the support of the Louisiana Ground Water Association, a direct **Water Well Compliance Line** at **(225) 342-3019** available during regular working hours, 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., Monday-Friday, and after-hours and on holidays by routinely-checked voicemail.

Key information that is necessary for the agency to open an investigation includes: the physical location of the water well (parish, latitude/longitude, property owner, road intersections, or nearby landmarks) and the name of the water well driller or company alleged to be in non-compliance, if available.

The Office of Conservation has utilized such information to successfully open and investigate cases in the past, resulting in the issuance of compliance orders, civil penalties, and even the revocation of licenses.

The agency feels strongly that reporting such non-compliance builds goodwill among the public, who may be the victims of such "fly-by-night" work, while also strengthening the professional integrity of the water well industry by encouraging ethical business practices and active participation in pursuit of 100% across-the-board compliance with state regulations on water well installation and reporting.

For further information, contact:
Matthew Reonas
Office of Conservation
(225) 342-1496
matthew.reonas@la.gov