



Eastern Highlands Health District

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MEMO

Date: May 6, 2008

To: Well Drillers, Geothermal Heating Contractors, Homebuilders, Homeowners

From: Robert Miller, MPH, RS – Director of Health 

Re: **EHHD POLICY # 5-06-2008 - PERMITS FOR GEOTHERMAL WELLS**

Wells or boreholes drilled for closed-loop geothermal heating systems cannot be located within 75 feet of a water supply well or a subsurface sewage disposal system unless the geothermal well/borehole is constructed in accordance with recommendations and guidelines in the *Report to the Assembly - Recommendations for Regulation of Geothermal Wells (Revision 2.0 March 5, 2007)*. To ensure compliance with these recommendations and the Connecticut Public Health Code, the Eastern Highlands Health District will require the following permitting procedures to be followed for any geothermal wells drilled in our jurisdiction:

1. A Well Drilling Permit (CPR-8 Rev. 7/95 or equivalent) must be submitted to this department for review and approval prior to commencement of drilling a geothermal well/borehole within 75 feet of a water supply well or a subsurface sewage disposal system. The permit must be accompanied by our review fee of \$75.00. Well fields may be submitted under a single permit.
2. The permit location sketches must contain, in addition to information specified on the form, the locations of septic systems and water supply wells on the property, existing or proposed (or existing on adjacent properties if within distances specified below), and distances between all those and the proposed geothermal well(s).
3. If the geothermal well(s) is within 75 feet of a water supply well, or within 75 feet of a subsurface sewage disposal system, the well driller must certify in the permit remarks section or in an attached document that the "installation will conform to the Recommendations for Regulation of Geothermal Wells, Revision 2.0."
4. Permits are required for all open-loop geothermal wells – other restrictions may apply.
5. We strongly recommend that permit applications be submitted for all geothermal wells/boreholes to verify compliance with all requirements of the Public Health Code prior to drilling.

These requirements will stand until such time as the State Legislature formalizes regulations on the subject of geothermal wells. This policy is based on the procedures noted in CT DPH EHS Circular Letters 2007-11 and 2007-12 (available upon request).

Please note that drilling a geothermal well/borehole within 75 feet of either a water supply well or a subsurface sewage disposal system without first obtaining a permit constitutes a violation of Connecticut Public Health Code Section 19-13-B51d and/or the Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems, Table No. 1.

If you have questions on this, please call the health district Mansfield office at (860) 429-3325.

Copies of this and other health district policies can be downloaded from our web site at www.ehhd.org.