

# CHAPTER 93

## WELL ABANDONMENT

**93.01 Purpose**  
**93.02 Applicability**  
**93.03 Definitions**  
**93.04 Abandonment Required**

**93.05 Well Operation Permit**  
**93.06 Abandonment Procedures**  
**93.07 Penalties**

**93.01 PURPOSE.** To prevent contamination of groundwater and to protect public health, safety and welfare by assuring that unused, unsafe or non-complying wells or wells which may serve as conduits for contamination or wells which may be illegally cross-connected to the community water system, are properly abandoned.

**93.02 APPLICABILITY.** This chapter applies to all wells located on premises served by the community water system.

**93.03 DEFINITIONS.**

1. “Community water system” means a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption when such system has at least 15 service connections or regularly serves at least 25 year round residents owned or operated by a city, village, county, town, town sanitary district, utility district or public institution or a privately owned water utility serving any of the above.
2. “Non-complying” means a well or pump installation which does not comply with provisions of this chapter, in effect at the time the well was constructed, a contamination source was installed, the pump was installed or work was done on either the well or pump installation.
3. “Pump installation” means the pump and related equipment used for withdrawing water from a well including the discharge piping, the underground connections, pitless adapters, pressure tanks, pit sampling faucets and well seals or caps.
4. “Unsafe” means a well or pump installation which produces water which is bacteriologically contaminated or contaminated with substances in exceedance of the standards for drinking water established by the *Code of Iowa*, or for which a Health Advisory has been issued by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
5. “Unused” means a well or pump installation, which is not in use or does not have a functional pumping system.
6. “Well” means an excavation or opening into the ground made by digging, boring, drilling, driving, or other methods for the purpose of obtaining groundwater for consumption or other use.
7. “Well Abandonment” means the filling and sealing of a well according to the provisions of the *Code of Iowa*.

**93.04 ABANDONMENT REQUIRED.** All wells located on the premises served by the community water system shall be abandoned in accordance with the terms of this chapter no later than one year from the date of connection to the community water system unless a well operation permit has been obtained by the well owner from the system.

**93.05 WELL OPERATION PERMIT.** The community water system may grant a permit to a private well owner to operate a well for a period not to exceed five years providing the conditions of this section are met. An owner may request renewal of a well operation permit by submitting information verifying that the conditions of this section are met. The community water system, or its agent, may conduct inspections or have water quality test conducted at the applicant's expense to obtain or verify information necessary for consideration of a permit application or renewal. Permit applications and renewals shall be made on forms provided by the County Sanitarian. The following conditions must be met for issuance or renewal of a well permit:

1. The well and pump installation meet or are upgraded to meet the requirements of the *Code of Iowa*;
2. The well construction and pump installation have a history of producing bacteriologically safe water as evidenced by at least two samples taken a minimum of two weeks apart;
3. There are no cross-connections between the well and the pump installation and the community water system; and
4. The purposed use of the well and pump installation can be justified as being necessary in addition to water provided by the community water system.

**93.06 ABANDONMENT PROCEDURES.**

1. All wells abandoned under the jurisdiction of this chapter or rule shall be abandoned according to the procedures and methods of the *Code of Iowa*. All debris, pump, piping, unsealed liners and any other obstructions which may interfere with sealing operations shall be removed prior to abandonment.
2. The owner of the well, or the owner's agent, shall notify the system or town at least 48 hours prior to commencement of any well abandonment activities. The abandonment of the well shall be observed by the Superintendent of the community water system.

**93.07 PENALTIES.** Any well owner violating any provision of this chapter shall be in violation of this Code of Ordinances. If any person fails to comply with this chapter for more than 10 days after receiving written notice of the violation, the community water system may impose a penalty and cause the well abandonment to be performed and the expense to be assessed as a special tax against the property.

[The next page is 599]