



Board for Contractors

PROPOSED Guidance Document:

Contractor License Specialty Requirement for Well Abandonments

Adopted September 20, 2022

Anticipated Effective Date: January 18, 2023

Effective upon conclusion of the public comment period required pursuant to § 2.2-4002.1 of the Code of Virginia

I. Background

Department staff has received inquiries regarding the contractor license specialty requirements for well abandonments of Class IIIC wells under 12VAC5-630-360. Traditionally, the abandonment of these wells has been performed by contractors with the water well/pump contracting (WWP) specialty.

II. Issue

Section 54.1-1128 of the Code of Virginia defines a “water well systems provider” as:

“...any individual who is certified by the Board in accordance with this article and who is engaged in drilling, installation, maintenance, or repair of water wells, water well pumps, ground source heat exchangers, and other equipment associated with the construction, removal, or repair of water wells, water well systems, and ground source heat pump exchangers to the point of connection to the ground source heat pump.”

Section 18VAC50-22-30 of the Board for Contractors regulations defines “water well/pump contracting” as

“the service that provides for the installation of a water well system, including geothermal wells, which includes construction of a water well to reach groundwater, as defined in § [62.1-255](#) of the Code of Virginia, and the installation of the well pump and tank, including pipe and wire, up to and including the point of connection to the plumbing and electrical systems. No other classification or specialty service provides for construction of water wells. This regulation shall not exclude the PLB, ELE, or HVA classification from installation of pumps and tanks.”

During the course of an excavation of property, the contractor with the highway/heavy contractor (H/H) classification may uncover wells that need to be properly abandoned to ensure they are not a danger to the public.

III. Board Guidance

The Board provides the following guidance:

A licensed contractor with the H/H classification is allowed to properly abandon a Class IIIC bored/drilled well in accordance with Virginia Department of Health regulations when performing site work.

The Virginia Board for Contractors will be taking public comment on this proposed guidance document. A 30-day comment period will begin on December 19, 2022.

If you wish to comment on the proposed guidance document, you may do so via the Town Hall website or you may submit written comments so that they are received before the end of the 30-day comment period to:

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