

State Engineer's Office Advises Early Application for Ground Water Permits

If you anticipate applying for a ground water permit to drill a water well or develop a spring, be advised that the State Engineer's Office – Ground Water Division is currently experiencing 5 to 6 weeks to process an application from start to finish. Note: you must have an approved permit before you begin drilling a well or developing a spring. Typically, the agency seeks to complete permit application review procedures in 30 days or less. However, staff availability and procedural modifications are extending review times somewhat in the near term. Please bear with us as we work through this process to improve and expedite your permit application review and approval. We hope to return to more typical processing times as soon as possible.

Prospective appropriators can minimize the amount of time it takes to process their application by insuring the U.W. 5 form, "*Application for Permit to Appropriate Ground Water*", is completed correctly. Defective applications will be returned to the applicant, effectively extending processing times. Incomplete applications require more processing time if applicants must be contacted to obtain missing information.

Also, remember to include the correct application fee. As of May 1, 2009, the application fees for ground water permits increased to the following:

Domestic and/or stock use wells	\$50.00
Irrigation, municipal, industrial, and miscellaneous use wells	\$75.00
Coalbed natural gas wells	\$50.00 (unchanged)

As of July 1, 2008, Wyoming Statute 33-42-101 through 33-42-117 requires most water well drilling and pump installation activities to be conducted by a licensed Wyoming Water Well Contractor. You can conduct an electronic search for a licensed contractor at http://seo.state.wy.us/wrdb/WDPI_search.aspx or call the Ground Water Division for assistance at (307) 777-6163. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

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