

TITLE III – HEALTH REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 33

NONPUBLIC WATER WELLS

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PURPOSE: To protect the health of Warren County residents by protecting the quality of drinking water from nonpublic water wells and/or by implementing State standards for nonpublic water fairly.

33.01 DEFINITIONS. For use in this chapter, the following terms are defined:

1. “County Sanitarian” means the Warren County Sanitarian.
2. “Nonpublic Water Well” means any well having fewer than fifteen (15) service connections or serving water to fewer than twenty-five (25) people.
3. “Water Well” means an excavation that is drilled, cased, bored, augured, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or otherwise constructed for accessing ground water.

33.02 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.

1. Safe Water Supply Required. Any dwelling or structure occupied by humans located within the County shall have an approved, safe water supply and/or system for human consumption.
2. State Code Adopted. All nonpublic water wells constructed or undergoing major rehabilitation or reconstruction in the County after the effective date of these regulations, shall meet all standards and specifications established in the latest edition of the Iowa Administrative Code, 567, Chapter 49 “Nonpublic Water Wells” as well as regulations promulgated in this chapter of the Board of Health Regulations.
3. Permit Required. Before any nonpublic water well is constructed, or existing well reconstructed, a permit shall be obtained from the County Sanitarian and inspection of the site must be performed by the County Sanitarian.

4. Connection to Public Water Supply. No nonpublic water well shall be constructed where a public water supply system is reasonably accessible unless approved by the County Sanitarian.

33.03 PERMIT REQUIREMENTS.

1. Application. Any person desiring a permit must file with the Board of Health an application on forms available at the office of the County Sanitarian. Said application shall state the owner's name and address, location of the well and such other information as is required by the Board of Health and the Iowa Administrative Code 567, Chapter 38. All other requirements of said Chapter 38 must also be met.
2. Permit Fee. Upon approval of the application by the County Sanitarian, the permit will be issued following the payment of a fee of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) made payable to the County Treasurer.
 - A. An additional permit fee set by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in an amount prescribed by that organization by adoption of State code shall also be paid.
3. Permit Posted. The permit must be maintained on the site before and during construction.
4. Validity. Permits shall be valid for a maximum of twelve (12) months from the date of issuance, during which time the nonpublic water well shall be completed.

33.04 INSPECTION.

1. Notification. A site inspection must be done by the County Sanitarian prior to beginning construction or issuance of the permit. A second inspection is required upon completion of the well. Both inspections shall be performed by the County Sanitarian who must be notified orally by telephone, or in writing not less than twenty-four (24) hours between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday, before the final inspection is to be performed.
2. Construction Details and Drawing. Upon completion of the well, the contractor shall supply well construction details to the County Sanitarian. A drawing must be submitted to the satisfaction of the County Sanitarian showing the exact location of the well. This location shall be dimensioned from two (2) fixed corners of the dwelling or other structure.

3. Disinfection and Analysis. Following the construction the well shall be disinfected. Before the well water is used, a water sample must be sent to the University Hygienic Laboratory or other approved laboratory and analyzed for bacteria and nitrates. The well may not be used until the County Sanitarian has received a copy of the lab report certifying the safety of the water.

33.05 ABANDONED WELLS. All abandoned wells within the County shall be plugged according to the requirements and schedule set forth in the Iowa Administrative Code 567, Chapter 39.

33.06 GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP WELLS.

1. Construction will meet or exceed manufacturer recommendations.
2. Permit process shall be as follows:
 - a. When obtaining a permit to install a geothermal heat pump system, the contractor or homeowner must apply for a permit within the Warren County Environmental Health office prior to construction.
 - b. The permitted party shall receive a designated marker supplied by the Warren County Environmental Health Department, to mark the location of the wells.
 - c. The Department shall be given no less than 24 hour notice to perform a pre-site inspection of the flagged area prior to well construction.
3. Construction process shall be as follows:
 - a. The Department shall be given no less than 24-hour notice that the drilling process has begun to perform an onsite drilling inspection.
4. The Department shall be notified no less than 24 hours prior to pressurization of the Geothermal Heat Pump system with the State approved antifreeze solution on site during the final hook up, to perform a final inspection.
5. The fee for obtaining a permit to install a geothermal heat pump system shall be \$150.00. The additional IDNR fee still applies.
6. These rules apply only to vertical geothermal heat pump systems.

33.07 APPEAL. Any person who feels aggrieved by any notice or order made by the County Sanitarian or the Board of Health shall have the right to appeal to the Board of Health at the next regular meeting. The Board of Health by majority vote may modify, withdraw, or order compliance with said notice or order.

33.07 SPECIAL PENALTY. Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500.00 or by imprisonment of not more than 30 days. In addition thereto, such persons may be enjoined from continuing such violations. Each additional day of neglect or failure to comply with such provision, rule, or lawful order after notice of violation by the Board of Health shall constitute a separate offense.