

LEE COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING LEE COUNTY ORDINANCE NO. 16-06 RELATING TO THE LEE COUNTY WELL CODE; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT TO COUNTY ORDINANCE, PURPOSE AND SHORT TITLE, AND ADOPTION BY REFERENCE: FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO WELLS; PROVIDING FOR TERRITORIAL SCOPE; DEFINITIONS; WELL USE CLASSIFICATIONS; ESTABLISHMENT OF A WELL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD; PROVIDING FOR COMPLAINTS, MEDIATIONS, FORMAL HEARING PROCESS, AND APPEALS; LICENSING; PROVIDING FOR PERMITTING PROCEDURES; PROVIDING FOR GEOTECHNICAL BORINGS AND PERMITS, TEST WELL REQUIREMENTS; DRILLING INSPECTORS AND INSPECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS, BORINGS, AND SHAFT HOLES; SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS; ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS; INCORPORATION OF APPENDICES FOR A WELL CODE PROCEDURES MANUAL (“A”) AND CONTRACTOR’S DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES (“B”); PROVIDING FOR CONFLICTS; SEVERABILITY, INCLUSION IN THE LEE COUNTY CODE, SCRIVENER’S ERRORS; AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND MODIFICATIONS THAT MAY ARISE FROM CONSIDERATION AT PUBLIC HEARING.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners is the governing body in and for Lee County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the importance of safeguarding water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners further appreciates the need for the development and maintenance of better well drilling and standardizing drilling and other practices; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners recognizes the Agreement between Lee County and South Florida Water Management District, dated September 13, 2005, wherein Lee County received a delegation of authority from the South Florida Water Management District; and

WHEREAS, Lee County Ordinance 16-06, also known as the Well Code, regulates well drilling activities in Lee County; and

WHEREAS, the Well Code set forth provisions for the issuance of specialty local licenses for geotechnical soil boring contractors and elevator shaft contractors; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature enacted House Bill 735 in the 2021 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 735 preempted occupational licensing to the state and provided a sunset date for existing local government licensing of occupations of July 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 735 provided that local governments may not require a person to obtain a license for a job scope which does not substantially correspond to the job scope of one of the contractor categories licensed by the state; and

WHEREAS, local geotechnical soil boring licenses and elevator shaft licenses substantially correspond to the job scopes of the water well contractor license offered by the state; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners finds that it is desirable to grandfather existing local license holders for geotechnical soil boring contractors and elevator shaft contractors; and

WHEREAS, several additional amendments are necessary to the Well Code to update rules and allow changes necessitated by new industry practices that have changed since adoption of the previous ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners seeks to revise the Well Code to be consistent with recent changes in State law and to update rules and allow changes necessitated by new industry practices.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA that:

SECTION ONE: AMENDMENT TO COUNTY ORDINANCE

Lee County Ordinance 16-06, otherwise known as the Lee County Well Code, is hereby amended as follows with strikethrough identifying deleted text and underline identifying new text.

SECTION TWO: PURPOSE AND SHORT TITLE

This Ordinance is known and will be cited as the Lee County Well Code (“Well Code”). This Ordinance provides the very minimum requirements for safeguarding life, health and public welfare by regulating design, construction, alteration, repair, equipment, location, maintenance, and plugging of wells, borings, and elevator shafts in Lee County. The Well Code is dedicated to development and maintenance of better well drilling practices, to safeguarding water resources and to standardize drilling and related practices.

SECTION THREE: ADOPTION BY REFERENCE: FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE RELATING TO WELLS

The Board hereby adopts by reference and incorporates herein, as a part of this Ordinance, all applicable provisions of Chapters 40E-3, 62-532, 62-555 and 64E-8, Florida Administrative Code, [and Chapter 373 Florida Statutes](#) as may be amended from time to time. In the event of a conflict between state regulations and this Ordinance, the more stringent requirement must be applied.

SECTION FOUR: TERRITORIAL SCOPE

This Ordinance shall be applicable in all areas of Lee County where no other such regulatory programs are administered by another delegated agency or municipality.

SECTION FIVE: DEFINITIONS

The following words, terms, and phrases defined below, when used in the Well Code, have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning. Undefined words, terms, and phrases shall have their common meanings, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning.

ABANDONED WELL – means a well having any one or more of the following characteristics:

1. without a valid South Florida Water Management District ([hereinafter referred to as](#) SFWMD) Water Use Permit; or
2. whose construction does not meet [current](#) State or County standards; or
3. which is not approved by Lee County Division of Natural Resources (hereinafter referred to as DNR) within 90 days of inspection completion; or
4. whose purpose or use has been permanently discontinued; or
5. which is in ~~a~~ such a state of disrepair that its purpose cannot be reasonably achieved; or
6. acts as a source of ground water contamination; or
7. ~~that~~ is detrimental to water resources of the DNR or ~~South Florida Water Management District (hereinafter referred to as~~ SFWMD).

AFTER-THE-FACT INSPECTION – means an inspection conducted where one or more of the critical stages of well construction were not witnessed by a DNR well inspector.

ANNULUS OR ANNULAR SPACE – means any artificial void created during construction of a borehole, or existing between a well casing and a borehole wall, or between an inner and an outer casing.

APPROVED – means approved by the DNR or other authority having jurisdiction over the proposed activity.

APPROVED MATERIALS – means materials specified by Chapter 40E-3, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), as it may be amended from time to time, and as otherwise specified in this Ordinance.

AQUIFER – means a geologic formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains sufficient saturated permeable material to yield useful quantities of groundwater to wells, springs, or surface water.

ARTESIAN WELL – means any artificial hole in the ground from which water supplies may be obtained and which penetrates any water-bearing rock, the water of which is raised to the surface by natural flow, or which rises to an elevation above the top of the uppermost confining unit. Artesian wells are defined further to include all holes, drilled as a source of water, that penetrate any water-bearing beds that are a part of the artesian water system of Florida, through impermeable strata into strata receiving water from an area at a higher altitude than that of the well, so that there is sufficient pressure to force water to flow upwards.

ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE – means ~~he~~ the practice of increasing by artificial means the amount of water that enters a groundwater reservoir.

BENTONITE – means a material used in the drilling industry and available in the following different grades:

Non-drilling grade: Specially processed, coarse ground bentonite, or

Drilling grade: Specially processed, fine-ground bentonite used in the make-up of drilling mud and as an additive to cement grout.

BOARD - means the Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida.

CASING DIAMETER – (also referred to as “diameter of casing”) means the largest nominal permanent water-bearing casing. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the diameter of the casing at the upper terminus will be presumed to be the diameter for the entire length, unless the well owner or Contractor can demonstrate that the well has a smaller diameter of permanent water bearing casing below the upper terminus.

CATHODIC PROTECTION WELLS - also known as “deep groundbeds,” means those devices widely utilized and installed to protect metallic objects in contact with the ground from electrolytic corrosion, particularly structures within the oil, natural gas and water industries.

CONSOLIDATED – means a geologic stratum, which is cemented with a binding substance commonly derived from within the deposit containing that stratum.

CONTRACTOR – See definition for Water Well Contractor.

CONSTRUCTION OF WATER WELLS – means all parts and acts necessary to obtain or dispose of water by wells, including the location and excavation of the wells, but excluding the installation of pumps and pumping equipment.

CRITICAL STAGES – means the stages of well construction considered by the DNR to be critical for insuring and independently determining that a well is properly constructed. These critical stages of well construction are summarized as follows:

Drilling the well borehole to the depth that the well casing(s) will be installed;

Installation of the well casing(s) to the desired casing depth(s);

Installation of the well casing(s) annular space grout seal(s); and

Drilling the well borehole to the total depth that the well will be constructed (i.e. drilling open hole of the well or production interval).

DIRECTOR - means the Director of the Lee County Division of Natural Resources, or any other Division as designated by the Board; or his/her duly authorized representative, who the authority is charged with the administration and enforcement of the Ordinance.

DIRECT PUSH – means a rig that pushes tools into the ground for retrieving soil samples or for retrieving water samples by construction of a monitor well.

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES – means APPENDIX “B,” entitled “Well Contractor’s Disciplinary Guidelines,” attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and specifies procedures, fines and penalties for selected violations.

DNR – means the Lee County Division of Natural Resources.

DOMESTIC WELL – means a water supply well installed and utilized to provide water for a residential dwelling unit and where, if multiple residential dwelling units are supplied, not more than one unit is utilized as a rental unit. A domestic well may also be utilized as an irrigation source.

DRILLER – means any person working under the direct supervision of a licensed water well contractor, who actually operates a drill rig to construct, repair or abandon a well, boring or an elevator shaft.

DRILLING EXPERIENCE – means the physical operation of a drilling rig under the direct supervision of a licensed water well contractor for the purposes of construction, repair and abandonment of wells, borings, or elevator shafts.

DRIVE SHOE – means any device specifically designed, fabricated, and installed to protect the bottom end of a water well casing from collapse or other damage while the casing is being driven into place.

ELEVATOR SHAFT – means a double-cased and grouted hole constructed into the earth's surface to provide for the movement of hydraulic rams used to lift and lower elevator cars.

ELEVATOR SHAFT SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR – means a Lee County [locally](#) licensed drilling contractor with an elevator shaft specialty drilling license.

EMERGENCY NEED – means the need to install a replacement water supply well, not including an irrigation well, in response to failure of an existing water supply well to yield water, where the existing well failure has resulted in a loss of water supply and no temporary water supply is readily available to the residential or commercial user.

EXISTING WELL INSPECTION – means an inspection performed by DNR staff to confirm compliance of an existing well with the requirements of this Ordinance and Lee County Administrative Code AC-12-4.

EXTERNAL FEE MANUAL – means Section 11-0 of the External Fees & Charges Manual contained in Lee County Administrative Code AC-3-10.

FIRE WELL – means a well installed and utilized solely for providing water supply sufficient for firefighting purposes.

FLY ASH – [Fly ash or flue ash, and also known as pulverized fuel ash, or coal combustion residuals \(CCRs\), is a coal combustion product that is composed of the particulates \(fine particles of burned fuel\) that are driven out of coal-fired boilers together with the flue gases.](#)

GEOTECHNICAL BORING – Also referred to as a test boring, a test hole, or a standard penetration test, means a boring performed with a boring or direct push drilling rig to obtain data for engineering studies; seismicographic, geophysical, or geological exploration; and data on subsurface conditions for engineering design or prospecting for minerals.

GEOTECHNICAL BORING SPECIALTY CONTRACTOR – means a Lee County [local](#) licensed drilling contractor with a geotechnical boring specialty drilling license.

GEOHERMAL CLOSED LOOP SYSTEMS – means a system that uses water and an antifreeze solution circulated through a closed-loop system of pipes buried in the earth commonly referred to as a loop field. The solution acts as a medium for heat transfer. These loops are heat fused at the joints and pressurized. (The loop field is what sets these systems apart from conventional heating and cooling equipment.)

GEOHERMAL WELLS – means a combination of a supply well and an injection well installed to utilize the natural thermal characteristics of groundwater for heating and

cooling. Groundwater withdrawn by geothermal wells does not typically result in changes in water quality or consumptive use (i.e., the same quality and quantity of water withdrawn from the supply well ~~are~~ is returned to the same aquifer through the injection well).

GROUNDING ROD BORING – means a borehole constructed for installation of a metallic rod into the earth for the purpose of short circuiting electrical power or protection against accidental electrocution.

GROUND WATER – means the water that occurs beneath the land surface in which the pore spaces in the subsurface formations are fully saturated and under atmospheric or greater pressure.

GROUTING MATERIAL – means one of the following mixtures used for grouting or plugging annulus or annular space created during a permitted activity:

Portland or Portland type 1L cement grout, with additives that must be pre-hydrated prior to mixing with cement; or

Neat Cement Grout – Portland or Portland type 1L cement without additives; or

Any other grouting material approved in writing by the DNR.

GROUTING OF WELLS – means the placement of grout material in the annulus or annular space of a well from the bottom of the casing to ground level so as to prohibit the movement of ground water from one aquifer to another. Grouting may be by tremie pipe or pressure method, whichever is appropriate.

HORIZONTAL WELL – means an excavation, into which a fabric covered, perforated or slotted casing is laid horizontally for the purpose of withdrawing ground water. Withdrawals are made through vertical risers at either end of the horizontal section. Risers are constructed and grouted in accordance with this Code.

INJECTION WELL – means a well designed and constructed for the purpose of pouring or pumping water, or some other liquid, into a ground water formation.

IRRIGATION WELL – means a well installed and utilized solely for providing water to irrigate landscaping or agricultural crops.

LEE COUNTY WELL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD (also referred to as the Well Construction Advisory Board or Advisory Board) - means a volunteer board or committee whose members are appointed by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners of Lee County, Florida, to advise the Director concerning the administration of this Ordinance and the regulation of the drilling industry and other such duties as may be established in this Ordinance.

LOWER TAMiami AQUIFER – means the water-bearing formation typically occurring immediately below the first regional confining zone (“green clay layer”) in south Lee County

as delineated on Plate 13 of the Lee County Water Management Project, October 5, 1988, completed by James M. Montgomery Consulting Engineers, Inc., or as depicted on a more recent study acceptable to the DNR.

MONITORING WELL (also referred to as observation well) - means a well used for monitoring the quality of water, fluctuation of water levels, or other purposes concerning hydrologic conditions.

NEAT CEMENT GROUT – means a mixture consisting of water and Portland [or Portland type 1L](#) cement (American Concrete Institute Types I, II, or III), without additives, or other types of cement as approved by the DNR and having maximum allowable 6 gallons of water per bag of Portland [or Portland type 1L](#) cement (a mixture consisting of water and Portland [or Portland type 1L](#) cement - American Concrete Institute Type I or American Concrete Institute Type III), or other approved types of cement and acceptable amounts of those additives approved for use in cement grouts by the permitting authority. [Fly Ash is not permitted for use as an additive.](#)

NON-ARTESIAN WELL OR WATER-TABLE WELL – means a well in which the water does not arise above the source bed; (i.e., a drive point or dug well, or other well which does not penetrate a confining bed).

PERSON – means any and all persons, including, but not limited to, any individual, firm, association, organization, partnership, business, trust, corporation, company or governmental agency.

PIEZOMETERS – means a device used to measure static liquid pressure in a system by measuring the height to which a column of the liquid rises against gravity, or a device which measures the pressure (more precisely, the piezometric head) of groundwater at a specific point.

PRIVATE WATER SYSTEM WELLS – means wells that are being used to produce water for human consumption and other domestic purposes serving one or two single-family residences, one of which may be rental. A multi-family water system serves three or four residences, one of which may be rental.

PROCEDURES MANUAL – means “Appendix A,” entitled “[Lee County Well Code](#) Procedures Manual for Issuance of Permits for Well Construction and Abandonment,” attached hereto and incorporated herein, and provides more details as to selected methods, materials, procedures and policies that are described, in general terms, in the Lee County Well Code.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY WELL – means a well serving a public water supply system.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM – means any system having at least 15 service connections or serving an average of at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year or a Limited Use Commercial/Community Public Water Systems (LUCPWS).

RECOVERY WELL – means a well constructed for the purpose of allowing free-product hydrocarbons or other contaminants to be withdrawn from the groundwater.

RE-INSPECTION – means additional inspections due to untimely cancellations of proposed work, violations or non-compliance, which are required during or after the construction has been completed.

REPAIR – means any action which involves the physical alteration or replacement of any part of a well, acidizing, but does not include the alteration or replacement of any part of a wellhead, which must be maintained at a minimum of 12 inches above finished grade.

REPEAT VIOLATION – means a violation of a provision of this Ordinance or of Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C., by a person who has been previously found by the DNR, Well Construction Advisory Board, or any other quasi judicial or judicial process, to have violated or who has admitted violating the same provision within 5 years prior to the violation, notwithstanding the violation occur at different locations.

REPLACEMENT WELL – means a well intended to replace an existing well, installed for the same purpose or use as the existing well.

SFWMD – means the South Florida Water Management District.

SAND-POINT WELL – means any device which is driven and/or washed into place in unconsolidated surficial earth materials, and which consists of a pipe with an attached perforated or screened end, designed to permit the passage of water.

SITE PLAN – [a plan-view drawing, drawn to scale or with actual dimensions noted, of the subject property and the surrounding area, which locates the water source and system, existing and proposed major contaminant sources within one-thousand \(1,000\) feet, existing and proposed minor contaminant sources within two-hundred \(200\) feet, the slope of land between the water and contaminant sources, and the location of existing and proposed structures on the property. The site plan shows all easements encumbering the property.](#)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS – means specific permit conditions included in the Well Construction Permit to insure compliance with intentions of this Ordinance or Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C.

SPECIALTY LICENSE – means Lee County [local](#) contractor licenses issued specifically for the installation of geotechnical [soil](#) borings or elevator shafts.

TEST WELL, BORING, OR ELEVATOR SHAFT – means any well, boring, or shaft constructed for the purpose of obtaining data for engineering and/or seismography, geophysical or geological exploration; prospecting for minerals or products of mining or quarrying; or for placement of hydraulic rams, but not for the purposes of either producing or disposing of water.

TREMIE PIPE – means a pipe or tubing of smaller diameter relative to the well casing pipe utilized for the emplacement of grout for sealing the annulus or annular space.

UNDERGROUND FORMATION – means any subsurface stratum or strata, consolidated or unconsolidated, lying beneath the surface of the ground.

VIOLATION – means non-compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance, F.A.C. Chapters 40E-3, 62-532, 62-555 F.S., 64E-8, or §373.323 F.S.

WATER OR WATERS OF THE COUNTY – means any and all water on or beneath the surface of the ground, including natural or artificial watercourses, lakes, ponds, or diffused surface water and water percolating, standing, or flowing beneath the surface of the ground, as well as all coastal waters within the geographical boundaries of Lee County.

WATER/MONITORING WELL – means any excavation beneath the earth’s surface that is drilled, cored, washed, driven, dug, jetted or otherwise constructed when the intended use of such excavation is for the location, monitoring, acquisition, development, or artificial recharge of ground water, but such term does not include wells for the purpose of obtaining or for prospecting for oils, natural gas or minerals.

WATER WELL CONTRACTOR (also referred to hereinafter in this Ordinance as Contractor) – means any person actively engaged in the business of the construction, repair or abandonment of wells, with a valid State of Florida Water well contractor license.

WELL – means a well meeting the minimum requirements for a well system as set forth in Chapter 64E-8, F.A.C., or any successor regulation to Chapter 64E-8, F.A.C., which regulations prescribe minimum water quality standards for uses similar to those covered by Chapter 64E-8, F.A.C.

WELL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD (or Advisory Board) – See Lee County Well Construction Advisory Board.

WELL DEVELOPMENT – means the aggressive, forceful and vigorous withdrawal of residuals from a well, usually through pumping compressed air, following drilling a borehole, performed in a manner that ensures complete removal of drilling mud, drill cuttings and other debris present in the well.

SECTION SIX: WELL USE CLASSIFICATIONS

6.1 GENERAL.

For the purposes of this Ordinance, every new and existing well shall be classified according to use, purpose, size and land use as described hereinafter.

6.2 WELL CLASSIFICATIONS AND TYPES.

- (1) Domestic Well
- (2) Irrigation Well
- (3) Test Well
- (4) Public Water Supply Well (includes LUCPWS wells)
- (5) Monitoring Well
- (6) Injection Well
- (7) Piezometer Well
- (8) Fire Well
- (9) Test Boring or Geotechnical Boring
- (10) Elevator Shaft (includes outer casing and grouting)
- (11) Geothermal Well (combination of supply and injection wells)
- (12) Replacement Well
- (13) Grounding Rod Boring
- (14) Recovery Well
- (15) Horizontal Well
- (16) Geothermal Holes
- (17) Cathodic ~~protection wells~~ [Protection Wells](#)
- (18) [Air Sparge Well](#)
- (19) [Cone Penetration Test \(CPT\) or Direct Cone Penetration Test](#)

6.3 LAND USE CLASSIFICATIONS.

- (1) Single-Family
- (2) Duplex
- (3) Multiple-Family
- (4) Commercial
- (5) Farm
- (6) Other

SECTION SEVEN: COMPLAINTS, MEDIATIONS, FORMAL HEARING PROCESS AND APPEALS

7.1 WELL CONSTRUCTION ADVISORY BOARD.

This Ordinance hereby creates the Lee County Well Construction Advisory Board, also referred to as the Well Construction Advisory Board or Advisory Board.

The Advisory Board shall be composed of 5 members. The Advisory Board members with following qualifications appointed by resolution by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and shall be comprised as follows:

Three licensed water well contractors actively engaged in well construction in Lee County and whose ~~license is~~ [licenses are](#) in good standing

One member from the Lee County Health Department, Environmental Engineering Division; and

One member from the South Florida Water Management District.

7.2.4 OFFICERS, QUORUM, AND RULES OF PROCEDURE.

1. Each January, the membership of the Advisory Board shall elect a Chairperson and, Vice Chairperson from among the Advisory Board members. Officers' terms shall be for 1 year with eligibility for re-election.
2. The presence of 4 or more members shall constitute a quorum of the Advisory Board necessary to take action and transact the business of the Advisory Board.
3. The Advisory Board shall, by majority vote of the entire membership, establish rules and regulations for its own procedures consistent with Lee County codes and ordinances, and adopt rules of procedure for the transaction of business.
4. The Advisory Board will meet at regular intervals as determined by the Chairman, but not less than once a month unless a good cause is shown.
5. All meetings will be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.
6. The Director of the DNR, or his/her designee, will act as an *ex officio* secretary of the Advisory Board and will keep minutes of all meetings. An audio recording of the meeting will constitute the official record of the proceedings for any appeal purposes. Any person desiring to appeal a decision of the Advisory Board may request a transcript of the proceedings. The cost of transcription is the responsibility of the requesting party.
7. Copies of all Advisory Board minutes, *resolutions*, reports and exhibits will be posted on the internet for review by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners and the general public.
8. All Advisory Board meetings shall be open to the public.
9. The Advisory Board shall comply with all Florida laws and rules relating to "Government in the Sunshine" (Chapter 286, F.S.), public records (Chapter 119, F.S.), and public officials (Chapter 112, F.S.).
10. Members of the Advisory Board shall serve without compensation.

7.3 FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD.

The functions, powers and duties of the Advisory Board shall be as follows:

1. The Advisory Board has the authority to conduct hearings and make final determinations related to all matters arising from violation of any part of this ordinance.
2. The Advisory Board shall hear appeals of denial of permits, orders to plug or rehabilitate wells and other matters as set forth herein. The Advisory Board shall advise the DNR on licensed applicants, content of licensing examination, quality of workmanship when a complaint is placed on a licensee, ~~or~~ and well construction problems.
3. The Advisory Board shall recommend amendments to this Ordinance, and shall have all other duties as prescribed under this Ordinance or any amendments thereto.
4. The Advisory Board members will have equal voting rights on all issues before the Board.

7.4 REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP.

Any member of the Advisory Board may be removed from membership with or without cause, by a majority vote of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners. If any member of the Advisory Board fails to attend more than one-half of the Committee's meetings during any 6-month period without a satisfactory excuse or if a member is absent from more than one-half of the Advisory Board's meetings, the Advisory Board may declare the member's seat to be vacant and the vacancy shall be filled by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners.

7.5 TERMS OF APPOINTMENT.

Each designated member shall serve for 3 years. Thereafter, each appointment or reappointment shall be for a term of 3 years. Appointments to fill any vacancies on the Advisory Board shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.

7.6 ADVISORY BOARD DISCIPLINARY HEARING PROCEDURES.

(See attached APPENDIX "B" for Disciplinary Action Procedures Flow Chart).

7.7 COMPLAINTS.

1. All complaints involving a violation of this ordinance are to be filed with the DNR. The DNR is responsible for the investigation of a complaint only if it is in writing and legally sufficient.

2. A complaint is legally sufficient if it contains the necessary facts to indicate a probable violation of this ~~ordinance~~Ordinance. During review for legal sufficiency, either the Advisory Board or the DNR may request additional documentation or information from the complainant. If there is a question as to whether the complaint is legally sufficient, the final determination will be made by the Lee County Attorney's Office.
3. The Advisory Board or the DNR may investigate an anonymous complaint if:
 - (a) It is in writing;
 - (b) It is legally sufficient;
 - (c) The alleged violation is substantial; and
 - (d) The DNR has reason to believe, after preliminary inquiry, that the violation alleged in the complaint is true.
4. Either the Advisory Board or the DNR may, on its own, initiate an investigation if there is reason to believe that a Contractor or a group of Contractors has committed a violation of this ~~ordinance~~Ordinance.

7.8 INVESTIGATION.

1. The DNR must investigate all complaints that are in writing, signed by the complainant and found legally sufficient.
2. The DNR should furnish the subject Contractor or the subject Contractor's attorney with a copy of the complaint or document that results in the initiation of an investigation.
3. The DNR may conduct an investigation without notification to the subject Contractor if the DNR makes a finding that notification will be detrimental to the investigation or if the act under investigation is a criminal offense.
4. The subject Contractor may submit a written response to the DNR concerning the information contained in the complaint or document within 20 calendar days after receipt of notice regarding the complaint. This response will be included in any documentation sent to the Advisory Board for review.

7.9 MEDIATION.

1. After the initial investigation, DNR staff may schedule a meeting with the complainant and/or Contractor. A representative from the Lee County Attorney's Office will act as mediator. This meeting will be considered an informal mediation session.

2. DNR's role at this meeting is to explain the nature of the violation, and offer possible methods of achieving abatement.
3. The objective of this mediation session is to obtain a voluntary agreement identifying the action that will be taken to abate the violation. This "Assurance of Voluntary Compliance" agreement will be reduced to written form within 5 working days after the meeting and become effective upon execution by all parties.
4. If the agreement is not executed within 30 calendar days after the mediation session, the County may present the complaint to the Advisory Board for a probable cause determination and proceed to a formal hearing on the violation and resultant disciplinary action against Contractor.
5. Once the agreement is executed, the parties are required to comply with its written terms. If the Contractor fails to comply with the terms of the agreement, the County may present the complaint or voluntary agreement to the Advisory Board for a probable cause determination and proceed to formal hearing.
6. The DNR will retain a copy of the mediation agreement in the Contractor's file.
7. A Contractor can avoid the formal hearing process by entering into a mediation agreement and complying with its terms. However, a Contractor can use this method of addressing violations only 3 times in any 5 year period. Once the threshold limit is met, the Contractor must obtain Advisory Board approval to enter into subsequent mediation agreements. The Advisory Board has the sole discretion to grant or deny approval.
8. Mediation is not mandatory. It is intended only as a means to obtain compliance on an expedited basis.

7.10 ~~PROBABLY~~ PROBABLE CAUSE DETERMINATION.

1. If, after the DNR conducts its investigation, the complaint is deemed legally sufficient, and the alleged violation would result in a practice restriction that either results in the suspension, revocation, or denial of a Contractor's license, the DNR will submit a request for Probable Cause Determination to the Advisory Board for formal process.
2. All other violations resulting in a fine or other penalty may be contested by a Contractor by requesting a formal hearing before the Advisory Board. The written request for such hearing before the Advisory Board must be submitted to the DNR and must comply with the formalities of subsection

~~7.6-8~~7.14 herein entitled “Written Documents; [Petitions, Pleadings, Requests for Hearing and Notice of Appeal](#)”.

3. A formal hearing date will be set within 30 calendar days of DNR’s receipt of such request.
4. The determination as to whether probable cause exists will be made by a majority vote of the Advisory Board sitting as a Probable Cause Panel.
5. The Probable Cause Panel ([hereinafter referred to as Panel](#)) may request additional investigation if the Panel reasonably believes that additional information is necessary to make the probable cause determination.
6. If the Panel finds probable cause does exist, the DNR will file a formal complaint against the subject Contractor and set the date for hearing.
7. In lieu of a finding of probable cause, the Panel may issue a letter of guidance to the subject Contractor.

7.11 FORMAL HEARING PROCESS.

1. A formal hearing date will be set within 30 calendar days after the Panel finds probable cause.
2. The Chairman of the Advisory Board or the County Attorney’s ~~office~~[Office](#) has the discretion to delay or continue the hearing date for good cause. A request for continuance must be delivered to the DNR in writing at least 14 calendar days before the hearing date and it must state the specific reasons for the request.
3. All parties must be given [at least](#) 10 calendar days [of](#) notice prior to formal hearing unless otherwise agreed by the parties.
4. The notice of hearing must include the following:
 - (a) A statement of the time, place and nature of the hearing;
 - (b) A statement of the legal authority under which the hearing is to be held; and
 - (c) A copy of the complaint.
5. The suggested time period for presentations at the hearing is:
 - (a) 10 - 15 minutes for the primary presentation; and

- (b) 5 - 10 minutes for rebuttal and/or questions of staff.
6. The order of presentation should be:
- (a) Ground water ~~unit supervisor~~program manager from the DNR; and
- (b) Contractor, or his/her designated representative.
7. During the hearing, all parties will have an opportunity to present evidence and argument.
8. At the discretion of the Advisory Board, the general public will have an opportunity to present oral testimony or written communications. If this evidence is considered by the Advisory Board, the opposing party will be given the opportunity to cross-examine, challenge or rebut it.
9. All testimony must be under oath.
10. A DNR ground water ~~unit supervisor~~program manager will represent the County in the proceedings against the Contractor.
11. The standard of proof applicable to these hearings is “clear and convincing evidence.”

[Florida case law indicates that “clear and convincing evidence” requires that the evidence must be found to be credible; the facts to which the witnesses testify must be distinctly remembered; the testimony must be precise and explicit and the witnesses must be lacking in confusion as to the facts in issue. The evidence must be of such weight that it produced in the mind of the Trier of fact a firm belief or conviction, without hesitancy, as to the truth of the allegations sought to be established.]

12. Irrelevant, immaterial or unduly repetitious evidence may be excluded, but all other evidence of the type commonly relied upon by reasonably prudent persons in the conduct of their affairs will be admissible, whether or not the evidence would be admissible in civil court. Any part of the evidence may be received in written form.
13. Hearsay evidence may be used for the purpose of supplementing or explaining other evidence, but will not be sufficient in and of itself to support a finding unless it would be admissible over an objection in civil actions.
14. Documentary evidence may be received in the form of a copy or excerpt if the original is not readily available. Upon request, parties will be given an opportunity to compare the copy with the original.

15. All pleadings, motions or other papers filed in the proceedings must be signed by a party or the party's qualified representative.
16. The Well Construction Advisory Board will then direct its decision to the Director of the DNR.
17. Upon a party's request, the Advisory Board Chairman can issue a subpoena for hearing. Any person subject to a subpoena may, before compliance, request the Board to invalidate the subpoena on the ground that it was not lawfully issued, is unreasonable in scope, or requires the production of irrelevant material.
18. At the conclusion of the hearing the Advisory Board will render an oral decision. The decision becomes final upon execution of the final order. However, if the Advisory Board decision includes suspension or revocation of license privileges, this portion of the decision will go into effect at the start of business on the day following the hearing.

7.12 FINAL ORDERS.

1. Within 14 calendar days after the conclusion of the formal hearing, the DNR or the Lee County Attorney's Office will prepare a recommended final order that reflects the Advisory Board's determination.

Any order imposing disciplinary action against a Contractor must contain, at a minimum, the following:

- (a) A clear statement of the violation charged and the factual basis for the charge;
- (b) Evidence that the Contractor was given notice of the charges and an opportunity to appear and present evidence and testimony regarding the charges;
- (c) Findings of fact based exclusively on evidence of record and matters officially recognized by the Advisory Board;
- (d) Conclusions of law demonstrating that the facts alleged constitute a violation of local regulations;
- (e) A statement of the penalty imposed against the Contractor; and
- (f) A clear statement concerning the right to appeal the Advisory Board's decision or challenge the recommendation to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners; ;

2. The DNR will provide each Advisory Board member present at the hearing and the subject Contractor with a copy of the recommended order. The [Advisory](#) Board will consider the recommended order at its next regular meeting or any special meeting, held for such purpose.
3. The Advisory Board may adopt the recommended order as the final order or make any amendments it deems necessary.
4. All Final Orders must be in writing and signed by the ~~chairman~~[Chairman](#) of the Advisory Board within 30 calendar days after the formal hearing is concluded.
5. A copy of any order rendered by the Advisory Board will be provided to the parties, including any complaint, by certified U. S. Mail.
6. An order is final upon execution by the Advisory Board Chair.

7.13 APPEALS.

1. Contractor Appeals from any adverse decisions by the Advisory Board, pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance, shall be made in writing to the Advisory Board and to the Board of County Commissioners, within 10 calendar days after receipt of the final order. In the event the decision of the Advisory Board is contrary to that of the DNR, the Director of the DNR may, within 10 days appeal the decision to the Board of County Commissioners. All appeals shall be filed with the Director of the DNR.
2. Each appeal must be made by filing a written Notice of Appeal within 10 calendar days from the date of final order of the Advisory Board and by paying a non-refundable filing fee as set out in the External Fee Manual, payable to the "*Lee County Board of County Commissioners*". The written Notice of Appeal shall be filed with the Director of the DNR and shall contain appropriate reference to the decision or order and shall state specifically the grounds of appeal.
3. The Board of County Commissioners shall hear all appeals from the decision of the Advisory Board. The Board of County Commissioners shall review the decision of the Advisory Board, *de novo*, based on the record, and to make its own decision at a regularly scheduled public meeting of the Board of County Commissioners as to all matters, including, but not limited to, the facts, law, decision and sanctions and shall have no power to make special exceptions to the Advisory Board or to interpret disputed language in the Well Code Ordinance, so long as it is in harmony with the general purpose and intent of the code.

4. An appeal shall stay all proceedings in connection with the decision unless the Director of DNR certifies that a stay would cause immediate hazard to life, property or water resources.
5. The appeal shall be decided by the Lee County Board of County Commissioners within 30 calendar days after filing of the Notice of Appeal.
6. Appeals from decisions of the Board of County Commissioners are by asking for a review in the County Court in and for the Twentieth Judicial Circuit located at the Lee County Justice Center, 1700 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, Florida. All notices shall be filed in accordance with Florida Rules of Appellate Procedures 9.110. Appellant (Contractor) must file the notice for review with Clerk of Court within 30 days after rendition of the Lee County Board of County Commissioners' order to be reviewed.

7.14 WRITTEN DOCUMENTS; PETITIONS, PLEADINGS, REQUESTS FOR HEARING AND NOTICE OF APPEAL.

1. The term "petition" includes any document that requests an evidentiary proceeding and asserts the existence of a disputed issue of material fact. Each petition, pleading or request for hearing or appeal shall be legible and on 8 ½-inch by 11-inch size white paper, printed on one side of the paper only and lines shall be double-spaced.
2. All written documents requesting any of the above such action shall contain:
 - (a) The name and address of each person affected, if known;
 - (b) The name, address, and telephone number of the Contractor or petitioner; the name, address, and telephone number of the petitioner's representative, if any, which shall be the address for service purposes during the course of the proceeding; and an explanation of how the petitioner's or Contractor's substantial interests will be affected by the Advisory Board's determination;
 - (c) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
 - (~~e~~)i. A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner or Contractor contends warrant reversal or modification of the DNR's or Advisory Board's proposed action;
 - (~~d~~)ii. A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the DNR, Advisory Board or the Board of County Commissioners to take with respect to any proposed action;

3. ~~(e)~~—A petition shall not be heard or considered if it is not in substantial compliance with this section or it has been untimely filed;

4. ~~(f)~~—The DNR shall promptly give written notice to all parties of any action or the failure to take action on a petition.

SECTION EIGHT: LICENSING

8.1 ~~NEW STATE CONTRACTOR INFORMATION OR GRANDFATHERED LOCAL SPECIALTY LICENSE RENEWAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS.~~

The below information must be provided to the Lee County Community Development Department annually in order to pull permits.

1. State Licensed Water Well Contractor Information

A completed “Lee County Contractor Information Sheet” showing:

- (a) Proof of a valid State Water Well Contractor License; ~~and~~
- (b) Copy of valid driver’s license (or State issued picture identification);
- (c) Workers Compensation Insurance/Exemption; and
- (d) Liability Insurance

2. Grandfathered Lee County Specialty Contractor Renewal

~~(a) — New Lee County Contractor Specialty License~~

- ~~(1) — A completed “Lee County Specialty License Application” form; and~~
- ~~(2) — Submit a copy of valid driver’s license, or other State-issued photo identification; and~~
- ~~(3) — The required new License & Exam fee as set out in the External Fee Manual; and~~
- ~~(4) — Written proof of successfully passing a written specialty license exam; and~~
- ~~(5) — Written proof of successfully passing a field practical test given on your first permitted job.~~

~~(b) — Renewal of your Lee County Contractor Specialty License~~

- ~~(1) — A completed “Lee County Specialty Drilling Contractor~~

- ~~Information Sheet Update” form; and~~
~~(2) Copy of valid driver’s license (or State issued photo identification); and~~
~~(3) The required License Renewal fee as set out in the External Fee Manual.~~

As of the effective date of this Ordinance, any individual holding a Lee County specialty license as a geotechnical boring contractor or elevator shaft contractor is “Grandfathered” and vested with respect to the scope of work allowed under the license category in this Ordinance. However, in order to maintain the grandfathered license, the contractor must annually renew the license in accordance with this Section and must otherwise comply with the requirements of this Ordinance. Grandfathered local licenses are vested to the current license holder and are not transferable to any other individual.

Renewal of Lee County Contractor Specialty License:

8.2 ANNUAL RENEWAL OF GRANDFATHERED LOCAL LICENSES

1. Grandfathered local licenses are valid for a period of one year running from July 1 through June 30.
2. Grandfathered local licenses must be renewed annually. It is the contractor’s responsibility to seek renewal. While the County will attempt to provide a renewal reminder notice, the County is not obligated to furnish the contractor with a reminder notice that renewal is necessary.
3. A grandfathered local license may be renewed either online or in person (at Lee County Department of Community Development offices during regular business hours) during the six weeks preceding June 30.
4. The deadline to renew a grandfathered local license is June 30 of each year. The Director or designee may approve a late renewal submitted no later than 30 days past the deadline for good cause shown. If an individual holding a grandfathered license fails to renew the license by June 30, or 30 days thereafter as may or may not be applicable, or otherwise allows the license to lapse, then the contractor will lose all rights that attach to the previously held license. Thereafter, if the contractor wishes to continue contracting in Lee County under that job scope, he or she must obtain a construction license issued by the State.

8.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR ANNUAL RENEWAL

Upon a timely request for an annual renewal, the Department of Community Development will issue a renewed grandfathered local license upon proof as to all of the following:

1. Proof of liability insurance. All grandfathered local license holders must carry

public liability and property damage insurance. Acceptable proof of insurance consists of a certificate from the insuring company indicating:

- (a) The name, address and phone number of the insuring company and the insurance agent.
 - (b) The name and address of the insured. All insurance policies must reflect the exact name of the entity qualified by the grandfathered local license holder.
 - (c) The insurance policy number.
 - (d) The effective dates of the insurance policy. All contractors holding a grandfathered local license must maintain current insurance.
 - (e) The coverage amount is at least \$50,000 per person/\$100,000 per incident for liability and \$5,000 per incident for property damage.
 - (f) Lee County, as certificate holder, will receive a written notice 30 days prior to cancellation.
 - (g) The certificate must be prepared by a bonafide insurance agent.
2. Proof of worker's compensation coverage. All grandfathered local license holders must maintain workers' compensation insurance or provide proof of a valid exemption in accordance with F.S. Ch. 440. Acceptable proof of insurance consists of a certificate from the Division of Employment and Workers' Compensation indicating compliance with Ch. 440. Workers' Compensation Insurance or an appropriate exemption must be in effect at all times the contractor maintains a grandfathered local license.
3. Payment of fees. Payment of the applicable renewal fees as set forth in the Department of Community Development fee schedule, is required to be paid in full prior to, or on, June 30 of each year. Delinquent fees will constitute as a failure to renew the license.

8.4 GRANDFATHERED LOCAL LICENSE HOLDER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

A grandfathered local license provides the holder with the following responsibilities.

- 1. A grandfathered local license holder or an employee of the holder can contract only in the name of the business entity or individual indicated on the grandfathered license.
- 2. A grandfathered local license holder must notify the county as to any change in business status.

3. A grandfathered local license holder must renew his or her grandfathered local license annually and pay the required fees in order to remain active.
4. A grandfathered local license holder must maintain current public liability insurance in accordance with this Ordinance.
5. A grandfathered local license holder must maintain current workers' compensation insurance in accordance with this Ordinance.
6. A grandfathered local license holder may not transfer his or her license to any other individual.

8.5 REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHANGE IN BUSINESS STATUS

All grandfathered local license holders must provide the Department of Community Development with written notice within 30 days of any change in business status concerning:

1. The name of the business entity or the name under which the business is contracting.
2. The business address.
3. The grandfathered local license holder qualifying the business.
4. The removal or resignation of a grandfathered local license holder qualifying the business.
5. The registered agent for purposes of service.

8.2-6 LICENSE TYPES.

1. Water Well Contractor - A State of Florida Water well contractor license that entitles the holder to construct all classes of wells, as well as Test Borings and Elevator Shafts.
2. Geotechnical Boring Contractor - a Lee County specialty license to drill or direct push and properly abandon geotechnical borings.
3. Elevator Shaft Contractor - a Lee County specialty license to drill or repair elevator shafts.

8.37 LICENSE SUSPENSION OR ~~REVOKATION~~REVOCATION.

Specialty ~~contractors~~Contractors who repeatedly violate the provisions of this Ordinance may be denied the applications for permitting. In a 3-year period, Specialty Contractors who accumulate fines totaling more than \$3,000.00 for combined administrative and construction violations (except for violations for the failure to cancel or schedule an activity), or whose license(s) had been suspended or revoked for a period of 12 months or more, shall have their license(s) revoked, and will not be eligible for future applications for a license or license renewal.

8.48 LICENSED CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBILITIES.

1. The ~~contractor~~Contractor shall bear full responsibility for compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance, Chapters 40E-3 F.A.C. and 62-532 F.A.C., §373.323, F.S. and other applicable state or federal requirements. The Contractor ~~shall~~must be capable of providing adequate supervision for work being performed on site. If determined by DNR staff, the Contractor may be required on site to oversee all drilling operations.

Prior to drilling, constructing, repairing, rehabilitating, plugging, enlarging or deepening any well, geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft, the Contractor shall ensure that he or she has a license appropriate for the work being conducted.

2. The Contractor may not be eligible to apply for new permits until satisfactory completion of wells or other activities for which permits had been issued and construction has been commenced.
3. The Contractor shall be responsible and liable for work being performed or taking actions deemed necessary by DNR to correct conditions that may harm environmental resources as a result of any drilling, constructing, repairing, rehabilitating, plugging, enlarging or deepening any well, geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft.
4. The Contractor shall be responsible for providing adequately trained personnel and ~~equipments~~equipment in good working condition to carry out permitted work. Work being performed without on-site supervision by the Contractor may be halted and on-site supervision by the Contractor will be required prior to resuming work.
5. The Contractor shall be responsible for providing safe work site conditions for his/her employees and the DNR staff to perform their duties.
6. The Contractor shall be responsible for performing work within a reasonable period of time for which a partial or full payment had been received from any person.

7. The Contractor and his/her staff shall be responsible for cooperating with the DNR staff during inspection of wells and other related activities. It is unlawful for any person to knowingly interfere with, threaten with bodily harm, oppose, resist, obstruct, hinder or in any manner ~~from~~ preventing a DNR staff member from performing his/her duty, or fail to obey the lawful order of DNR staff member.
8. All contractors performing work within Lee County shall be responsible for supplying ~~up-to-date~~up-to-date licensing and required Workers Compensation and insurance information to the DNR-Contractor License Section of Lee County, prior to obtaining any permits from the DNR.

SECTION NINE: PERMITS

9.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PERMITS.

1. A valid permit issued by the DNR is required to drill, construct, repair, rehabilitate, plug, enlarge or deepen any well, geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft.
2. Prior to issuance of a permit to drill, direct push, construct, repair, rehabilitate, plug, enlarge or deepen any well, geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft, an application packet as described in Appendix A "Specific Information Required on Permit Applications" must be completed, signed by the Contractor, and ~~or~~ the property owner or legal representative, and submitted with the required supporting documentation to the DNR. This includes the State of Florida Department of Transportation borings that are not hand augured and exceed 10 feet in depth. Applications for Fire Well permits shall be attached with an engineering analysis documenting water supply need for fire fighting for the structures or facilities on the property. Dewatering wells not exceeding 20 feet in depth are exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance. Cast-in-place foundation holes installed by Florida Department of Transportation, Florida Power & Light, or other utility companies, are also exempt from the provisions of this Ordinance.
3. The Contractor's license shall be current and in good standing from the time of permit application, and through completion of permitted activity. A permit shall not be issued to a Contractor who is not capable of supervising the work being performed on site. The DNR will strive to review the application within ~~24 hours~~three (3) business days of application receipt (except weekends and holidays) to determine completeness.
4. When State, SFWMD, or other laws, rules or regulations require permits or variances, the applicant for a well construction permit shall attach copies of said permits or variances to the application. Upon determination of the

completeness of the permit application, the DNR will strive to issue the permit to the applicant within ~~three (3) business days~~^{24 hours} (except weekends and holidays) from the time of receipt of a complete permit application. In the event a permit is denied, the reason(s) shall be supplied in writing on the application form and the applicant shall be notified according to SECTION EIGHT, LICENSING, herein.

5. All permits shall be located in the jobsite permit box or prominently and securely displayed on the premises and, when possible, visible from the street. It is the Contractor's responsibility to ~~insure~~^{ensure} that the permit is securely fastened to the location where it is displayed. Permits that were posted, but are missing at the time when the inspection is performed shall be considered not posted. As a required permit condition, ~~the~~^{the} Contractor must add the required subsurface and other final construction information to the permit at the time of completion.

9.2 CONDITIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.

1. Unauthorized or Unpermitted ~~wells~~^{Wells}: Wells drilled without all required permits shall be reviewed by the DNR, and upon determination may be required to have the casing milled out and be plugged by a State licensed Contractor at the ~~contractor's~~^{Contractor's} expense, or at the property owner's expense (if the responsible Contractor cannot be identified), within 7 days of notification by the DNR. An after-the-fact permit may be issued if the well drilled without a permit appeared to meet the standards of this ~~ordinance~~^{Ordinance} under existing well inspection procedures.
2. Other Approvals: The Contractor shall be responsible for obtaining all other applicable local, state, and federal permits or variances prior to commencement of construction of proposed work for which the Lee County well construction permit had been issued. This includes inquiring about vegetation permits or an email exemption from the appropriate agency if the project is located on a barrier Island, in Unincorporated Lee County, City of Fort Myers, Sanibel, Bonita Springs or the Village of Estero or any project over 5 acres in size or zoned non-residential.
3. Construction Scheduling: All drilling inspection scheduling, anticipated interruptions, or cancellations shall be in accordance with SECTION TWELVE, DRILLING INSPECTORS AND INSPECTIONS, herein. Except in case of an emergency well construction, proposed work shall not commence on any site prior to scheduling an inspection in accordance with the inspection scheduling requirements.
4. Aquifer Contamination: Construction of wells shall not result in uncontrolled movement of water from one aquifer or water bearing zone of differing water quality to another, contamination of groundwater or surface water resources, or other adverse impacts.

5. **Emergency Authorization:** If an existing well has failed and the health, safety or general welfare of the community is involved, the Director or his/her designee or the Director of Lee County Public Health Department, Environmental Engineering Division may issue emergency authorization for the work to be started before permits are obtained. However, permit applications shall be submitted prior to completion of construction or by 7:30 a.m. of the following workday.
6. **Construction Completion:** The Contractor shall not abandon the work site without notifying the inspector. The Contractor may not be eligible to apply for new permits until satisfactory completion of proposed work for which permits had been issued and construction had been commenced.
7. **Special Conditions:** In order to protect groundwater resources, the DNR may include specific conditions in the well construction permit as required to address specific well construction or drilling performance requirements.
8. **Property Access:** The property owner or the applicant, by obtaining of a well construction permit, specifically agrees to allow authorized DNR staff with proper identification to access the premises at reasonable times where the permitted activity is located or conducted for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the permit issued or requirements of this Ordinance.
9. **Minimum Lot Size:** A permit for installation of a domestic water supply well may be issued to lots that meet the minimum lot area, dimensions, and distances criteria stated in §381.0065(4)(a), F.S., or as that statute may be amended, replaced or renumbered.
10. **Pollution Prevention:** It is the legal responsibility of the~~The~~ Contractor ~~is required to take~~meet or exceed all necessary measures as required by the NPDES program to prevent environmental pollution from well construction. See Chapter 14 ARTICLE VII. – CLEAN WATER PROVISIONS of the Lee County Land Development Code.

9.3 PERMIT FEE.

A fee shall be assessed for each permit as set forth in the External Fee Manual. Such fees are hereby declared to be necessary for the purpose of processing permits, making necessary inspections and for the administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

9.4 RE-INSPECTION FEE.

There will be an assessed fee prior to each re-inspection made by the DNR. The re-inspection fees shall be those set forth in External Fee Manual. These fees can be waived at the discretion of the DNR provided such waivers can be justified.

9.5 SUBMISSION OF SUBSURFACE DATA.

1. Upon completion of installation of a well, the Contractor must provide the following information on the permit posted at the site and on the water container bottle left at the site for the DNR:
 - (a) Well casing diameter and depth;
 - (b) Total well depth
 - (c) Quantity and type of annular space grout utilized;
 - (d) Well yield during well development; and
 - (e) Quantity of grout used for well abandonment, if applicable;
2. State of Florida well completion reports shall be submitted within 30 days to the DNR after completion of any type of well construction.
3. Well construction information and sediment free clean water sample collected from the well water producing zone in an DNR supplied laboratory container shall be made available to the DNR⁴⁴ staff pursuant to Appendix A, Procedures Manual. It will be stated on the permit whether relevant additional data, samples or tests are to be required for the specific area involved. Such information shall be submitted in accordance with the requirements of SECTION SEVEN, COMPLAINTS, MEDIATIONS, FORMAL HEARING PROCESS AND APPEALS, herein, and shall be included with the completed log as required therein. The Contractor shall coordinate the submission of various samples and additional information with DNR staff as necessary. The above shall not preempt any testing and sampling as required by Lee County Health Department, Environmental Engineering Division or the SFWMD.

9.6 PERMIT TRANSFER OR EXCHANGE.

Permits issued are neither transferable nor exchangeable. Permitted projects that have not been scheduled for inspections ~~may be~~ are eligible for refund of ~~no more than~~ 50% of the cost of the original permit application fee ~~for the first 30 days of issuance, the fee shall be reduced by an additional 10% for each month after issuance.~~

9.7 AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE PERMIT.

A permit shall authorize an owner, or a Contractor on behalf of an owner, to drill a well, geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft, providing the following conditions are satisfied:

1. A licensed water well contractor constructs the well, except for a homeowner constructing or plugging his/her own well using the standards specified in this Ordinance.
2. The well is constructed in accordance with the information furnished on the permit application, including exact location of well on property.
3. Proper notification is given to the DNR prior to construction.
4. All persons drilling a well shall comply with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance and Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C.

9.8 DURATION OF PERMIT, EXTENSIONS.

1. A DNR permit is valid for 6 months from the date of issuance. Permits shall be void after 6 months from the date of issuance, unless the time limit has been extended by the DNR after a written application by the Contractor. A fee shall be assessed for each permit time extension request as set forth in the External Fee Manual.
2. Supplemental information may be required by the DNR prior to approval of a request for permit time extension. The DNR shall make a determination on applicant's written time extension request. No more than 2 time extensions totaling 6 months shall be approved for a given permit. Permits that have been closed by the DNR shall not be re-opened.

9.9 REPAIRED WELLS.

1. If an old well needs to be reconstructed to a greater depth within the same permitted aquifer, or if its diameter is changed within 6 months of being finished, then no charge will be incurred, however if 6 months are exceeded a new permit must be obtained from the DNR specifying the work to be performed with a fee assessed.
2. Prior to well construction commencing the assigned well inspector will take a water quality sample as a baseline sample. Once the well has been deepened the well must be properly developed and a second water sample taken by the well inspector.
3. If the water quality degrades more than 500 parts per million total chlorides, the well contractor must either plug the well back to the previous depth well started or plug and abandon the whole well from bottom to top, as required by State code.

9.10 CAUSE FOR DENIAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION.

An application for permit to drill may be denied or a permit that has been issued can be suspended or revoked if the well is subjected to or may cause any one or more of the following conditions:

1. Non-compliance with a provision of this Ordinance or any rule or regulation promulgated by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant thereto; or
2. Intrusion of pollutants into the ground water supply of Lee County; or
3. Uncontrolled intermixing of ground water between aquifers or intra-aquifers; or
4. Endangering the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens within Lee County; or
5. Material misstatement or misrepresentation in the application.

9.11 NOTICE OF DENIAL.

The DNR shall issue a written Notice of Denial of a permit application whenever it is found that an applicant fails to meet the requirements for issuance of a permit as herein provided. Such notice shall:

1. State the reasons for the denial, and may state any remedial action which, if taken, will affect compliance with this Ordinance and permit approval of the application.
2. Be served upon the applicant or his/her agency by Certified Mail, return receipt requested or Registered United States Mail.
3. Any person receiving a Notice of Denial may obtain a hearing before the Well Construction Advisory Board by filing a written petition with the Advisory Board, if filed within 10 working days of the receipt of said notice.

9.12 SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF PERMIT.

1. A permit may be suspended by the DNR by written notice thereof if well construction is in violation of the provisions of this Ordinance or other applicable local, State or Federal rules or regulations.
2. Upon receipt of said written notice, the Contractor and/or landowner shall, at the discretion of the DNR, rectify the violation or cease construction.

3. Any permittee receiving a notice of suspension may obtain a hearing before the Well Construction Advisory Board if the request to obtain such hearing is made in writing 10 calendar days of the receipt of said notice. Following such hearing, the Advisory Board may recommend extending such suspension or may recommend modifying or revoking the permit.

In the absence of a request for hearing, the Board of County Commissioners may revoke the permit if notice was properly received, at the end of the 10-day period without such a hearing.

4. All notices of suspensions or revocations or violations of permit conditions will be forwarded to the SFWMD.

9.13 IDENTIFICATION OF EQUIPMENT.

All drill rigs used by the Contractor shall prominently display the name of the Company or the name of his/her employer and his/her State license numbers in letters at least 2 inches in height on each side of the equipment.

SECTION TEN: GEOTECHNICAL BORINGS AND PERMITS

10.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMIT.

1. A valid permit issued by the DNR is required to drill, direct push, auger, split spoon, DPT/CPT or construct any geotechnical boring deeper than 10 feet from land surface, other than by hand auger. Prior to issuance of a permit to drill, direct push, auger, split spoon or construct any geotechnical boring deeper than 10 feet from Land Surface, an application must be completed, signed by the Contractor, and submitted with the required supporting documentation to the DNR.
2. The Contractor's license shall be current and in good standing at the time of permit application, and at the commencement of construction of permitted activity.
3. A permit shall not be issued to a Contractor who is not capable of supervising the work being performed on site.
4. The DNR will strive to review the application within ~~24 hours~~three (3) business days of application receipt (except weekends and holidays) to determine completeness.
5. Upon determination of the completeness of the permit application, the DNR will strive to issue the permit to the applicant within ~~24 hours~~three (3) business days (except weekends and holidays) from the time of receipt of a complete permit application.

6. In the event a permit is denied, the reason(s) shall be supplied in writing on the application form and the applicant shall be notified according to SECTION EIGHT, LICENSING, herein.
7. All permits shall be located in the jobsite permit box or prominently and securely displayed on the premises and, when possible, visible from the street. It is the Contractor's responsibility to insure that the permit is securely fastened to the location where it is displayed. Permits that were posted, but are missing at the time when the inspection is performed shall be considered not posted.
8. The Contractor must add the required subsurface and other final construction information to the permit at the time of well completion.

10.2 CONDITIONS FOR ISSUANCE OF PERMITS.

1. Unauthorized Borings: Geotechnical Borings drilled without all required permits shall be [drilled out to completeness then properly](#) plugged by the Contractor at the contractor's expense, or by a Licensed Contractor at the property owner's expense (if the responsible Contractor cannot be identified), within 7 days of notification by the DNR. An after-the-fact permit may be issued if the boring drilled without a permit appeared to meet the standards of this ordinance under existing well inspection procedures.
2. Other Approvals: The Contractor shall be responsible for obtaining all other applicable local, state, and federal permits or variances prior to commencement of construction of proposed work for which the Lee County permit had been issued. [This includes inquiring about a vegetation permit if the project is located on a barrier island, City of Sanibel, any project over five \(5\) acres in size or Zoned Non-Residential.](#)
3. Construction Scheduling: All drilling inspection scheduling, anticipated interruptions or cancellations shall be in accordance with SECTION TWELVE, DRILLING INSPECTORS AND INSPECTIONS, herein. Except in case of an emergency well construction, proposed work shall not commence on any site prior to scheduling an inspection in accordance with the inspection scheduling requirements.
4. Aquifer Contamination: Construction or abandonment of geotechnical borings shall not result in uncontrolled movement of water from one aquifer or water bearing zone of differing water quality to another, contamination of groundwater or surface water resources, or other adverse impacts. [If Lee County was not present during the completion of a test boring along with proper abandonment of the hole, the County has the authority upon suspicion of an incomplete grout stage to request the contractor open the hole for proper proof of abandonment with cement grout.](#)

5. Construction Completion: The Contractor shall not abandon the work site without notifying the inspector. The Contractor may not be eligible to apply for new permits until satisfactory completion of proposed work for which permits had been issued and construction had been commenced.
6. Special Conditions: In order to protect groundwater resources, the DNR may include specific conditions in the permit as required to address specific construction or drilling performance requirements.
7. Property Access: The property owner or the applicant, by obtaining of a geotechnical boring construction permit, specifically agrees to allow authorized DNR staff with proper identification to access the premises at reasonable times where the permitted activity is located or conducted for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with the permit issued or requirements of this Ordinance.
8. Pollution Prevention: ~~The Contractor shall utilize all current acceptable Best Management Practices (BMP's) measures to prevent environmental pollution due to well construction~~ It is the legal responsibility of the Contractor to meet all necessary measures as required by the NPDES program to prevent environmental pollution from well construction. See Chapter 14 ARTICLE VII. - CLEAN WATER PROVISIONS of the Lee County Land Development Code.

10.3 PERMIT FEE.

A fee shall be assessed for each permit as set forth in the External Fee Manual, as that Administrative Code may be amended, replaced, or renumbered. Such fees are hereby declared to be necessary for the purpose of processing permits, making necessary inspections and for the administration and enforcement of this Ordinance.

10.4 RE-INSPECTION FEE.

A fee may be assessed prior to each re-inspection made by the DNR. The re-inspection fees shall be those set forth in the External Fee Manual, as that Administrative Code may be amended, replaced, or renumbered. These fees may be waived at the discretion of the DNR provided such waivers can be justified.

10.5 SUBMISSION OF SUBSURFACE DATA.

1. Upon completion of installation of a geotechnical boring project, the Contractor must supply construction information on the permit posted on site for the DNR as follows:
 - (a) Number of total borings;
 - (b) Total depth for each boring; and

- (c) Total quantity of grout used for all hole abandonments and well abandonments.

2. ~~State of Florida well~~ Well completion reports shall be submitted within 30 days to the DNR after completion of the well or geotechnical boring construction. It will be stated on the permit whether relevant additional data, samples or tests are to be required for the specific area involved. Such information shall be submitted and shall be included with the completed log as required in SECTION ELEVEN, TEST WELL ~~REQUIREMENTS~~ REQUIREMENTS, herein. The Contractor shall coordinate the submission of various samples and additional information with DNR staff as necessary. The above shall not preempt any testing and sampling as required by Lee County Health Department, Environmental Engineering Division or the SFWMD.

10.6 PERMIT TRANSFER OR EXCHANGE.

Permits issued are neither transferable nor exchangeable. Permitted projects that have not been scheduled for inspections may be eligible for refund of a partial permit application fee.

10.7 AUTHORITY GRANTED BY THE PERMIT.

A permit shall authorize a Contractor on behalf of an owner, to drill a geotechnical boring providing the following conditions are satisfied:

1. A State of Florida licensed water well or specialty licensed contractor constructs the boring;
2. The boring is constructed in accordance with the information furnished on the permit application, including exact location of well on property;
3. Proper notification is given to the DNR prior to construction; and
4. All persons constructing a boring shall comply with the applicable provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION ELEVEN: TEST WELL REQUIREMENTS

11.1 TEST WELLS.

1. A well construction permit application together with ~~a Test Well Form~~ an email confirmation of approval from the SFWMD shall be submitted for each proposed test well to be constructed.
2. Test wells are subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Exploratory drilling under one permit shall be conducted on a single parcel of property for a single owner.
- (b) Each and every test well shall be constructed, grouted, or plugged in accordance with this Ordinance and other State requirements.
- (c) In the exploration for water, a test well that is found to produce the desired amount of water shall be converted to a production or observation well. To convert a test well to a production well or an observation well, the Contractor shall submit a permit application to the DNR and receive permit approval and submit a Water Use Permit application to SFWMD, as required, and receive permit approval.
- (d) [Test well permits are not to exceed 180 days or 6 months, whichever is longer.](#)

11.2 TEST WELL APPLICATIONS.

- 1. Application must have a Test Well Form attached stating the purpose of test well(s) and that the construction of the test well complies with this Ordinance.
- 2. A test well that is not converted to a production well [within the permitted timeline](#) shall be plugged [at the contractor's expense](#) in compliance with this Ordinance.
- 3. A test well that is converted to a production well shall have the application amended by the Contractor. If a Water Use Permit (“WUP”) is required from SFWMD, an application for a WUP shall be submitted to SFWMD and the WUP application number shall be provided to DNR for the well construction permit application to be deemed sufficient. The WUP must be approved before the well can be used. The SFWMD may hold the Contractor, as well as the owner, liable if the well is used before amendment is approved.

11.3 TEST WELL REPORTS.

Unless a time extension had been granted by DNR, reports of test well information, such as well logs, test pumping results, water quality, capacity, depths and sizes, shall be submitted, within ~~30~~-[60](#) days of completion of well construction, to the DNR to be evaluated. Test well reports shall include all data obtained as described hereinafter.

11.4 TESTING PROCEDURE.

- 1. As noted above, complete logs shall be kept and filed with the DNR.

2. Descriptions of conditions shall be adequate to describe each separate layer of material encountered and shall include, but shall not limit to, size of particles, consolidation (blow count if applicable), type of material encountered (sand, limestone, shell, clay, etc.), color, relative hardness, relative permeability, where any and all water was encountered, and the depths below ground surface at which strata was encountered. Core samples or cuttings may be required for further examination.
3. Proposed well locations shall be indicated in permit applications. Final well locations shall be shown on a drawing or plot plan showing distances to property lines, corners or other surface features of a permanent nature; setbacks from septic systems, a north arrow; and this information will be maintained by the DNR.

SECTION TWELVE: DRILLING INSPECTORS AND INSPECTIONS

12.1 INSPECTORS.

Upon completion of passing their probationary period inspectors will maintain a valid State of Florida Water Well Contractors License and have attended and passed the Lee County Code Enforcement officers training course along with be fully knowledgeable in the provisions of this Ordinance and with construction practices relating to drilling, repairing, sealing and plugging of wells borings, and elevator shafts.

12.2 INSPECTIONS, COORDINATION.

1. The DNR or appropriate state agency will conduct inspection of well construction, alterations, and plugging. The DNR representative or well inspector may assist and verify, but shall not be responsible for designating the location of a well to be constructed.
2. It is the Contractor's responsibility to advise the DNR of the date(s) and time(s) when construction will begin, when various portions of the work will be completed, when work is cancelled, and/or when work will be interrupted. (See Rule 40E-3.461 F.A.C., Inspection.)
3. The District or delegated agency is authorized to inspect any well or abandoned well within its jurisdiction, including those wells permitted under Rule 40E-3.041, F.A.C. Inspections shall be done as necessary to insure conformity with applicable standards. Duly authorized representatives of the District or delegated agency, upon presenting proper identification and at reasonable times, may enter upon any premises for the purpose of such inspection. Such inspection may include but need not be limited to geophysical logging, water level measurements, or other methods.
4. If, based on such inspection, the District or delegated agency finds the

standards of this chapter of the F.A.C. have not been met, the District or delegated agency shall proceed with enforcement actions as prescribed by Chapter 62-531, F.A.C.

5. A site inspection may be conducted by an authorized representative of the District or delegated agency prior to issuing a permit for construction of a public water supply well.
6. The District or delegated agency shall be notified at least 24 hours in advance of placement of grout in the annular space of any public water supply well. A District or delegated agency representative may be on site to observe the grouting. If the District or delegated agency is properly notified and a representative is not at the site at the appointed time, the grouting may begin in the absence of a representative.
7. If, based on an inspection, the District or delegated agency finds any well is an abandoned or incomplete well, the well shall be plugged in accordance with Rule 40E-3.531, F.A.C. If deemed appropriate by the DNR, the county may require that the well casing be milled out and the hole be properly plugged and abandoned.
8. If, based on an inspection, the District or delegated agency determines that applicable laws or rules have not been complied with, it shall disapprove the well. A disapproved well shall not be used until brought into compliance.
9. All private water system wells must be inspected and approved by the DNR prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy by the Lee County Building Department (or the appropriate municipality building department if being enforced in an incorporated area of Lee County). Should notification of specific stages of construction be necessary, it will be stipulated on the approved permit application.
10. Existing Domestic wells: Once located by either the DNR or the Land owner, if not found in the Lee County records, shall, at a minimum, be required to be inspected by a DNR Well Inspector for compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. An existing well permit approval will not be issued for existing domestic wells that do not comply with the requirements of this Ordinance and the Lee County Health Department setback requirements for domestic supply wells. If conditions or requirements are not met for proper construction and setbacks, the existing well may be determined to need repaired or be properly abandoned by a Licensed State of Florida Water Well Contractor. Until such repairs or proper abandonment are performed by a Licensed State of Florida Water Well Contractor, the DNR will place a permitting hold on that parcel.

11. All drilling inspection scheduling, anticipated interruptions and cancellation shall be done in accordance with attached APPENDIX "A." Drilling or well construction after regular work hours is addressed in attached APPENDIX "A." An after-hour inspection fee may be assessed [at the discretion of the DNR](#) for all inspections performed outside regular work hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) of the county well inspectors. An Emergency well construction inspection is exempt from the after-hour inspection fee. Mere carelessness or lack of planning on the part of the applicant, contractor or driller will not constitute sufficient cause for the issuance of an emergency permit. All scheduled inspections that are not cancelled according to APPENDIX "A," will be subject to a fine (Failure to schedule or cancel an activity). Excessive cancellations as described in attached APPENDIX "B" shall result in fines. The Contractor shall also be responsible for not scheduling a drilling activity that has been already completed and inspected.

12.3 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY AND 64E-8 WELLS.

The DNR must be notified by the Contractor at least 24 hours prior to construction so that an inspector can be present. If proper notification is not given, the well construction could be halted or postponed for at least a 24-hour period.

12.4 ~~UNFORSEEN~~[UNFORESEEN](#) CONDITIONS.

Should, during construction, repair, replacement, abandonment, or plugging of a well, a condition be discovered which was unforeseen prior to the beginning of work, and said condition be unique and indicate that special construction techniques are desirable or required in order to maintain a safe working environment, the condition shall be reported to the DNR together with all related data, and if directed, all work applicable to subject well shall be discontinued until the above data have been reviewed and appropriate directions are given within 24 hours.

12.5 NON-COMPLIANCE.

If during construction, repair, abandonment, or plugging of a well, the authorized representative or inspector finds the work is not being performed in accordance with rules, regulations and standards of this Ordinance, or adopted by a regulatory agency pursuant to Chapter 373, F.S., the DNR shall give the owner and water well contractor verbal or written notice stating which rules, regulations or standards indicate that the operation being performed is not in compliance and may order that necessary corrective action be taken within a reasonable time to be prescribed in such order. Failure to comply with imposed penalties, or to correct a violation within 7 calendar days, or to pay a fine within 30 calendar days, or to act in accordance with the order after receipt of a verbal followed by a written notice shall be grounds for revocation of the permit or suspension of well construction privileges or permitting privileges.

12.6 INSPECTIONS OF WORK ON BARRIER ISLANDS.

Due to limited and sensitive nature of ground water resources on barrier islands and the logistical complications for the DNR staff when accessing these islands by boat for inspection, the DNR may attach special conditions to well construction permits on barrier islands.

12.7 RE-INSPECTIONS.

A re-inspection fee shall be assessed to the Contractor for each re-inspection site visit required.

SECTION THIRTEEN: CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS, BORINGS AND SHAFT HOLES

13.1 GENERAL SCOPE.

- 1. The following minimum standards shall apply to construction, repair and abandonment of water wells in Lee County. Staff annotated opinions and policies may be prepared periodically by the DNR and included as part of this Ordinance in attached APPENDIX “A.” The standards, opinions, and policies outlined herein shall not be construed to be any less restrictive than Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C., *et seq.*
- 2. Only licensed State of Florida Water Well contractors are authorized to drill, construct, repair, rehabilitate, plug, enlarge, or deepen wells.
- 3. [If determined by the DNR the Licensed Contractor may be required on site during drilling to oversee and command the operation activities.](#)

13.2 GEOTECHNICAL BORING AND ~~ELEVATOR~~[ELEVATOR](#) SHAFTS.

A Lee County specialty contractor license will only ~~allow~~[permit](#) a ~~contractor~~[Contractor](#) ~~can~~ to drill or direct push a geotechnical boring or elevator shaft.

13.3 MATERIALS.

Except as provided otherwise herein, all materials and standards used in construction, repair and abandonment of wells shall conform to the minimum requirements of Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C., or other applicable state standards adopted by reference and incorporated herein. In construction and/or repair of public potable water supply wells, valves shall conform to the applicable requirements of the American Water Works Association (“AWWA”) Standards of the C-500 series and fittings downstream of the well casing shall conform to the applicable requirements of AWWA C-110, unless otherwise approved. All material, equipment or trained personnel required for construction of the well in accordance with the applicable requirements this Ordinance or Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C., shall be on site prior to

commencement of well drilling activities. The inspector may order suspension of drilling activities if the required material, equipment or trained personnel are not on site to perform the proposed work.

13.4 CONSTRUCTION METHODS AND PROCEDURES - GENERALLY.

No metal casing shall be driven below the first regional semi-confining bed (green clay layer) into an artesian aquifer in Lee County. Metal casing can be used to construct deep wells, but drilling methods and procedures shall be the same as those used for thermoplastic (PVC) casing wells.

13.5 CONSTRUCTION METHODS AND PROCEDURES – GROUND WATER WELLS.

1. All casing driven into place shall have an approved drive shoe on the bottom.
2. All well casings shall meet or exceed State specifications.
3. All wells, which includes Cathodic protection wells, shall be constructed so that only one aquifer is utilized. If the DNR staff has determined that well construction has resulted in uncontrolled movement of groundwater causing aquifer contamination, the Contractor shall be required to remove both the casing and grout, and to reset a new casing followed by grouting.
4. A minimum 2-inch annular space shall be provided between the casing and the borehole, or between two casings, if a liner pipe is present. Surface casing may be required by the Lee County Well Inspector. If that determination is made, the existing casing shall be removed from the annular space the hole properly reopened surface casing installed and well casing properly installed and grouted. Please note: All casing must free fall when being installed. If casing has to be pushed, the Lee County Inspector may require it be removed and the annular space cleaned and casing reinstalled and properly grouted.
5. Wells completed in the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer or in shallower aquifers and constructed with a rubber formation packer, also known as rubber boot or shale packer at the base of the casing shall be seated into a smaller diameter hole drilled into the consolidated portion of the water-bearing formation and properly grouted above the casing seal (boot) from bottom to the land surface using approved materials and methods as defined in SECTION FIVE, DEFINITIONS, herein, Grouting Material and Grouting of Wells.
6. At the request of the on-site Lee County Well Inspector, ~~Wells~~ wells completed in aquifers deeper than the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer ~~shall~~ could be required to be pressure grouted with tremie pipe inside the casing or through casing without a grout pipe in accordance with the current American Water Works Association, Standard for Deep Wells and using approved materials

and methods as defined in SECTION FIVE, DEFINITIONS, herein, Grouting Material and Grouting of Wells.

7. All wells shall have an approved sanitary seal or other protective device installed to prevent contamination of the well after completion of the well or whenever there is a temporary interruption of work during construction.
8. Grouting.
 - (a) Wells shall be grouted from bottom of the annular space to the land surface by pumping grout through the casing with or without a tremie pipe, or through a tremie pipe outside the casing only after the annular space is flushed clean of debris. Wells grouted using a volume of grout less than 80 percent of annular space volume, if approved by the DNR staff, may be subjected to re-inspections.
 - (b) The Contractor accepts responsibility for repair or replacement of such a well, if the DNR determines repair or replacement of the well is necessary. If a loss circulation zone prevents proper grouting, the annulus shall be bridged above the loss circulation zone with an approved material, using a tremie pipe and grouted from the top of the bridge to the land surface.
 - (c) The bottom of tremie pipe shall be within 1 foot of the casing seal with exit notches or slits strictly within 3 feet from the seal allowing grouting to be discharged only within 3 feet from the seal. The grout slurry shall be pumped with a rig mud pump, air diaphragm pump, or any other positive displacement pump. Drilling activities must halt for a minimum of 12 hours after casing grout is completed.
 - (d) Use of other types of pumps ~~will~~ must be approved by the DNR staff, provided that the Contractor demonstrates that the pump can be used for the intended purpose. Grouting under gravity pressure (pouring) shall not be allowed.
 - (e) Fly Ash is not permitted for use with any grouting products.
9. If the annular space of a well under construction collapses or loses stability prior to successful installation of casing, the Contractor shall remove the well casing, re-drill and stabilize the borehole, re-install the well casing and tremie pipe before grouting the annular space. Upon reviewing site specific conditions, the DNR inspection staff may authorize deviations from this requirement.
10. If a borehole collapses prior to successful emplacement of grout, the Contractor shall re-drill and stabilize the borehole, reinstall the tremie pipe then grout the borehole. Upon reviewing site specific conditions, only the

DNR inspection staff may authorize deviations from this requirement.

11. Unless otherwise permitted due to local topography, all wells shall be a minimum of 12 inches above finished grade and if practical, 12 inches above the 100-year flood elevation so as to prevent surface water from entering the well head. After the well is completed and construction has been approved, the minimum height of the well head above finished grade is to be maintained after the pump has been installed and connected to the water treatment system or the building.
12. Wells, which flow at the ground surface, must have a satisfactory valve so that the flow can be readily and completely stopped.
13. All water wells constructed for the purpose of supplying public drinking water shall be subject to the requirements of the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Lee County Health Department, Environmental Engineering Division, specifically with regard to site approval prior to construction and the flushing of disinfectant. The Contractor shall be responsible for the necessary coordination to ensure the above compliance.
14. All private domestic water wells shall have ~~at least a~~ [minimum of](#) 30 feet of casing unless a special exemption or variance is granted by the DNR.
15. All new wells within the boundaries of Lehigh Acres established in Policy 54.1.9 of the Lee Plan, or as that policy may be amended, renumbered, or replaced and as depicted in the map attached as Exhibit "A" (Intra-Aquifer Confining Unit – Restricted Area in Lehigh Acres and San Carlos Park, Irrigation Well Restricted Areas – Lower Tamiami Aquifer) and incorporated herein, shall be constructed to accommodate submersible pumps unless the well is 30 feet or less in depth.
16. In the vicinity of San Carlos Park, an intra-aquifer confining unit exists in the Water Table aquifer, typically occurring at approximately 30 to 35 below the land surface. This confining unit separates the shallow portion of the Water Table aquifer from the deeper portion of the Water Table aquifer. A distinct difference of water quality exists above and beneath the intra-aquifer confining unit. In order to prevent contamination of water quality in the deeper portion of the Water Table aquifer, all wells installed within the boundaries of the San Carlos Park area as depicted in the map attached as Exhibit "A" shall be constructed in a manner to prevent intermixing of waters of different quality.
17. In Lehigh Acres, an intra-aquifer confining unit exists in the Sandstone aquifer. This confining unit effectively separates the shallow portion of the Sandstone aquifer from the deeper portion of the Sandstone aquifer. In order to prevent contamination of water quality in the deeper portion of the

Sandstone aquifer, all wells installed within the boundaries of Lehigh Acres area as depicted in the map attached as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein, shall be constructed in a manner to prevent intermixing of waters of different quality.

18. Following well construction, each well must be thoroughly developed using the method of well development appropriate for the constructed well and the site conditions to ensure complete removal of all sand, drilling mud, drill cuttings and other debris from the well. On the day of construction, at the end of well development, sediment free clean water sample shall be collected from the well water producing zone in the container provided by the DNR.
19. Lee County recommends that all new domestic water supply wells be disinfected following their construction, and after pump installation by a State of Florida licensed water well contractor or plumber, prior to being utilized for domestic water supply service.
20. Wells installed by property owners who are not State of Florida Water Well licensed contractors shall not exceed a depth of 30 feet below the land surface or the top of the regional confining unit, whichever occurs first.

13.6 TEST WELLS, GEOTECHNICAL BORINGS AND SHAFT HOLES.

1. Test wells whose purpose is obtaining exploratory or observational data shall conform to the specifications for regular wells within 12 months of construction. Such wells may be converted to permanent production or observation wells if constructed by a State of Florida Water Well Contractor and the well construction was approved by the DNR and the SFWMD has approved the proposed aquifer for use, when applicable. Water test wells not converted to permanent wells shall be plugged as specified by this Ordinance and other State requirements.
2. Geotechnical borings for the purpose of obtaining data for engineering studies, seismographic, geophysical or geological exploration or prospecting for minerals that exceed 10 feet in depth shall be plugged from bottom of the borehole to the land surface with an approved grouting material immediately upon completion of tests or borings. Borings not exceeding 10 feet in depth may utilize clean inert fill. The Contractor shall be responsible for the proper abandonment of such geotechnical borings.
3. Shaft holes for hydraulic lifts shall be double-cased with a minimum of 2 inches of grouting material in annular spaces outside and between casing strings. The shaft hole shall be grouted a minimum of 5 feet below the bottom of the inner casing.

4. Boreholes that exceed ten feet in depth not completed as wells, test holes or elevator shafts shall be plugged from bottom of the borehole to the land surface in a manner specified in this Ordinance. The Contractor shall be responsible for the proper abandonment of boreholes before leaving the site.

13.7 ABANDONED WELLS.

When a well is determined to be abandoned, the Director or his/her designee may, by his/her authority for protection of water resources, require that the well be rehabilitated or plugged. The Director or his/her designee may immediately use temporary measures to control a flowing or a non-flowing well; otherwise, the following procedure shall take place before the well is rehabilitated or plugged:

1. The Director or his/her designee shall notify the property owner that a well on his/her property has been identified as abandoned. If no property owner can be identified, the Director, or his/her designee, shall cause to be published in a paper of general circulation for Lee County, notice of the DNR's intent to plug the abandoned artesian or a non-flowing well. Notice shall be once each week for 4 consecutive weeks.
2. Once so notified, the property owner shall submit to the DNR within 10 calendar days the geophysical logs or a well completion report showing depth of well and casing.
3. If the geophysical logs or a well completion report show the well is open to more than one aquifer or the casing is corroded, the well shall be ordered to be rehabilitated or plugged within 90 days of notification by DNR.
4. If geophysical logs or a well completion report are not available or cannot be provided to the DNR, the owner shall have 90 days in which to have the depth of well and casing determined by the appropriate geophysical logs.
5. If the property owner has been ordered to plug or rehabilitate a well on his/her property but does not carry out the work as ordered within 90 days, duly authorized representatives of the DNR may at reasonable times enter upon and shall be given access to the premises by the property owner for the purpose of carrying out the work so ordered. The property owner shall then become liable for the cost of the ordered work. If the owner fails to pay for the work performed by the County, a lien may be placed on the owner's property to satisfy such costs. If the abandoned well was for residential domestic or irrigation use and is being replaced, the homeowner may plug the abandoned well provided that the well does not exceed 30 feet in depth and the homeowner shall obtain a well abandonment permit from DNR prior to plugging a the well. The homeowner must abandon the well in compliance with the provisions in SECTION 13, CONSTRUCTION OF WELLS, BORINGS AND SHAFT HOLES, herein.

13.8 PLUGGING OF EXISTING WELLS.

Generally, a well may be plugged provided:

1. It is filled from bottom to the land surface with an appropriate grouting material as defined in SECTION FIVE, DEFINITIONS, herein and pumped into the well through appropriate sized tubing inserted in the well, and work done in accordance with the requirements of the DNR and the SFWMD.
2. An attempt is made to determine the depth of the well.
3. Other materials or methods for plugging wells may be utilized only if approved by the DNR and the SFWMD.

13.9 PERMITS.

1. Prior to plugging any well, a permit must be obtained from the DNR.
2. The Contractor shall be familiar and shall comply with applicable provisions of Chapter 373, F.S., Regulation of Wells, Part III.
3. Unless the Contractor has obtained a permit for other work, as specified elsewhere herein, and said permit includes plugging of well(s) together with approved plugging specifications and procedures, he/she shall submit evidence of approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection or any other required State agency approval, with the methods to be used in plugging together with the application to plug any well which extends beyond the water table aquifer.
4. The Contractor shall notify the DNR at least 24 hours prior to the start of the plugging operation so that a DNR inspector may be present during plugging operation.
5. After completion of plugging a well, the required completion report shall be promptly filed with the DNR. This report shall include the depth of the well, chloride content (milligrams per liter or parts per million), static water level before plugging, temperature of the water, and the quantity of backfill material used if applicable.

13.10 PLUGGING OF REPLACEMENT WELLS.

The Contractor shall ensure that the existing well is plugged from bottom to the land surface with approved grouting material and in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance within 2 weeks following completion of installation of the replacement well. The DNR must be notified by the Contractor at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to plugging the replacement well, so that an inspector can be present during

plugging operation. Upon reviewing project specific circumstances, the DNR inspection staff may authorize deviations from this requirement.

13.11 REPAIR OR REPLACEMENT OF WELLS.

All work involving repair or replacement of wells shall be performed by a licensed State of Florida Water Well Contractor. Wells found to have defective casings shall be repaired or considered as an abandoned well. The defective casings shall not be pulled. Should special repair or replacement techniques seem desirable, special application by the Contractor, including all technical data regarding existing conditions and the Contractor's proposed methods of effecting repair, or replacement, shall be submitted to the DNR for review as necessary. The Contractor shall adhere precisely to the special application as approved, amended or disapproved.

13.12 GEOTHERMAL CLOSED LOOP HOLES

Multiple holes constructed for the purposes of heat exchange in the earth, Closed Looped piping is installed in the predrilled holes to exchange heat for cooling in the summer and heating in the winter. Holes may not exceed the Water-Table Aquifer, and must be filled with clean, inert fill. The open hole or any installed pipe may not exceed the first confining unit below the Water Table aquifer.

13.13 WATER WELL PUMP INSTALLATION

In accordance with State law, only a Licensed State of Florida Water Well Contractor, a Licensed State of Florida Plumber or the property owner shall perform the installation, repair, removal, and replacement of any pump from any type of a groundwater well. No other licensed professional shall perform work inside any type of well, unless a license is granted from the State of Florida.

Any work that is not performed by a Licensed State of Florida Plumber, Water Well Contractor or the property owner shall be determined to be an Unlicensed Contractor and may be subject to a \$500.00 fine for each occurrence. The County may attach a hold for no further permitting as well as the fine to the parcel in which the violation occurred making the property the responsible party.

SECTION FOURTEEN: SUPPLEMENTAL REGULATIONS

14.1 RULES AND REGULATIONS.

All rules, regulations, administrative codes, statutes and laws set by higher authority in control of water resources remain in effect and are supplemented by rules and regulations in this Ordinance.

14.2 LIMITS OF COUNTY LIABILITY.

The issuance of a well construction approval number shall not be interpreted as an assurance by Lee County that any private water system well will continue to meet the minimum standards of this Ordinance or any other County, State or Federal standard. No person shall be entitled to rely upon the issuance of any permit or certificate as proof that Lee County or the State of Florida is assuming any legal responsibility for ensuring that private water wells, once tested, continue to meet any standards whatever for quality, quantity, and potability, including, but not limited to, bacteriological levels, salinity, turbidity or mineral content.

SECTION FIFTEEN: ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

15.1 PENALTIES.

Any person, including a property owner or a licensed contractor, who violates any section of this Ordinance shall be punished in accordance with the Lee County Well Code Contractor’s Disciplinary Guidelines contained in attached APPENDIX “B.” The Lee County Board of County Commissioners may institute in any Court or before any Administrative Board of competent jurisdiction an action to prevent, restrain, correct or abate any violation of this Ordinance or any order or ruling made in connection with its administration or enforcement by way of mandatory injunction or otherwise, as deemed proper by the Court.

15.2 CITATION PROCEDURE FOR UNLICENSED CONTRACTORS.

1. Applicability:

The DNR Well inspectors are authorized to enforce the provisions of this ordinance against licensed and unlicensed Boring and Elevator Shaft contractors doing business in the incorporated municipalities of the City of Bonita Springs, City of Ft. Myers, City of Sanibel, Village of Estero, and any other incorporated municipality within Lee County under the terms of a duly executed interlocal agreement, along with the unincorporated areas of Lee County in accordance with the procedures set forth below.

2. Citation Procedure

- (a) A code enforcement officer/Well Inspector may issue a citation against a licensed or unlicensed Contractor for any violation of this ordinance, whenever, based upon personal investigation, the code enforcement officer has reasonable and probable grounds to believe that a violation has occurred.
- (b) The code enforcement officer does not have to provide the person with time to correct the violation prior to issuing a citation.

- (c) A citation must be in a form prescribed by the DNR and contain:
1. The date and time of issuance.
 2. The name and address of the person to whom the citation is issued.
 3. The date and time the civil infraction was committed.
 4. The facts constituting probable cause.
 5. The number or section of the code or ordinance violated.
 6. The name and authority of the code enforcement officer.
 7. The procedure for the person to follow in order to pay the civil penalty or to contest the citation.
 8. The applicable civil penalty if the person elects to contest the citation.
 9. The applicable civil penalty if the person elects not to contest the citation.
 10. A conspicuous statement that if the person fails to pay the civil penalty within the time allowed, or fails to appear in court to contest the citation, he/she will be deemed to have waived his/her right to contest the citation and that, in such case, judgment may be entered against the person for an amount up to the maximum civil penalty.
- (d) The act for which the citation is issued must cease upon receipt of the citation.
- (e) Each day violation continues constitutes a separate and citable offense under this ordinance. Therefore, if appropriate, a code enforcement officer may issue successive Citations.
- (f) After issuing a citation to the alleged violator, the code enforcement officer must deposit the original citation and one copy of the citation with the county court.
- (g) A schedule of penalties to be assessed by the code enforcement officer is set out in the Lee County Administrative code. The maximum civil penalty that can be assessed is \$500.

- (h) Any person who willfully refuses to sign and accept a citation issued by a Code Enforcement Officer r will be guilty of a misdemeanor of the second degree as provided in §§775.082 or 775.083, F.S.
- (i) Any Lee County well inspector/~~code enforcement officer~~ has the ability to stop any and all unpermitted and unlicensed Well drilling, Test Boring, ~~and Elevator~~ [shaft and Well Pump installation](#) activities. If ~~a stop work order has been issued and~~ the work continues, the inspector may request the Lee County ~~Sheriff's~~ [Sheriff's](#) department be deployed for assistance to stop all unlicensed/unpermitted activities.

15.3 USE OF FUNDS COLLECTED.

Any funds collected in accordance with this section will be retained by the DNR to support future code enforcement activities.

SECTION SIXTEEN: APPENDICES

Appendices A and B are attached hereto are hereby incorporated by reference into this Ordinance as though fully set forth herein.

SECTION SEVENTEEN: CONFLICTS

In the event that any provision of this Ordinance is found to be contrary to any other existing Lee County Ordinance, code, rule or regulation covering the same subject matter, this Ordinance shall supersede all other such Ordinances, codes, rules or regulations to the extent that this Ordinance is in conflict therewith.

SECTION EIGHTEEN: SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and it is the intention to confer the whole or any part of the Powers herein provided for. If any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be held unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, the decision of such Court shall not affect or impair any remaining provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared to be the legislative intent that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such unconstitutional provision not been included therein.

SECTION NINETEEN: INCLUSION IN CODE

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners that the provisions of this Ordinance shall become and be made a part of the Lee County Code and that sections of this Ordinance may be renumbered or re-lettered and the word "Ordinance" may be changed to "section", "article", or such other appropriate word or phrase in order to accomplish such intensions and regardless of whether such inclusion in the Code is accomplished.

SECTION TWENTY: SCRIVENER'S ERRORS

The Board of County Commissioners intends that this Ordinance can be renumbered or re-lettered and typographical errors and clarification of ambiguous wording that do not affect the intent can be corrected with the authorization of the County Administrator, County Manager or his/her designee, without the need for a public hearing by filing a corrected or re-codified copy of same with the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

SECTION TWENTY-ONE: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Ordinance shall become effective upon receipt of official notice from the Florida Secretary of State that the Ordinance has been duly filed with that office.

SECTION TWENTY-TWO: MODIFICATION

It is the intent of the Board that the provisions of this Ordinance may be modified as a result of consideration that may arise during Public Hearing(s). Such modifications will be incorporated into the final version of this Ordinance.

[End of provisions.]

Commissioner _____ made a motion to adopt the foregoing ordinance, seconded by Commissioner _____. The vote was as follows:

Kevin Ruane _____
Cecil L Pendergrass _____
Raymond Sandelli _____
Brian Hamman _____
Mike Greenwell _____

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2023.

ATTEST:
KEVIN C. KARNES, CLERK

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

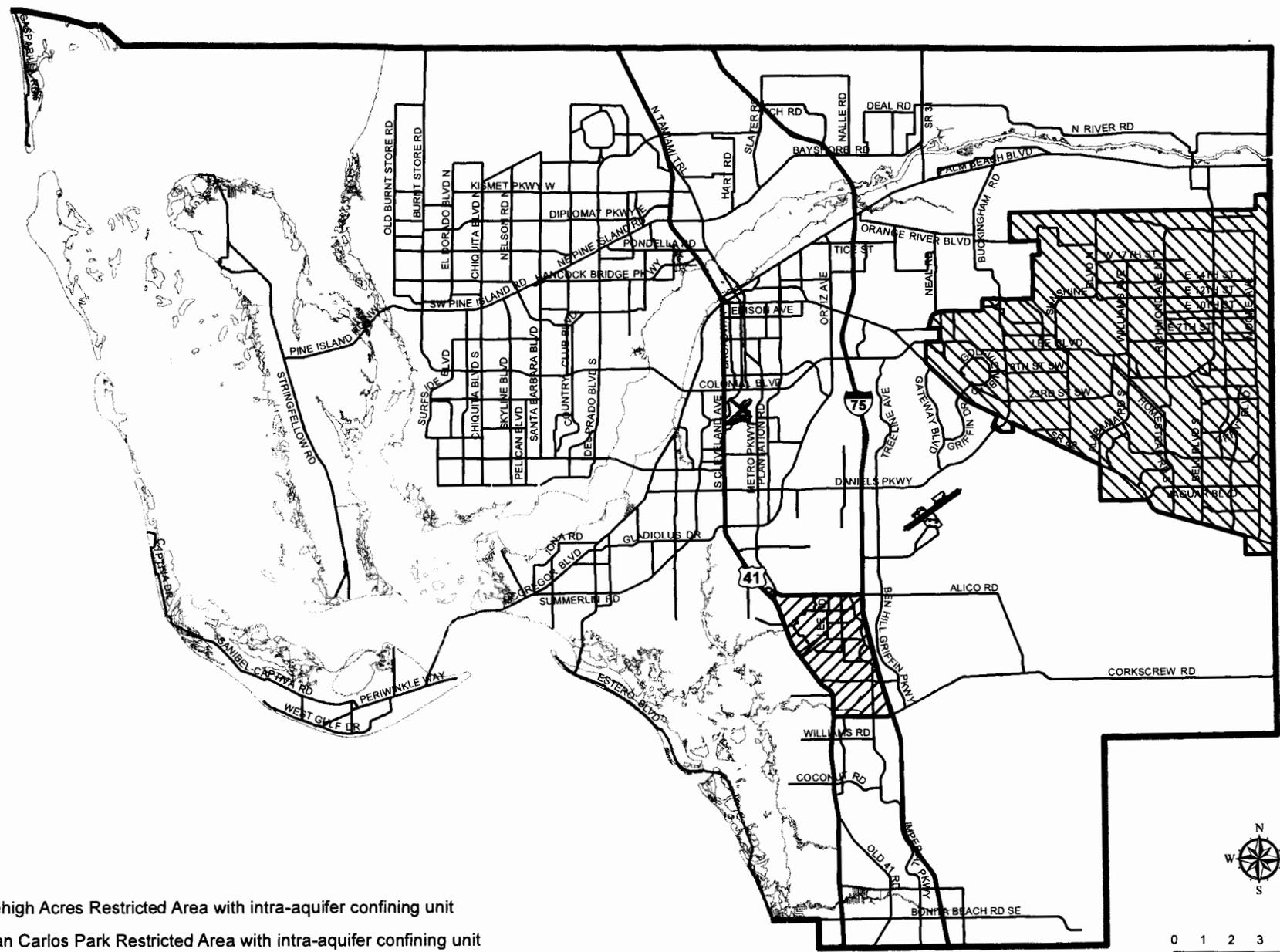
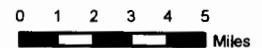
BY: _____
Brian Hamman, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR THE
RELIANCE OF LEE COUNTY ONLY

BY: _____
Lee County Attorney's Office

Attachments: Exhibit "A" (Intra-Aquifer Confining Unit – Restricted Area in Lehigh Acres and San Carlos Park, Irrigation Well Restricted Areas – Lower Tamiami Aquifer)
APPENDIX "A" - Lee County Well Code Procedures Manual
APPENDIX "B" - Well Contractor's Disciplinary Guidelines

-  Lehigh Acres Restricted Area with intra-aquifer confining unit
-  San Carlos Park Restricted Area with intra-aquifer confining unit



APPENDIX "A"

LEE COUNTY WELL CODE PROCEDURES MANUAL

For the Issuance of Permits for Well Construction and Abandonment

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to provide, periodically, more details to selected methods, materials, procedures, and policies that are described, in general terms, in the Lee County Well Code ("*Well Code*"). The manual will also include updates of Federal, State, and other County regulations affecting the Well Code.

The manual is divided into three sections:

- I. Permits (application requirements, supporting documentation)
- II. Well Construction (methods, casing, grout, annulus)
- III. Administration (code interpretations, license, penalties)

SECTION I PERMITS

A property owner, owner's agent, or a licensed water well, elevator shaft, monitor well or geotechnical boring contractor may make applications for permits, but all applications must include the signature of the appropriate Contractor. For convenience the Lee County Division of Natural Resources ("*DNR*") allows well permit applications to be [submitted online via the Lee County permitting system](#), ~~mailed, hand-delivered or faxed to our office location noted below.~~

~~**Mailing address: Lee County Division of Natural Resources
Well Permitting – 1st Floor
PO Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902**~~

~~**Physical Address: Lee County Division of Natural Resources
Well Permitting – 1st Floor
1500 Monroe Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33901**~~

~~**FAX 239-479-8535**~~

Permit and other fees are handled by the Cashier's Office located at the 1st floor of the Community Development/Public Works building at 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, Florida. The Cashier's Office can be reached at (239) 479-8539 or by facsimile at (239) 479-8186.

The County promotes electronic communication between staff and Contractors. In order to improve the efficiency of the work place, the staff may elect to electronically transmit permits and other correspondence to Contractors instead of facsimile or US mail.

Permit Processing Time: Permit applications are accepted ~~at the permit counter from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.~~ [online through the Lee County permitting system website 24 hours per day](#). All permit applications and supporting documents will be reviewed for completeness and a sufficiency determination will be made upon receipt of the application. A request for supplemental information will be transmitted to the applicant by DNR staff for applications determined insufficient. The DNR will strive to issue permits within 24-hours upon receipt of a complete permit application. Any application received after 2:00 pm will not be processed until the following day. Following permit approval drilling shall be scheduled prior to 6:30 a.m. on the drilling day. Upon issuance of a permit, the permit can be transmitted to the applicant via email, facsimile, mail or picked up and drilling may start at anytime of the scheduled day. The permit shall be placed in a ziplock plastic bag or similar enclosure to protect it from inclement weather, yet remain visible to an inspector.

Permit Completion, Transfers, Exchanges, and Subcontracting: All entries on the Well Construction Permit Application must be *fully* completed. No permit shall be transferred or exchanged and any request for renewal must be made in writing to the DNR. Subcontracting may be authorized only due to extenuating circumstances.

Job Site Directions: The applicant for a well construction permit is responsible for providing clear, correct, and complete directions to the job site. The directions should be descriptive enough that a stranger to Lee County could find the location. These directions do not take the place of a site plan.

Permits are valid for 6 months: A well can be redrilled or relocated provided the permit has not been closed by DNR. The rehabilitation of an existing well because of extenuating circumstances will not require a new permit if rehab occurs within 6 months of the original drilling. Although a permit is not required, the DNR shall be notified of the proposed activity. Acceptable circumstances include drilling out a plug to set a pump, setting a screen, or redeveloping.

Casing Variances: In certain areas of Alva, the water in the Sandstone aquifer is too salty for potable use. A variance of the 30-foot casing requirement may be requested for domestic wells planned for construction in these areas (see Well Construction Permit for additional instructions).

Site Inspection Requirement: Permit applications for wells for new construction accompanied by Health Department/Environmental Engineering Division (“HD/EE”) approved site plans are exempt from site inspections by the Contractor. It is the Contractor’s responsibility to make certain that a well construction permit application does not contain gross errors or materially misrepresents the facts.

The revised well construction permit application includes an entry for:

“Site Inspected: yes () no ()”

If this item is checked “no” or not checked at all on an irrigation or replacement well application, the permit may be issued, but the well shall not be scheduled for construction until the site has been inspected by the Contractor or a County Well Inspector. If the County Well Inspector visits the site, an additional fee equivalent to reinspection fee, will be added to the application fee.

Site Plans for Irrigation Wells: An irrigation well construction permit application shall have a detailed site plan showing distances from the proposed well location to septic systems both on the owner’s property and adjoining properties. It is suggested that a copy of the approved ~~septic system~~-building site plan be included with the application. ~~If the setback cannot be met, the applicant must apply to HD/EE for a variance.~~

Chapter 64E-6 Florida Administrative Code (“F.A.C.”): This Chapter authorizes the HD/EE to revoke a permit of an approved proposed or existing septic system if a new irrigation well is installed within the 50-foot setback. Chapter 64E-8 F.A.C. delegates variance authority to the HD/EE for replacement domestic wells that are less than 75 feet and irrigation wells that are less than 50 feet from a septic system.

Brokering Well Construction: The Contractor constructing the well must sign the well construction application. If another Contractor brokered the job, that should be shown on the application in the appropriate space. The Contractor brokering the job may sign the application also, but as an authorized agent of the owner.

Geotechnical Boring and Monitor Well Permits: A single permit shall be issued for all geotechnical borings located on an individual parcel. Likewise, a single permit shall be issued for all monitor wells located on an individual parcel. The Contractor shall be responsible for obtaining clearing permits, if necessary, in order to access the site.

~~Geotechnical borings constructed by hand do not require a permit, but must be filled with grout when completed. Geotechnical borings in bottoms of large surface water bodies do not require well construction permits if the borings do not penetrate the first regional confining layer, which is usually 20 to 30 feet below land surface.~~

In cooperation with the Lee County Department of Community Development (“DCD”), the DNR will require that all geotechnical boring and monitor well construction permit applications ~~indicate if the site has been checked with DCD and must provide~~ a vegetation removal permit ~~obtained, if needed~~ or an email exemption from the proper Agency Contact of Area performing work.

For further information on the vegetation removal permits, call ~~(239) 479-8323~~ (239) 533-8585 or visit the Community Development/Public Works Service Center at 1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers.

Sample Bottles: In order to help with the collection of water samples, the NRD staff will give a sample container bottle for each permit. All water samples shall be collected in the DNR-provided laboratory containers.

Lee County Environmental Laboratory: This is a sterile environment. The outside of the sample bottles needs to be as clean as possible. If a County Well Inspector is not present when the sample is collected, the Contractor shall ensure that the sample bottle is securely fastened to a fixed object located at the vicinity of the well. The DNR suggests the use of duct tape or plastic cable ties (wire ties) be used to secure the sample bottles to the well casing. Lab procedures require agitation of the water sample before analysis. Therefore, Contractors are required to collect a clear and clean sample as described in adopted Well Code.

STRAP Numbers: Effective July 1, 1998, Lee County Property Appraiser STRAP numbers will be required on all well, geotechnical boring and elevator shaft construction permit applications.

Construction Scheduling: All drilling inspection scheduling, anticipated interruptions and cancellation shall be logged on the inspection call-in scheduling recorder number provided on the well construction permit or application. The DNR must be notified of scheduled drilling prior to 6:30 a.m. of the day construction is to begin for any permit issued by the DNR.

Cancellation of Scheduled Construction: As soon as the need for cancellation/interruption arises, Contractors shall log the cancellation/interruption on the recorder. Failure to notify cancellations on the recorder prior to 11:59 p.m. of the day, for which work is scheduled, shall become non-compliant with this Ordinance. All scheduled inspections that are not cancelled as stated above are subjected to a reinspection fee and a fine.

Excessive Cancellations: Failure to cancel a job prior to 6:30 a.m. of the day for which the work is scheduled shall be counted towards computing excessive cancellations. Excessive cancellations as described in Well Code Appendix B, Disciplinary Guidelines, shall result in fines.

Specific Information Required on Permit Applications: In addition to the permit application and permit fee, the following information is required for processing permit applications depending on the type of project:

Domestic Supply Well (single family, duplex with multiple wells, multi-family, farm, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- ~~Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;~~
- ~~Lee County Health Department approved site plan;~~
- ~~Lee County Health Department septic system permit;~~
- A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;
- Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;
- Issued Residential new construction permit;
- Affidavit of Authorization;
- Notice of Commencement; and
- ~~Letter of Intent to construct home within one year (as applicable);~~
~~and~~
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Irrigation Well (single family, duplex, multiple-family, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~

- ~~• Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;~~
- ~~• Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations; and~~
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- [Consumptive use permit if being constructed on an empty lot with or commercial lot; and](#)
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Commercial Irrigation Well:

- [A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;](#)
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- ~~• STRAP number;~~
- ~~• Site address;~~
- Water Use Permit (“WUP”) number and copy of WUP;
- ~~• Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;~~
- ~~• Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations; and~~
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- [Vegetarian permit or exemption email; and](#)
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Agricultural Irrigation Well (Farm, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~• STRAP number;~~
- ~~• Site address;~~
- WUP Number and copy of WUP;
- ~~• Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;~~
- ~~• Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations; and~~
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code; and](#)
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Fire Well (single family, duplex, multiple-family):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- ~~Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;~~
- ~~Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations;~~
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- Fire well engineering design calculations for fire suppression system water demand in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”) Code; and
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Fire Well (commercial, farm, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;
- WUP Number and copy of WUP;
- ~~Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations;~~
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- Fire well engineering design calculations for fire suppression system water demand in accordance with the NFPA; and
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Test Well (commercial, farm):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized; [and](#)

- [Email of confirmation from the South Florida Water Management District or WUP Number and copy of WUP;](#) ~~and~~
- ~~Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations.~~

Piezometer Well (single-family, duplex, multi-family, commercial, farm):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- ~~Site address;~~
- Site plan sketch indicating proposed piezometer location(s); and
- Correct proposed piezometer construction details.

Public Water Supply Well (commercial, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;
- Lee County Health Department approved site plan;
- Lee County Health Department Form 4092;
- WUP Number and copy of WUP; and
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Limited Use Community Public Water Supply Well (“LUCPWS”) (commercial, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;
- ~~Lee County Health Department approved site plan;~~
- Lee County Health Department Form 4092;

- WUP Number and copy of WUP; and
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Geo-Thermal Supply and Injection Well (single family, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;
- ~~Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations; and~~
- [Copy of exemption from SFWMD;](#)
- [Copy of exemption from DEP; and](#)
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Geo-Thermal Supply and Injection Well (commercial, farm, replacement):

- A valid State of Florida water well contractor license;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- [A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;](#)
- [Site plan as defined in Section Five Definitions of Lee County Well Code;](#)
- Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;
- [Affidavit of Authorization;](#)
- [Notice of Commencement;](#)
- ~~Site plan sketch indicating proposed well and septic system locations;~~
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (“FDEP”) injection well permit;
- ~~WUP Number and copy of WUP; and~~
- [Copy of exemption from SFWMD;](#)
- [Copy of exemption from DEP; and](#)
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

Geotechnical Boring:

- [A Geotechnical Boring Application](#)
- A valid State of Florida water well or geotechnical boring contractor license;

- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address; and~~
- Site plan sketch indicating proposed boring locations;
- Affidavit of Authorization; and
- Lee County Property Appraiser parcel detail page.

Monitoring Well:

- A valid State of Florida water well or monitoring well contractor license;
- A properly completed State of Florida Water Well Application;
- ~~STRAP number;~~
- ~~Site address;~~
- Affidavit of Authorization;
- Notice of Commencement;
- Correct proposed well casing and total well depth for aquifer production zone to be utilized;
- Site plan sketch indicating proposed monitoring well locations; and
- Replacement Well Form, if applicable.

SECTION II WELL CONSTRUCTION

Drilling After Regular Work Hours: While not prohibited, the DNR ~~strongly recommends~~ requires that weekend, holiday and evening drilling receive prior approval or be restricted to emergencies only. By doing so, the County Well Inspectors will be available to assist in the administration and enforcement of the Well Code. The DNR has the authority to require certain phases of well construction to be witnessed by a County Well Inspector, the Director's authorized representative, or an approved third party. Well construction initiated during regular work hours may continue beyond normal working hours of County Well Inspectors as required and authorized by DNR on a case specific basis. An after-hour inspection fee may be assessed for inspections performed outside normal working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) of County Well Inspectors.

Drilling Water: The quality of water used for drilling and well construction shall comply with the requirements specified in Chapter 40E-3 F.A.C. This includes make up water for the construction of elevator shafts and geotechnical borings.

Proper Placement of Casing: Chapter 40E-3 F.A.C. and the Well Code states specifically that the casing of a well must be seated into the production aquifer. It has been difficult to determine the casing depth in Lower Hawthorn wells because of lithology within the Lower Hawthorn confining unit. Subsequent studies have named these limestone sections as Zone II and Zone III of the Mid-Hawthorn aquifer ~~(see attached Exhibit B schematic Three Dimensional Representation of Lee County Aquifers)~~. Where there is only one zone, it is referred to as the Lower Mid-Hawthorn aquifer and the section above the confining unit as the Upper Mid-Hawthorn aquifer. Many times, utilizing of Zone II

or Zone III (or Lower Mid-Hawthorn), were interpreted as reaching the Lower Hawthorn and casing was set accordingly. However, in many instances the yield was very small and open hole was drilled until the yield increased - which was probably the true Lower Hawthorn. The South Florida Water Management District (“*SFWMD*”) classifies the permeable units as part of the Lower Hawthorn aquifer.

The *SFWMD* differentiates between aquifers more on the differences in the quality of the waters than on the differences in lithologies. This means, technically, that a well can connect two aquifers if the aquifers have the same quality of water. This rarely - if ever - happens except in the situation described immediately above and possibly between the Lower Hawthorn and Suwannee aquifers.

Grout: “Grout” means a mixture of Portland cement and water, and may include additives such as bentonite (not to exceed 4.7 lbs. per 94 lb. sack of cement), High Yield Drilling Mud (not to exceed 0.9 lbs. per 94 lb. sack of cement), calcium chloride (not to exceed 3 lbs. per 94 lb. sack of cement) or retarder (not to exceed 1 lb. per 94 lb. sack of cement), or other admixtures approved by the DNR. When using bentonite as an additive, an additional 0.65 gallons of water per percent of bentonite may be used. When using High Yield Drilling Mud as an additive, an additional 0.80 gallons of water per percent of High Yield Drilling Mud may be used. The bentonite or High Yield Drilling Mud should always be pre-hydrated before introducing the cement into the mixture. Neat cement grout is a mixture of Portland cement and water without any additives. Neat cement grout composition shall not exceed 6 gallons of water per 94-pound sack of Portland cement.

One sack of cement equals one cubic foot (cu ft); six gallons of water equal 0.8 cu ft, but a slurry of 6 gallons of water and 1 sack of cement occupies 1.28 cu ft. The annular space in an 8-inch borehole with 4-inch (4.5” O.D.) casing (4”x 8”) is 0.2385 cu ft per linear foot. Therefore, assuming a consistent 8-inch borehole and no lost circulation zones, the 6:1 slurry will fill 5.4 feet of annulus (1.28/0.2385). If a 100-foot well casing is used, 18.6 sacks of cement will be needed for a proper grout job.

The *Halliburton Cementing Tables*, Section 230.15, states that if 5 percent bentonite (about 4.7 lbs. of bentonite per 94-lb. sack of cement) is added to the cement grout, the maximum recommended amount of water is 8.5 gallons per sack of cement. This would yield a slurry volume of 1.71 cu ft per sack. This mixture would fill 6.6 feet of annulus in a 4”x8”x100’ well and would require 15.2 sacks of cement and 71.44 lbs. of bentonite. These figures also assume a consistent 8-inch borehole and no lost circulation zones.

The typical 55-gallon barrel is 22 inches in diameter, 34 inches in height, and holds 7.47 cu ft. Each inch of depth in the barrel holds 1.64 gallons. To ensure adequate mixing of neat cement, no more than 24 gallons of water shall be used

for mixing a 4-sack barrel and no more than 30 gallons used for a 5-sack barrel. The depth of 24 gallons is 14.59 inches and 30 gallons is 18.24 inches. After mixing, a 4-sack slurry should have 10.65 inches of freeboard (distance between top of barrel and top of slurry) in the barrel and the 5-sack mix should have 4.82 inches. The numbers for these two mixtures in the plastic, curved-sided barrels have not been determined.

A 3-sack mix of 5 percent bentonite occupies 5.15 cu ft (3 sacks, 27.75 gallons, and 14.1 lbs. of bentonite). This is roughly the same volume as the 5.12 cu ft of the 6:1 neat cement. The 3-sack cement-bentonite slurry will require 16.87 inches of water in the barrel and the 4-sack, requires 22.5 inches.

If the County Well Inspector witnesses grout return, the well will be approved. If the inspector does not witness the return and is not present when the well is completed, the well shall not be dry bagged. Whenever the well is inspected, if the grout is within 5 feet of natural grade, the well will be approved. If deeper than 5 feet, the Contractor will be notified to add grout. When the Division has been notified that the additional grouting is complete, the well will be re-inspected and approved.

Grout Shrinkage: There continues to be grout shrinkage even with the new mixing combinations. This was expected, but in some cases, the shrinkage has been excessive; i.e., more than 5 feet. Some grout should be saved and poured in the annulus around the well just as the site is about to be vacated. This should be sufficient to fill any shrinkage occurring during demobilization and will be much better than dry bagging.

Use of Surface Casing: If a loss circulation zone causes difficulty in setting casing, the County Well Inspector can instruct the driller to set surface casing or some other method to control the bore hole until the production casing is set and properly grouted. If the driller refuses, the County Well Inspector can withhold approving the well and/or suspend well construction.

Approved Well Casing: Standard Dimension Ratio (“SDR”) 26 PVC pipe shall not be used for well casing in Lee County. The Well Code states that “All well casings shall meet or exceed State specifications.” South Florida Water Management District’s Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C., states, in part, that “Any PVC pipe larger than 4.5 inches outside diameter used for well construction or repair shall have a working pressure rating of not less than 200 p.s.i. at 73 degrees F. or shall be ASA Schedule 40.” Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s Chapter 62-532.500(1)(e) F.A.C. states, in part, that “Any PVC pipe used for well construction or repair shall at a minimum meet the specifications for Schedule 40 or Standard Dimension Ratio (SDR) 21.”

PVC PIPE PRESSURE RATINGS
(In pounds per square inch)

Nominal Diameter (Inches)	Pipe Class					
	SDR 26	SDR 21	SDR 17	SDR 13.5	Schedule 40	Schedule 80
2	160	200	250	315	280	400
4	160	200	250	315	220	320
6	160	200	250	315	180	280
8	160	200	250	315	160	250
10	160	200	250	315	140	230
12	160	200	250	315	120	230

Chapter 40E-3 F.A.C. regulations are for 6-inch (some say 5-inch) diameter well casing and larger, except for public water supply wells, which are covered regardless of diameter. Therefore, the DNR interprets SFWMD and FDEP regulations as covering all diameters. In that case, the above chart shows that Schedule 40 pipe is rated at less than 200 p.s.i. for diameters larger than 4 inches. SFWMD states that although the regulations appear to be contradictory or confusing, larger than 4-inch diameter Schedule 40 well casing, although rated at less than 200 p.s.i., is permitted and the DNR would not be in violation by allowing its use. However, SDR 26 well casing is neither Schedule 40 nor rated at 200 p.s.i. and is not permitted by DNR.

GROUT MIXTURE CARDS: These cards are available upon request. Please call tel. 239 479 8114 to request a grout mixture card. It can also be picked up at the well permitting counter at first floor of the Community Development/Public Works building (1500 Monroe Street, Fort Myers, Florida).

SECTION III ADMINISTRATION

Well Plugging Program: Chapter 40E-3 F.A.C. and the Well Code require that abandoned wells be plugged. All wells discovered by DNR staff shall be plugged by the owner at his/her expense. A plugging permit is required, ~~but no fee is charged~~. Well plugging shall be performed only by licensed [State of Florida](#) water well contractors.

Correction of Violations: In all cases, corrections of violations must be scheduled, witnessed by a County Well Inspector, and completed during County normal work hours.

Well Completion Reports: All well completion reports must be received by the DNR within 30 days of well completion. Well completion reports are also required for geotechnical borings.

Number of Wells per Lot: Chapter 40E-2, F.A.C. state that a single-family residence may have only 1 domestic well, 1 irrigation well, and 1 fire well. Additional wells for any use will require appropriate WUP and/or LUCPWS permits.

Sharing Wells: Chapter 40E-3 F.A.C. and the Well Code do not prohibit 2 single-family residences from sharing a single domestic and/or irrigation well. The residences may be on conventional-sized lots, zero-lot-line lots or common-wall lots. However, 2 or more residences on 1 ~~domestic~~-well may fall under LUCPWS and should be approved by HD/EE prior to submitting permit application to DNR. Each zero-lot line lot and each common-wall lot may also have its own well. Sharing an irrigation well is quite common among winter residents in areas of North Fort Myers. However, if the well is drilled in a lot easement, there is the possibility of it being destroyed if the easement is used later. ~~Chapter 373.217, Florida Statutes, which prohibits transporting water, does not apply to single-family residences because a water use permit is not required.~~

Rental Duplexes: If the owner lives in one unit of a rental duplex or if the owner does not charge rent for the second unit, the duplex is considered a single-family residence by the Well Code. However, at the HD/EE's request, if a single well is to supply water to both units, the setback from the septic system shall be 100 feet. If a well is constructed for each unit, whether the duplex is single family or rental, setbacks may be 75 feet for each well.

Abandonment of Wells: The definition of an abandoned artesian well in §373.203(1), F.S., includes "(b) the use of which has been permanently discontinued". Section 3 of this Code (as amended) defines an abandoned well, in part, as "...not capable of being operational throughout the year". Therefore, if a well is unable to provide water throughout the entire year, especially in the dry season, it is considered inoperable and shall be abandoned. These definitions apply to the condition of the well only. If the well is inoperable because of a dysfunctional pump or the pumping water level in the well is below the lift capacity of the centrifugal pump, the well may become operational again by repairing the pump or replacing it with a submersible pump.

If a well is to be abandoned, Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C. states that the well shall be filled from bottom to top with neat cement by a licensed water well contractor.

The DNR now has available a form letter to give to your well customers with the above statement. Wells that are non-working any part of the year, or that are galvanized and have corrosion that may contaminate the aquifers, must be plugged.

**APPENDIX “B”
LEE COUNTY WELL CODE**

CONTRACTOR’S DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

I INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to establish disciplinary guidelines for the enforcement of the Lee County Well Code (“*Well Code*”). The Guidelines specify fines and penalties for selected violations. Enforcement of these guidelines by the Lee County Division of Natural Resources (“*DNR*”) will be in a consistent and impartial manner and adhere to the intent of protecting the public’s health, safety, and welfare; and the groundwater resources.

II DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

Generally, administrative fines will be imposed for violations of the Code. Fines may range from \$50 to \$1,000 for each separate violation. Penalties may restrict the scope of a Contractor’s practice or the status of his/her license. A violation may receive a penalty, a fine, or both. Repeat violations of this Ordinance may result in a more severe fine or penalty, or both. Reinspection fees and after-hour inspection fees are shown in Section 11-0 of the External Fees & Charges Manual found in Lee County Administrative Code (“*AC*”) AC-3-10.

A Definitions of Disciplinary Actions

1. Fine: Fines are generally imposed for any violation that does not pose a risk to the public welfare or to the groundwater resources. Fines are generally for violations in non-compliance of procedural or administrative sections of the Well Code. However, gross non-compliance violations such as drilling without a permit may be assessed penalties as well. In addition, repetition of a violation that has received an administrative fine may be changed to the penalty form of disciplinary action.
2. Penalty: Penalties are the more severe form of disciplinary action and are generally imposed for any violation that presents a risk or potential risk of harm to the ground-water resources or to the public health, safety, and welfare.

B Penalties

1. Denial of an application for licensure or for renewal of a license.
2. Revocation of a specialty license for not less than one year during which time the licensee cannot construct a geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft.
3. Suspension of a licensee for a period of one to 6 months, during which time the licensee cannot construct, repair, or abandon a well, geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft.
4. Place the licensee on probation for up to 6 months, during which time the licensee would be required to give the DNR a minimum of 24 hours notice prior to construction, repair, or abandonment of any well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft.
5. Place the licensee on probation for up to 6 months, during which time the licensee cannot perform a specified stage of construction unless said construction is scheduled during County work hours and witnessed by a County well inspector.
6. Restriction of the licensee's authorized scope of practice for a selected period of time. Such restrictions may apply to a specific activity (construction, repair, or abandonment), a specific type of well, a specific drilling method, a specific geographic area, or a specific period during the week.
7. Denial of permits for new construction until violation is corrected.
8. Imposition of an administrative fine of up to \$500 for each count or separate violation.
9. Plug the well, pay fine of \$500, and obtain permit for each well. Upon inspection of the well, the DNR staff may waive the requirement for plugging the well and authorize an after-the-fact permit.
10. Well construction halted for 24 hours or until correction of non-compliant activity.
11. Prohibit scheduling of construction until violation is corrected.

C **VIOLATIONS** - Violations of the provisions of this Ordinance include the following:

(NOTE: Parenthetical references following each section below are only to assist in finding more information or detail on applicable requirements. These are intended only as a guide, and other regulations may need to be reviewed. Section references are found within the Well Code, additional references are to Rules within the F.A.C.):

1. No Permit - The construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring, or elevator shaft in Lee County, without a valid construction permit issued by DNR, SFWMD or other delegated authority. (SECTION 9.1) (40E-3.041(1) & 64E-8.002(2))
2. Permit not Posted - The construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft in Lee County, without conspicuously posting a well construction permit, issued by DNR, SFWMD or other delegated authority, at the job site. Permits that were posted, but are missing at the time of inspection shall be considered not posted. (SECTION 9.1.5)(62-532.400(4))
3. No Water Sample or failure to collect required well cuttings - Failure to collect a sediment free clean water sample in the DNR supplied container following well development or to deliver the water sample to DNR staff according to Appendix "A", Well Code Procedures Manual ("Appendix A"). It is the Contractor's responsibility to ensure the water sample is properly labeled. (SECTIONS 9.5 and 13.5.18) Failure to provide drilling samples when required. (40E-3.411(4))
4. No Well Specifications On Site - The construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft, without providing the actual construction specifications at the job site. It is the Contractor's responsibility to provide as-built construction information on the permit posted and water sample bottle. (SECTION 9.5) (40E-3.341(1)(b))
5. No License - The construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft without obtaining the appropriate contractor license. (SECTION 8 & 10.1) (40E-3.038(1)(2) & 62-531.450(2)(a),(4)(f))
6. Invalid License - The construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft with an invalid contractor license. (SECTIONS 8, 9.1 & 10.1) (40E-3.038(1)(2) & 62-531.450(2)(a),(4)(f))
7. Un-numbered Equipment - The construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft using a drilling rig that does not

display the State and or Lee County contractor license number in permanent lettering with a minimum of 2 inches in height. (SECTION 9.13) (40E-3.037-, 62-531.380(2))

8. Failure to Schedule or Cancel Activity – The initiation of construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft without scheduling an inspection. The cancellation or cessation of construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft without notifying DNR of the cancellation. (SECTIONS 12.2.2 & 12.2.11) (40E-3.341 (1-)(b))
9. Scheduling a Job that was Previously Completed and Inspected – The scheduling of a drilling job for inspection that was previously completed and inspected. (SECTION 12.2.2)
10. Cancellation Frequency Exceeds 30 Percent in any given month– The Contractor has scheduled more than 50 inspections in any given month, and subsequently has cancelled over 30 percent of scheduled inspections after 6:30 a.m. of the day construction is to be commenced. (SECTION 12.2.2) (~~Appendix “B,” Contractor Disciplinary Guidelines~~)
11. Fraudulent Misrepresentation on a Permit Application – Attempting to obtain or obtaining a permit by bribery or fraudulent misrepresentation of information. (SECTION 8.1, 9.1 & 9.10) (40E-3.341(1)(a))
12. Well Completion Report Late or Missing – The failure to provide DNR with a completion report for any type of well or geotechnical boring constructed in Lee County, within 30 days following completion of the well or geotechnical boring(s). (SECTION 11.3) (40E-3.411(1),(3) & 62-532.410))
13. Failure to Correct a Violation – The failure to take the action required to correct a violation of this Ordinance, following notification by DNR of the violation, within 7 calendar days. (SECTION 12.5)
14. Failure to Pay a Fine within 30 days – The failure to remit payment within 30 calendar days of a fine issued by DNR for violation of this Ordinance. (SECTION 12.5)
15. Failure to Comply with Imposed Penalty(s) or voluntary compliance – The failure to comply with any penalty(s) imposed by DNR due to violation of this Ordinance or breach of voluntary compliance following mediation. (SECTIONS 12.5)
16. Failure to Comply with Conditions for Issuance of Permits– Failure to comply with any of the conditions for issuance of permits listed in this Ordinance. (SECTION 10.2) (40E-3.341(1)(b))

17. Failure to meet septic system setback – Construction of a well that does not meet setback requirements of the Lee County Health Department. (SECTIONS 9.2) (62-532.400(7) & [64E-8](#))
18. Use of Unapproved Casing – The construction of any type of well or elevator shaft using a well casing material that is not approved by this Ordinance. (SECTION 13.3 and Appendix “A,” Well Code Procedures Manual) (40E-3.507(1) & 62-532.500(1))
19. Use of Unapproved Materials – The construction of any type of well, geotechnical boring or elevator shaft using any materials that are not approved by this Ordinance. (SECTION 13.3) (40E-3.507(1) & 62-532.500(1))
20. Insufficient Annular Space – The construction of any type of well or elevator shaft without achieving the required minimum annular space (two inches) over the entire cased interval of the borehole. (SECTION 13.5.4) (40E-3.517(2) & 62-532.500(2)(f)4))
21. Insufficient Wellhead Height – The construction, completion or alteration of a well casing that results in the top of the well casing being less than twelve (12) inches above the finished grade elevation. (SECTION 13.5.11) (62-532.500(3)(b)2,3 & 4))
22. No Temporary Well Seal or Sanitary Seal – The failure to utilize a sanitary well seal during the temporary cessation of drilling activities or the failure to install a sanitary seal on a well following construction completion. (SECTION 13.5.7)
23. Incomplete Grout Stage – The failure to install the required volume or type of grout into any portion of the annulus or annular space of any type of well or elevator shaft. (SECTION 13.5.8)
24. Tremie Pipe Improperly Installed or Modified– The use of a tremie pipe which is not properly installed in accordance with this Ordinance, or a tremie pipe with exit notches or slits not located within 3 feet from the seal. (SECTION 13.5.8)
25. Borehole ~~left~~ [Left](#) Open without Grout – The failure to grout any borehole in accordance with the grouting requirements of this Ordinance. (SECTION ~~13.5.7~~ [13.5.8](#))
26. Casing Improperly Installed and Seated – The failure to install the casing at the proper depth where the bottom of the casing does not extend beyond the top of water bearing aquifer to be used. Seating of the well

casing must ensure proper placement of the casing seal (rubber boot). (SECTION 13.5)

27. Improper Grout Mixture – The use of any grouting mixture that does not meet the grout mixture specifications of this Ordinance. (Section 13.5.8 & Appendix “A,” Well Code Procedures Manual & Ch 40E-3)
28. Drilling Water ~~fails~~-Fails to Meet Chapter 40E-3, F.A.C. – The use of water for drilling that does not comply with the water quality requirements of Chapter 40E-3 F.A.C. (40E-3.512(1))
29. Incomplete Well Development – The failure to thoroughly develop a well using the method of well development appropriate for the well construction and the site conditions to ensure complete removal of all sand, drilling mud, drill cuttings and other debris from the well before collecting a clear and clean water sample in a DNR provided container. (SECTION 13.5.18)
30. Failure to Plug a Replaced Well – The failure to properly plug an existing well that has been replaced within 2 weeks of the completion of the replacement well. (SECTION 13.8) (40E-3.531(3))
31. Failure to Plug an Abandoned Well – The failure to plug any abandoned well in accordance with the requirements of this Ordinance. (SECTION 13.7) (40E-3.531(3))
32. Leaking Wellhead Seal – The failure of a wellhead seal to prevent discharge from a flowing artesian well or to prevent the introduction of surface water into the wellhead. (SECTION 13.5.7) (40E-3.517(9) & 62-532.500(3)(b)5))
33. Collapse/Open Annulus or Aquifer Contamination – Collapse or open annulus space that allows surface water to enter the subsurface, or aquifer contamination. (SECTION 13.5.8)
34. Failure to Comply with Contractor Responsibilities – The failure to comply with each of the Contractor responsibilities listed in this Ordinance. (SECTION ~~8-48.8~~)

III REPEAT VIOLATIONS

Repeat violations of the same rule indicate either a Contractor's refusal to follow the Well Code or an unacceptable knowledge of the Well Code. Because the Well Code was promulgated to protect the groundwater resources and the public health, safety and welfare, it is imperative that the rules and requirements are followed and repetition is minimized. Therefore, even if corrective action was taken on previous violations, repetition of the same violation can increase both the fine and the penalty of a violation.

Frequent or repeat violations, disregard, or ignorance of well code has potential for endangering public health, safety, and welfare, or contaminating groundwater resources.

Contractors who repeatedly violate the provisions of the Well Code may be denied the applications for license renewal. In a 3-year period, Specialty Contractors who accumulate fines totaling more than \$3,000 for combined administrative and construction violations (except for violations for the failure to cancel or schedule an activity), or whose license(s) had been suspended or revoked for a period of 12 months or more, shall have their license(s) revoked, and not be eligible for future applications for a license or license renewal.

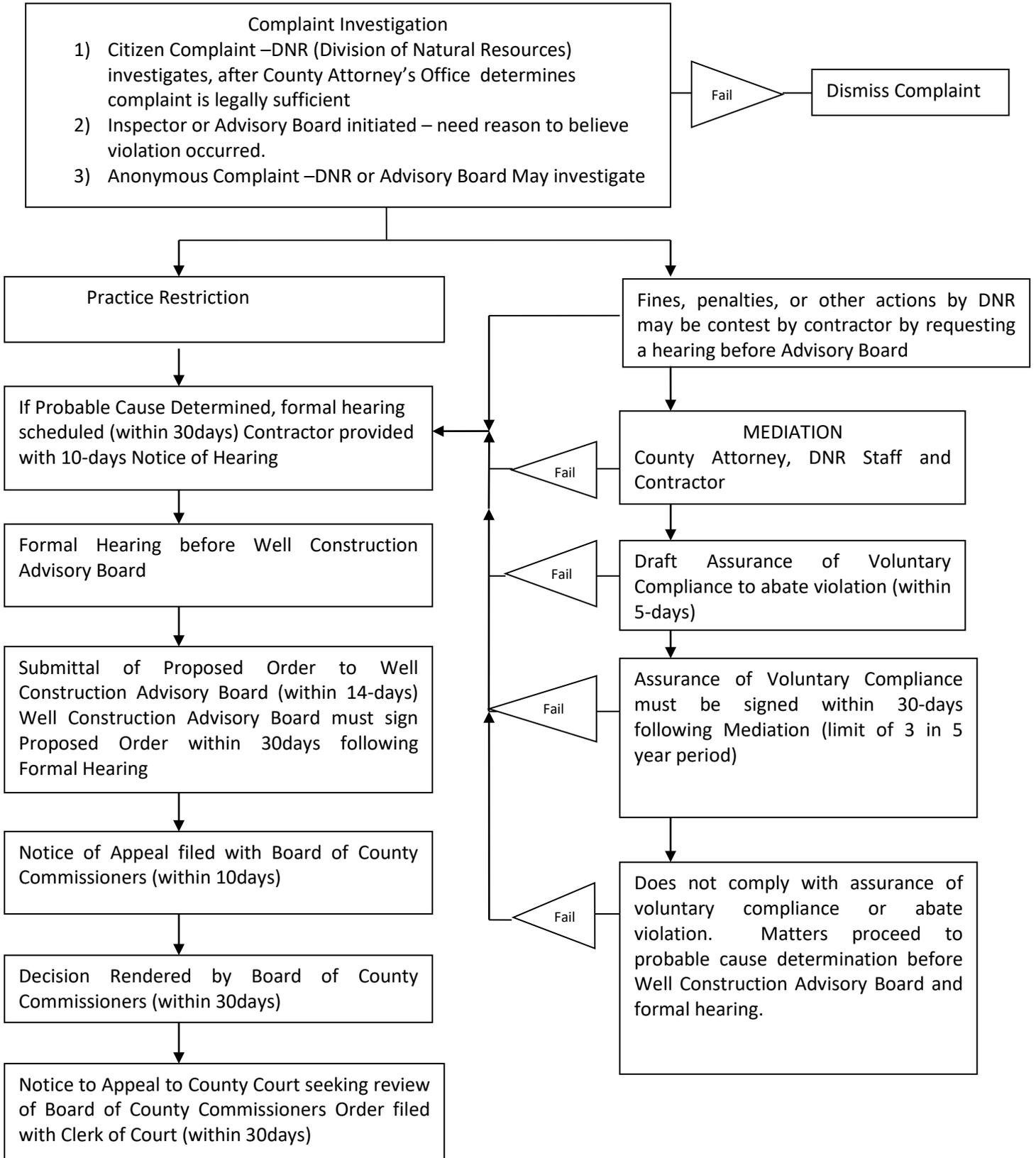
Violation Matrix

State of Florida Water Well Contractors must follow the water well contractor's matrices that will ~~asses~~assess both a fine as well as points to the state register. Points are only assessed on those violations for which a Permitting Authority has taken final action. Each point is equivalent to .01 of the administrative penalty assessed by the Permitting Authority.

IV Disciplinary Procedure Diagram and Violation Matrices appearing below:

1. Disciplinary Action Procedures
2. Elevator Shaft and Test Boring Matrix – Table 1 - Administrative Violations
3. Elevator Shaft and Test Boring Matrix – Table 2 - Construction Violations
4. Well Construction Matrix – Table 1 - Administrative Violations
5. Well Construction Matrix – Table 2 - Construction Violations

DISCIPLINARY ACTION PROCEDURES



Elevator Shaft and Test Boring Matrix
TABLE 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

Violation	Fine				Penalty ¹			
	First	Repetitions			First	Repetitions		
		1	2	3 ²		1	2	3 ²
No permit	\$500 ²				(#7, #9) ²	#3	#2	#1
Permit not posted	\$50	\$100 ²						
No water sample or required cuttings	\$50	\$100 ²						
No well specifications on site	\$50	\$100 ²						
No license					#7, #9	#1		
Invalid license					#11, (#7, #9) ²	#3 ²	#2	#1
Unnamed drilling rigs	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	#7			
Failure to schedule or cancel an activity	\$50	\$100 ²			(#7, #10) ²			
Scheduling a job previously completed and inspected	\$50 ²							
Cancellation frequency exceeds 30 % in any given month	\$200 ²							
Fraudulent misrepresentation on permit application	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	(#7, #6) ²	#3 ²		
Well completion report late or missing	\$50	\$100 ²			#7 ²			
Failure to correct a violation	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	(#7, #11) ²			
Failure to pay a fine within 30 days					(#7, #11) ²			
Failure to comply with imposed penalty(s) or voluntary compliance	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	(#7) ² , #3	#8, #2	#1	
Failure to comply with conditions for issuance of permits	\$50	\$100	\$200 ²		(#7, #10) ²	#6 ²	#5 ²	#3

¹ Numbers in the penalty columns refer to the disciplinary actions shown in Section II B

² Superscript 2 indicates that the fine or the penalty shall apply to repetitions thereafter

Elevator Shaft and Test Boring Matrix
TABLE 2 - CONSTRUCTION VIOLATIONS

Violation	Fine				Penalty ¹			
	First	Repetitions			First	Repetitions		
		1	2	3 ²		1	2	3 ²
Failure to meet septic system setbacks					#7 ²			
Use of unapproved casing	\$50 ²				#7 ²			
Use of unapproved materials	\$50 ²				#7 ²	#5 ²		
Insufficient annular space	\$50 ²				#7 ²	#5 ²		
Insufficient wellhead height	\$50	\$100	\$200 ²		#7 ²	#5 ²		
No temporary well seal or sanitary seal	\$50	\$100 ²						
Incomplete grout stage	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	#7 ²	#5 ²	#4, #8 ²	#3
Tremie pipe improperly installed or modified	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	#7 ²	#5 ²	#4, #8 ²	#3
Borehole left open without grout	\$500 ²				(#7, #5) ²	#8 ²	#3 ²	#2
Casing improperly installed and seated	\$50	\$100	\$200 ²		#7 ²	#5 ²	#4, #8 ²	#3
Improper grout mixture	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$200	#5	#8	#3 ²	
Drilling water fails to meet Ch. 40E-3, F.A.C.	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400				
Incomplete well development	\$50	\$100 ²			#7 ²			
Failure to plug a replaced well	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	#7 ²			
Failure to plug an abandoned well	\$500 ²				#7 ²	#3 ²	#2	#1
Leaking wellhead seal	\$50	\$100 ²			#5 ²			
Collapse/open annulus or aquifer contamination					#7 ²			
Incomplete well development	\$50	\$100 ²			#7 ²			
Failure to comply with contractor responsibilities	\$50	\$100	\$200	\$400	(#7, #8) ²	#6 ²	#5 ²	#3

¹ Numbers in the penalty columns refer to the disciplinary actions shown in Section II B

² Superscript 2 indicates that the fine or the penalty shall apply to repetitions thereafter

Well Construction Matrix
TABLE 1 - ADMINISTRATIVE VIOLATIONS

Violation	Fine	State Violation Number
No water sample or required cuttings	\$500	40E-3.341-(1)(b)
No well specifications on site	\$500	40E-3.341-(1)(b)
Failure to schedule or cancel an activity	\$500	40E-3.341-(1)(b)
Failure to comply with permit conditions.	\$500	40E-3.341-(1)(b)
Failure to provide accurate information when applying for a permit.	\$250	40E-3.341-(1)(b)
Failure to notify the District or permitting Agency of any change.	\$100	40E-3.037
Failure to maintain a field log on-site for any well during construction, repair or abandonment activities.	\$100	40E-3.411-(2)
Failure to allow 12 hours set time for grout before proceeding with drilling	\$500	40E-3.517(1)
Construction of a well for which a water or consumptive use permit is required prior to issuance of the water use permit.	\$500	40E-3.301-(3)(b)
Failure to submit a completion report within 30 days after well completion.	\$100	40E-3.411-(1),(3) 62-532.410
Failure of the licensed contractor to file a fully completed well completion report.	\$100	40E-3.411-(1)
Failure to provide a 6' x 6' concrete pad around the wellhead on Public Water Supply Wells.	\$150	62-532.500(3)(c)
Practice water well contracting without an active license or with a revoked, suspended, or inactive license	\$1,000	40E-3.038(1)(2) 62-531.450(2)(a),(4)(f)
Allowing any other person to use the licensee's license.	\$1,000	40E-3.038(1)(2) 62-531.450(4)(c)
Failure to submit the permit application and fee within twenty-four hours after an emergency permit has been issued verbally.	\$100	40E-3.451-(3)
Failure to supply additional information as requested.	\$100	62-532.400(2)(b)
Failure to apply for an amended permit prior to changing well location.	\$100	62-532.400(5)
Failure to make the permit application available for inspection at the site during construction, repair, or abandonment of a well.	\$100	62-532.400(4)
Failure to comply with special conditions issued with a construction variance.	\$500	40E-3.0511-(6)
Failure to request an extension prior to expiration of a permit, in the event construction, repair, or abandonment is not complete.	\$250	40E-3.321 62-532.400(6)
Failure to provide drilling samples when required.	\$250	40E-3.411-(4)
Failure to allow access to inspect any well to insure conformity with applicable standards.	\$350	40E-3.461-(1) 62-532.510(1)
Failure to plug an abandoned well in accordance with the rules of the applicable Permitting Authority.	\$1,000	40E-3.461-(5) 40E-3.531-(1.2.3) 64E-8.002(2)(c)

Well Construction Matrix
TABLE 2 - CONSTRUCTION VIOLATIONS

Violation	Fine	State Violation Number
Failure to obtain a permit prior to the construction, repair or abandonment of a water well within the District, not exempted by the rule.	\$500	40E-3.041-(1) 64E-8.002(2)
Failure to obtain a water well construction permit for any gang well regardless of size other than for dewatering.	\$500	40E-3.041-(2)
Failure to obtain a water well construction permit prior to the construction, repair or abandonment of any public water supply well.	\$1,000	40E-3.041-(1) 64E-8.002(2) 62-555.510(1,2)
Failure to obtain a water well construction permit to convert to a test hole to a water well, not exempted by rule.	\$500	40E-3.041-(3)
Failure to obtain or modify a water well construction permit to convert a monitor or observation well to a production well.	\$500	40E-3.041-(4)
Failure to meet casing or liner pipe standards	\$1,000	40E-3.507(1),(2),(3),(5),(6) 62-532.500(1)(b),(c),(d),(e), (g)
Failure to install non-metallic and stainless well casing or liner in an approved manner.	\$1,000	40E-3.507(8) 62-532.500(1)(i)
Failure to maintain a reasonably sanitary work site to prevent contamination of the resource.	\$350	40E-3.512(1)
Failure to maintain contaminant free make-up water.	\$1,000	40E-3.512(1)
Failure to use a screen in an unconsolidated stratum	\$500	40E-3.512(3) 62-532.500(2)(a)
Failure to extend casing from above top of grade to the well screen in unconsolidated aquifers.	\$500	40E-3.S12(3)
Failure to extend well casing at least 12 inches above grade, unless an exemption has been granted.	\$500	62-532.S00(3)(b)2,3,4
Failure to follow criteria for below grade casing installation.	\$500	62-532.500(3)(b)2
Failure to attach the well screen with a watertight seal.	\$500	40E-3.S12(3)(a) 62-S32.S00(2)(a)
Failure to comply with any provision of Chapter 373, Part III, F.S., any rule adopted by the District or any order of the District	\$500	40E-3.038(1)(2)
Failure to display contractor license number on both sides of each piece of drilling equipment owned, leased, or operated by the contractor.	\$100	40E-3.037 62-531.380(2)
Failure to install casing to or below the static water level of the producing aquifer.	\$500	40E-3.517(4) 62-532.500(2)(b)
Failure to extend a continuous casing in a consolidated stratum from above land surface to the producing aquifer.	\$500	40E-3.512(4) 62-532.500(2)(b)
Failure to case, line or screen all caving zones within the well.	\$500	40E-3.512(3) 62-532.500(2)(b)
2-inch thickness of grout in a consolidated formation.	\$500	40E-3.517(2) 62-532.500(2)(f)4
Failure to seal all non-caving annular space in an unconsolidated stratum with neat cement grout	\$500	40E-3.517(3)
Failure to grout the annular space of wells constructed in unconsolidated formations not more than ten feet above the top of the screen, to land surface	\$500	40E-3.517(3)

Well Construction Matrix
TABLE 2 - CONSTRUCTION VIOLATIONS - Continued

Violation	Fine	State Violation Number
Failure to use a tremie pipe or other approved methods when grouting or sealing the annular space.	\$500	40C-3.517(8)(e)
Failure to introduce grout from bottom to top in the annular space.	\$500	40E-3.517(1) 62-532.500(2)(f)4.
Failure to seal the annular space of any Public Supply well casing when the bore hole exceeds the outside diameter of the casing with neat cement from bottom to top.	\$1,000	62-532.500(f)4.
Failure to use the designated mixture of grout	\$500	40E-3.517(6) 62-532.500(2)(f)6.
Failure to center the casing in the bore hole prior to grouting and sealing the annular space.	\$500	40E-3.517(1) 62-532.500(2)(f)4.
Failure to restore or improve the hydrologic conditions after the well is	\$1,000	40E-3.531 (3)
Failure to seal the annular space between telescoping casing with grout, packers or both.	\$500	40E-3.517(1) 62-532.500(2)(b)
Failure to use approved methods and materials to bridge a lost circulation zone during grouting operations	\$500	40E-3.S17(1-) 40E-3.S31 (3)(a)
Failure to seal the well opening of a well penetrating the aquifer with a tamper resistant cover when there is a temporary interruption in work or use	\$350	40E-3.517(8) 62-532.500(3)(a)1.
Failure to seal the upper terminus of well casing with a water tight seal.	\$500	40E-3.517(9) 62-532.500(3)(b)-5.
Failure to vent above the 100-year flood level or 2 feet above land surface	\$150	40E-3.517(9)
Failure to install a required inspection port.	\$250	40E-3.517(9) 62-532.500(3)(b)-6.
Failure to install pumping equipment, piping or electrical equipment through a well seal.	\$250	40E-3.517(9) 40E-3.521-(2)(c) 62-532.500(3)(a)3.
Failure to receive FDEP and District approval prior to the use of explosives in well construction or development	\$1,000	40E-3.525
Failure to plug an abandoned artesian well bottom to top with grout using a Licensed Water Well Contractor.	\$1,000	40E-3.531-(2)
Failure to plug any well not constructed in accordance with this rule.	\$1,000	40E-3.531-(1)
Failure to plug an abandoned well within the time specified by the District in writing.	\$250	40E-3.531-(3)
Failure to grout or seal a well to prevent movement of water from surface to aquifer or between aquifers	\$1,000	40E-3.517
Failure to seat casing into consolidated formation or seal with neat cement grout	\$1,000	40E-3.512(4) 62-532.500(2)(f)1
Failure to meet requirements of Rule 62-532.500(2)(f)3., F.A.C., when grouting public water supply or limited use systems wells.	\$1,000	40E-3.502(b) 62-532.500(2)(f)3 62-555.315(2)(b)4
Failure to seal the annular space surrounding the entire length of a casing less than 4 inches in outside diameter with a nominal one inch thickness of grout in a consolidated formation.	\$500	40E-3.517(2) 62-532.500(2)(f)4

Well Construction Matrix
TABLE 2 - CONSTRUCTION VIOLATIONS - Continued

Violation	Fine	State Violation Number
Failure to valve an artesian well discharging at land surface.	\$1,000	40E-3.529 62-532.500(3)(d)
Failure to notify the District 24 hours prior to commencing drilling operations or placement of grout for a Public Supply Well.	\$500	40E-3.461-(4)
Failure to receive a variance from the FDEP prior to the use of explosives in well construction or development	\$1,000	62-532.500(2)(-e)