



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

*Private Well Program
Eleventh Annual Report
2009–2010*

The 2009-2010 Private Well Program report is submitted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in compliance with the reporting requirements set forth in Regulation 61-44. Additional information and resources regarding the Private Well Program may be found at : <http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/dwrw.htm>

Introduction

About 620,000 South Carolina residents depend on individual residential wells for their water needs. Proper well construction is vitally important to help ensure that the groundwater produced from individual wells is a safe and reliable source of water. The purpose of the Private Well Program is to ensure compliance with the well construction standards.

Permitting

August 24, 2010, marked the eleventh anniversary of the Private Well Program at DHEC. During the eleventh year, 3,489 Notices of Intent (NOIs) were submitted for residential wells and 1,486 for irrigation wells, totaling 4,975 wells. This total is 960 less than the previous year. Lexington County was the busiest with 454 approvals issued. Charleston County was the next most active with nearly 390 NOIs processed. Aiken and York Counties had just over 300 approvals each.

Fees

The fees collected during fiscal year 2010 totaled \$242,900 for residential wells and \$71,350 for irrigation wells, totaling \$314,250 for the year. This total is significantly less than the \$404,130 collected for the previous year. These fees are the sole source of funding for the Private Well Program, supporting permitting and technical personnel, EQC well inspectors and operating expenses.

Inspections

The DHEC Well Inspectors conducted 2,550 inspections during the eleventh year of the program. Due to the substantial decrease in fees collected, there are only four inspectors in the program. A majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71. Enforcement action was brought against drillers whose wells were not in compliance. During the reporting period, Consent Orders were issued to three drillers and warning letters were sent to two drillers.