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*Private Well Program  
Fourteenth Annual Report  
2012–2013*

The 2012-2013 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**

The EPA reports that approximately 15 percent of Americans rely on their own private drinking water supplies. South Carolina reflects this trend as slightly more than 700,000 residents depend on individual wells. 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, 2013, marked the fourteenth anniversary of the Private Well Program at DHEC. During the fourteenth year, 3,181 Notices of Intent (NOIs) were submitted for residential wells and 1,487 for irrigation wells, totaling 4,668 wells. This total is 464 less than the previous year. Charleston County was the busiest with 428 approvals issued. York County was the next most active with 358 NOIs processed. Lexington County had 352 approvals.

### **Fees**

The fees collected during fiscal year 2013 totaled \$222,670 for residential wells and \$74,350 for irrigation wells, totaling \$297,020 for the year. This total is \$22,470 less than the \$319,490 collected for the previous year. These fees are the sole source of funding for the Private Well Program, supporting permitting and technical personnel, well inspectors and operating expenses.

### **Inspections**

DHEC well inspectors conducted 995 inspections during this period. A majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71.