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Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

Private Well Program Annual Report 2014–2015

The Annual Private Well Program report, for the period August 24, 2014 through August 23, 2015, is submitted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in compliance with the reporting requirements set forth in Regulation 61-44, *South Carolina Individual Residential Well & Irrigation Well Permitting*. Additional information and resources regarding the Private Well Program may be found at:
www.scdhec.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/ResidentialWells/index.htm

Introduction

The EPA reports that approximately 15 percent of Americans rely on their own private drinking water supplies. South Carolina exceeds the national trend as slightly more than 20% of 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

During the reporting period, 3,081 Notices of Intent (NOIs) were submitted for residential wells and 1,176 for irrigation wells, totaling 4,257 wells. This total is 325 more than the previous year. York County was the busiest county in the state with 447 approvals followed by Lexington County with 364 and Charleston County with 353.

Fees

Fees collected during the reporting period totaled \$207,010 for residential wells and \$56,400 for irrigation wells, totaling \$263,410 for the year.

Inspections

DHEC well inspectors conducted 639 inspections during this period. The majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71. The compliance issues that were encountered during the reporting period were satisfactorily resolved through communications with the well driller and no formal enforcement actions were necessary.