



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR WATER WELL CONTRACTORS ABOUT NEW OR INCREASED LARGE QUANTITY WITHDRAWALS (LQW)

1. Who is required to use the Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool (WWAT)?

Answer: As of July 9, 2009, a property owner who wants to make a new or increased LQW of over 100,000 gallons per day (70 gallons per minute (GPM) or greater pump capacity) must use the WWAT to determine if the withdrawal is likely to cause an Adverse Resource Impact (ARI). The property owner must also register the withdrawal through the WWAT.

2. Can a well driller run the WWAT and register the withdrawal on behalf of the well owner?

Answer: A well drilling contractor may run the WWAT and register the withdrawal for the well owner provided the owner has given legal authority to the contractor to do so.

3. What can I expect from the local health department (LHD) regarding issuing the LQW well construction permit?

Answer: Some LHDs may choose not to issue the permit until they receive a copy of the WWAT registration receipt. Some may choose to have the property owner sign a waiver stating that they understand they are required to run the WWAT and register prior to drilling the well. Other LHDs may choose to do something different. It is important for well drilling contractors to communicate with the LHD regarding permit expectations.

4. What happens if the LHD doesn't issue permits for LQW irrigation wells?

Answer: This does not alleviate the property owner's responsibility regarding use of the WWAT and registration. Again, well drilling contractors need to communicate with the LHD to discuss the correct process.

5. What happens if I drill the well before the LQW is registered?

Answer: If in the event the well causes an ARI, there may be restrictions placed on the well or the well could be ordered plugged. The property owner may also be assessed a \$1,000 fine.

6. What should happen if the well was installed differently than was first registered (larger pump, smaller pump, different depth, different location, etc.)?

Answer: The property owner must re-run the WWAT to update their registration.

7. If a property owner has an existing 50 GPM well on their property and I am adding another 50 GPM well, does the owner have to run the WWAT and register?

Answer: It all depends on if the existing well is currently registered and/or when it was drilled. In most cases, once the total capacity on the property is \geq 70 GPM, the WWAT must be used and the withdrawal(s) registered.

8. What is the website address of the WWAT?

Answer: <http://www.miwwat.org>

9. Who should I contact if I have questions?

Answer: Contact the Water Withdrawal Program Staff at the MDEQ. A staff listing is available at <http://www.michigan.gov/deqwateruse>.