

Program 306 – Water Well Decommissioning Fund

Program Description

The Water Well Decommissioning Fund was established in 1994 to provide cost-share assistance to encourage the decommissioning or plugging of illegal water wells. The source of funding is presently \$21.50 from each well registration fee received by the department. Participating natural resources districts (NRDs) administer the program at the local level. The 21 participating NRDs receive an allocation of state funds based on the annual average number of wells decommissioned in their jurisdictions over the previous three years as compared to the total number decommissioned by all participating NRDs.

Program Objectives

The objective of the Water Well Decommissioning Fund is to encourage proper decommissioning of illegal water wells in the State. This is accomplished through providing financial incentives in the form of cost-share assistance. Due in part to their local relationships and staff, funds are channeled through participating natural resources districts which administer the application, inspection and reimbursement processes.

Performance Measures

The number of abandoned wells that have been decommissioned in a manner that eliminates the potential for ground water contamination and other hazards is the only performance measure for this program. The table below depicts actual numbers for the past several years and projects expected activity through Fiscal Year 2011.

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Wells Decommissioned</u>
• 2004-2005	1,269
• 2005-2006	1,054
• 2006-2007	873
• 2007-2008	835
• 2008-2009	800 (Estimated)
• 2009-2010	775
• 2010-2011	750