

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Well Drilling and Well Operation Regulations**

*as amended by Vol.16, No. 02, February 15, 1994]*

**Section 4. Well Driller's License Requirements**

- 4.1 Any person, public or private, who is engaged or intends to engage in the drilling of wells, is required to apply for a Wells Driller's License. Such licenses are required not only of those who make a regular business of well drilling, but all who may construct wells for their own purposes, for others as an incident to any lien of business activity, or for the exchange or barter of services. A copy of the Well Driller's License application form is available from the Division. The application shall be submitted to the Chief on forms supplied by the Division, and shall include at a minimum the following information:
- a. Name and business address/telephone number of well drilling company;
  - b. Name of duly authorized individual representing well drilling company;
  - c. Commonwealth Contractor and Business license numbers;
  - d. Documents detailing the applicant's bonding and financial capability, and insurance for comprehensive and general liability coverage;
  - e. Evidence of the applicant's qualifications and experience in conducting well drilling activities in the CNMI;
  - f. Signature of the applicant or authorized representative thereof indicating under penalty of perjury that the information provided in the application is true and accurate to the best of his or her knowledge.
- 4.2 A non-refundable fee of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), payable to the Division, shall accompany each application for a new Well Driller's License. A non-refundable fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000), payable to the Division, shall accompany each Well Driller's License renewal application.
- The fee may be waived for Government Agencies. However, the license for these agencies shall be limited to wells for government usage approved by DEQ. Failure to comply will result in the revocation of the license.
- 4.3 No well drilling of any kind shall be performed except by those well drillers with a valid license. The well driller's license number shall be prominently displayed on the side of the drill rig.
- 4.4 An applicant for a Well Driller's License must prove the following to the satisfaction of the Chief. The Chief shall have the discretion to require additional information as deemed necessary for a specific application.
- a. The applicant is in possession of the necessary equipment to properly perform well drilling work and related tasks.

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Well Drilling and Well Operation Regulations**

- 4.5 An applicant for a Well Driller's License must obtain a Performance Bond in the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$75,000), to remain in effect for the full period in which the Well Driller's License is to be valid. The Bond shall be made payable to the Division, and the Chief shall use the proceeds from the Bond to pay for any corrective action to any well(s) not located or constructed in accordance with these Regulations.

The requirement may be waived for Government Agencies. However, the license for these agencies shall be limited to wells for government usage approved by DEQ. Failure to comply will result in the revocation of the license.

- 4.6 An applicant's field crew chief(s) (those individuals with actual direct supervisory authority over well drilling activities in the field) must have the following qualifications:
- a. Have at least two (2) years continuous work experience in well drilling and field testing techniques;
  - b. Demonstrates knowledge of lithologic sampling methods; aquifer testing; pump testing; and water quality sampling through trial demonstration under the direct supervision of Division staff.
- 4.7 The Chief shall deny an application for a Well Driller's License or renewal thereof if the information submitted by the applicant does not demonstrate that the applicant satisfies the requirements pertinent to the license. The applicant may appeal the Chief's decision in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of these Regulations.
- 4.8 A well driller's license shall not, under any circumstances, be transferable from one location to another, or from one person to another, without the approval of the Chief.
- 4.9 The license shall be valid for a period of one (1) year starting from the date of issuance.
- 4.10 A fully completed well drilling license application shall be submitted to the Chief for review at least thirty (3) calendar days prior to the scheduled start of any well drilling business activities.
- 4.11 Renewal application of a well driller's license shall be submitted at least thirty (30) calendar days before expiration of such license.
- 4.12 Failure to apply for renewal of a well driller's license within one (1) year after its expiration will result in the requirement to apply for a new Well Driller's License, and to pay the new well driller's license fee.
- 4.13 Reinstatement of any well driller's license which has been revoked by the Chief, as provided for under Section 17 of these Regulations, requires the submission of a new well driller's license application, and payment of the new well driller's license fee.
- 4.14 All current well driller's licenses shall remain valid until their stated expiration date, after which all currently licensed well drillers must apply for license renewal pursuant to these regulations. Current well driller's licenses failing to meet the minimum requirements set

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Well Drilling and Well Operation Regulations

forth in this section shall not be granted renewal of their well drilling license. Individuals not employed by the well driller on a full-time basis (i.e., consultants) may not be used to satisfy the personnel qualifications requirements of this section.

- 4.15 “Provisional” or “temporary” well driller’s licenses shall not be issued by the Chief, with the exception of such licenses to Local and Federal Agencies for studies on a case by case basis by the Chief.
- 4.16 No person shall deface, alter, forge, counterfeit, or falsify a well driller’s license.

*[Commonwealth Register Vol. 14, No. 09, September 15, 1992  
as amended by Vol.16, No. 02, February 15, 1994]*

*See Appendix A for a copy of the Well Driller’s  
License Application form.*

### Section 5. Well Drilling Permit Application Requirements

No well may be drilled unless the owner of the land upon which the well is to be drilled, or the Lessee of said land (to be known hereinafter as “the applicant”), has obtained a Well Drilling Permit from the Chief. **It the responsibility of the licensed well driller to confirm that a valid well drilling permit has been issued to the applicant by the Division. Administrative penalties may be imposed upon both the applicant and the well driller, as per Section 17 of the Regulations, if any well is drilled without first obtaining a Well Drilling Permit.** A Well Drilling Permit application shall be completed and submitted to the Chief for all new wells, or significant modification to any existing well(s). Water wells, test wells, and monitoring wells, provided they are on the same parcel of land, and will be constructed within 180 days, require submission of only a single Well Drilling Permit application.

Application for drilling an Underground Injection Well shall be made in accordance with the regulations established by the Division, entitled “Underground Injection Control” (UIC), a copy of which can be obtained at the office of the Division.

The well drilling permit covers well siting and design criteria, and well construction, testing, and development activities. The well drilling permit application shall be submitted to the Chief and shall include at a minimum the information covered in this Section.

The requirements of this Section apply to all applicants that have not received a Well Drilling Permit as of the date these regulations become effective. A copy of the Well Drilling Permit application form is available from the Division.

The application may be filled out by the applicant or his authorized representative. In either case, the applicant shall sign and date the application, and shall be responsible for all statements made therein:



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**  
**Division of Environmental Quality**

P.O. Box 501304 C.K., Saipan, MP 96950-1304  
 Tels.: (670)664-8500/01  
 Fax: (670)664-8540



**WELL DRILLER'S LICENSE APPLICATION**  
 (please type or print clearly)

FOR DEQ USE ONLY	
Application No.:	
Date Received:	
Receipt No.:	
Received by:	

**SECTION 1 APPLICANT INFORMATION**

1.1 Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1.2 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1.3 Telephone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax No.: \_\_\_\_\_

1.4 Name of duly authorized person representing Well Drilling Company:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1.5 Application Submission Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1.6 Commonwealth Contractor License (attach copy of license)

1.7 Type of Application:  New  Renewal (attach copy of license)

1.8 Name of Insurance Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address Ins. Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

1.9 Telephone No. Ins. Company: \_\_\_\_\_

1.10 Insurance Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Extent of Coverage: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 2 EQUIPMENT AND RENTAL**

2.1 Drilling Equipment owned or leased by company( Note: List equipment manufacturer, size, year of manufacture, capabilities, etc.)

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2.2 Personnel on staff

Please list all individuals currently on staff who meet the following criteria. Only persons meeting these criteria shall be authorized under this license to lead actual well drilling and well construction activities. (Note: Feel free to include a resume of each person listed below in order to help DEQ better assess the capabilities of persons authorized by the applicant to actually perform drilling operations.)

- The individual has at least two (2) years continuous work experience in well drilling and construction; and,
- The individual has proven by past experience and education or vocational training that he or she possesses a basic understanding of the Commonwealth's geology and hydrology, and the general occurrence of groundwater within the Commonwealth.

Individual's Name	Years of Experience	Formal Training

**SECTION 3 APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND SIGNATURE**

Before this application can be processed, you, the applicant, must attest to the following:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print), as applicant for this Well Driller's License, hereby state that I have knowledge of the facts herein set and that the same are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and are made in good faith. I have read and I understand the provisions and requirements set forth in the Well Drilling and Well Operations Regulations pertaining to well drilling's licensing.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_