New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection.
DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES.
WATER POLICY AND SUPPLY COUNCIL.

STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR SEALING ABANDONED WELLS.

NJSA 58:4A-4.1
Sealing of abandoned wells; notice; violation

The owner of any well shall, upon abandonment of any existing well or test hole, so notify the division and shall effectively seal and fill such wells and test holes in accordance with the rules and regulations of the division. A well not in operation for three or more years or improperly maintained to prevent contamination may be deemed to have been abandoned. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. L. 1951, c. 193, p. 718, s. 2.

NJSA 58:4A-4.2
Order to seal abandoned well - failure to comply

The division shall have power to order the sealing of any such abandoned well when in its judgment the condition of the well endangers or threatens to endanger the subsurface or percolating waters by the intrusion of salt water or from any other causes or endangers life. The owner of any abandoned well who shall fail or refuse to seal it in the time and manner ordered by the division shall be subject to a penalty of five hundred dollars ($500.00) for each and every violation, and a further penalty of fifty dollars ($50.00) for each day during which such violation shall continue. L. 1951, c. 193, p. 718, s.3.

NJSA 58:4A-4.3
Enforcement of Act

The provisions of this act shall be enforceable by action or other proceeding in the Superior Court of New Jersey to obtain relief in the nature of injunctive relief, both restraining and mandatory, and also by action or proceeding in said court in lieu of prerogative writ. L. 1951, c. 193, p. 718, s. 4.

Rules and Regulations

General

1. The filling and sealing of an abandoned well in accordance with the following specifications will be accepted as in compliance with the provisions of NJSA 58:4A-4.1. A well may not be sealed by a proposed alternate method unless first approved in writing by the Bureau of Water Control of the Division of Water Resources.

2. Cement or cement grout shall not be used as a substitute for clay slurry in the following specifications until the method and equipment to be used in preparation and placement of materials, and the qualifications and experience of the personnel proposed to do the work, are satisfactory to and approved in writing by the Division.

3. The use of dynamite in well sealing operations is expressly prohibited unless authorized in writing by the Division.

4. An abandoned well so situated as to be affected by salt water intrusion or leakage shall be considered a special case, and the method of filling and sealing such well shall be subject to individual review and written aporoval by the Division.

I. Single cased wells, including rock wells.

A. Wells drilled to the first water bearing formation.

1. Clear well of pump, pipe, and all other obstructions.

2. Sterilize the well and the formation surrounding the screen or uncased rock, using HTH or other disinfectant acceptable to the Division.

3. That portion of a well occupied by screen may be filled with gravel, crushed stone or sand, but in no case shall this permeable filling extend above the top of the screen. That portion of a well which is uncased in rock shall be filled only with coarse gravel or crushed stone extending not more than two feet above the bottom of the cased portion and sealed off with an impermeable plug of sterilized packing material.

4. The casing above the screen or uncased rock shall be filled with a clay slurry weighing not less than 14 pounds per gallon, which shall be introduced under pressure through a pipe discharging at the bottom of the space to be filled in order to prevent dilution of the slurry.

   If preferred, the casing above the screen or uncased rock may be filled with dry clay free of lumps larger than 3/4-inch in diameter, in lifts not higher than five feet, and each lift tamped with a drill bit.

5. The top of the well casing shall be closed, after inspection to insure satisfactory consolidation of the material used for filling the well casing, with a wooden plug cut flush with the casing or with a welded metal plate.

6. The closed top of the well casing shall then be covered with a concrete slab at least 6 inches thick and with a radius of at least 2 feet, to prevent the entrance of surface contamination.

B. Wells drilled to below the first water bearing formation.

1. No sand or gravel filling shall be used except in uncased rock. Otherwise the procedure to be followed is identical with that described under Section A above. Special effort must be made to secure a tight seal at the level of the clay bed between any two water bearing strata.

II. Double or multiple cased wells.

A. Wells drilled to the first water bearing formation where salt water intrusion is not a consideration.

1. Clear well of pump, pipe, and all other obstructions and where possible remove all inner casings.

2. Sterilize the well and the formation surrounding the screen or uncased rock, using HTH or other disinfectant acceptable to the Division.

3. That portion of a well occupied by screen may be filled with gravel, crushed stone or sand, but in no case shall this permeable filling extend above the top of the screen. That portion of a well which is uncased in rock shall be filled only with coarse gravel or crushed stone extending not more than two feet above the bottom of the cased portion and sealed off with an impermeable plug of sterilized packing material.

4. The casing above the screen and the annular space between casings shall be filled with a clay slurry weighing not less than 14 pounds per gallon, which shall be introduced under pressure through a pipe or pipes discharging at the bottom of the spaces to be filled in order to prevent dilution of the slurry.

   If preferred, the casing above the screen may be filled with dry clay free of lumps larger than 3/4-inch in diameter, in lifts not higher than five feet, and each lift tamped with a drill bit, but annular spaces between casings must in any case be filled with slurry as described above.

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6. The closed top of the well casing shall then be covered with a concrete slab at least 6 inches thick and with a radius of at least 2 feet to prevent the entrance of surface contamination.

B. Wells drilled to below the first water bearing formation where salt water intrusion is imminent or where contamination is limited to possible interconnection of two or more fresh water aquifers.

1. Clear well of pump, pipe, and all other obstructions and where possible remove all inner casings.

2. Sterilize the well and the formation surrounding the screen, using HTH or other disinfectant acceptable to the Division.

3. The entire casing including the screen and the annular space between casings shall be filled with a clay slurry weighing not less than 14 pounds per gallon, which shall be introduced under pressure through a pipe or pipes discharging at the bottom of the spaces to be filled in order to prevent dilution of the slurry.

   If preferred, the casing above the screen may be filled with dry clay free of lumps larger than 3/4-inch in diameter, in lifts not higher than five feet, and each lift tamped with a drill bit, but annular spaces between casings must in any case be filled with slurry as described above.

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September 5, 1958
Revised February 11, 1960
Second Revision April 28, 1971

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A. Wells drilled to the first water bearing formation.

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