



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Conservation Practice Overview

Well Decommissioning (Code 351)

The sealing and permanent closure of an inactive, abandoned, or unusable water or monitoring well.

Practice Information

This practice applies to any cased or noncased water well or monitoring well selected for decommissioning.

This practice requires the removal of all pumping equipment, valves, pipelines, liners, debris, and other foreign material. The well casing should be removed if possible. If some or all of the equipment and casing resists removal by pulling or overdrilling, the casing must be ripped, perforated or cut off a minimum 2.0 feet below ground surface. Once the well is cleared, disinfect the well with a minimum chlorine solution concentration of 50 mg/L (50 parts per million), or the minimum chlorine solution concentration specified by the regulating authority, whichever one is greater. The well is sealed as allowable by ASTM D5299 and State regulations.



Common Associated Practices

Well Decommissioning is used in a Conservation Management System with Critical Area Planting (342) and other conservation practices to enhance and protect water quality.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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