



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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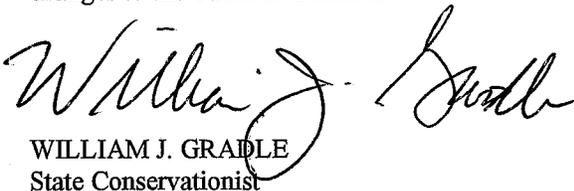
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TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IL-114

Purpose: The purpose of this document is to provide technical information related to the sealing and permanent closure of a water well that is no longer in use. This notice is intended to distribute a new Illinois NRCS Practice Standard for Well Decommissioning (351).

Background: It is estimated that there are more than 400,000 private water wells in Illinois that have or are providing water to over 1 million people. Each year, many of these wells are abandoned when farmsteads are converted to farmland or when homes are connected to community water systems. An improperly abandoned well can pose a significant health and safety hazard. When a larger diameter (older dug) well is left open, animals, children, even adults can fall into them, causing injury or death. If improperly sealed, an abandoned well can serve as a route for contaminating groundwater. The Illinois Water Well Construction Code requires the owner of a water well to properly seal the well within 30 days after it is abandoned and no longer used to supply water.

Field Office Action: File this document in Section IV of the Illinois-FOTG, and make the appropriate changes to the Table of Contents.



WILLIAM J. GRADLE
State Conservationist

Enclosure

DIST:
Field Offices
Zone Specialists
FOTG Holders

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