

CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION

642. WATER WELL

1. SCOPE

The work shall consist of furnishing materials and installing all components of the water well as outlined in this specification and the drawings.

2. MATERIALS

Casings: Casings shall be of steel, iron, stainless steel, copper alloys, plastic, fiberglass, or concrete of sufficient strength and durability consistent with the intended use of the water and the maximum anticipated differential head between the inside and outside of the casing. Unless otherwise set forth in Section 5 of this specification:

- Plastic casings made of acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS), polyvinyl chloride (PVC), or styrene-rubber (SR) shall conform to material, dimensional and quality requirements specified in ASTM F 480.
- Filament-wound fiberglass casings (glass-fiber-reinforced-thermosetting-resin pipe, RTRP) may be used if material meets requirements specified in ASTM D 2996. Tests for long-term cyclic pressure strength, long-term static pressure strength, and short-term rupture strength as required in ASTM D 2996 are not needed because the pipe is to be used for well casing. Joints shall meet requirements specified in section 3.8, ASTM F 480.
- Fiberglass pressure pipe (also called reinforced polymer mortar pipe, RPMP, or fiberglass pipe with aggregate) shall meet or exceed requirements specified in ASTM D 3517.

Other casing materials shall be certified by the manufacturer or a registered Professional Engineer as being of adequate strength.

Joints: Well casing joints shall have adequate strength to carry the load due to the casing length and still be watertight, or shall be mechanically supported during installation to maintain joint integrity. Such mechanically supported casings shall terminate on firm material that can adequately support the casing weight.

Screen: Well screens shall be constructed of commercially manufactured screen sections, well points, or field-perforated sections. Perforation by any method is allowable provided the following provisions can be met:

- For uniform size aquifer material, screen openings are smaller than the average diameter of aquifer material;
- For non-uniform aquifer material, screen openings are smaller than 60 percent of the aquifer material;
- Screen openings, for filter/gravel pack must exclude at least 85 percent of the filter pack material;
- Size the length and open area of the screen to keep entrance velocity or shear stress below the threshold for erosion of filter pack particles and transport into the well;
- Casing must not be functionally weakened or deformed.

Gravel Pack: If gravel pack is used, it shall have the gradation and thickness specified in Section 5, or as shown on the drawings.

If acceptable *filter materials are unavailable*, use a commercially manufactured, pre-packed well screen. A pre-packed well screen consists of inner and outer screens that contain the engineered filter material. The material must meet the following quality criteria:

- Less than five percent fines (the proportion that passes the number 200 sieve);

- Predominantly rounded, dense, siliceous materials;
- No angular particles, such as crushed rock, or flat particles, such as mica;
- No earthy or soft materials, such as clay, shale, silt, gypsum, or anhydrite;
- No organic matter, no other impurities or metallic substances;
- No material soluble in hydrochloric acid, such as limestone.

3. EQUIPMENT

The installer shall provide and operate all equipment necessary to install the well in a safe manner. The operator shall have a Water Well Driller's License and a Drilling Rig Permit, issued by the PA Geological Survey, for the equipment used on the site.

4. INSTALLATION

Drilled, jetted, bored, and driven wells shall be sufficiently round, straight, and of adequate diameter, to permit satisfactory installation of inlet, well casing, filter pack, and annular seal, and passage of tremie pipe (including couplings), if used. Hard rock formations or physically stable geologic materials may not require casing except for the uppermost 10 feet. However, casing shall be installed to seal out undesirable surface or shallow groundwater, and to support the side of the hole through unstable earth materials

If drilling encounters erodible, friable, or otherwise unstable material, install watertight, grouted casing throughout, with the exception of the intake portions.

Provide a watertight seal in the annulus of all well casing. Acceptable sealants include mortar containing expansive hydraulic cement (ASTM C 845), bentonite-based grout, bentonite chips and pellets, sand-cement grout, neat cement, or concrete. The length of the grout seal shall be no less than 10 feet, and not less than the minimum specified in state or locally applicable construction codes.

If one or more zones are encountered that produce water of unacceptable quality, use grout or packers to prevent comingling of waters or cross-contamination of aquifers.

Provide a packer, or similar retaining device, or a sealant between the casing and the less pervious material overlying the aquifer of artesian wells. Provide a similar positive seal to separate water bearing zones where comingling of waters is undesirable.

For artesian conditions, seal the confining geologic units directly above and below the aquifer in such a manner as to retain its confining pressure.

Casing shall extend from above the ground surface down through unstable earth materials to an elevation of at least 2 feet into stable material or to the top of the screen.

If casing extends to the bottom of the drill hole, install a watertight end cap or grout seal to prevent entry of geologic material into the well from the bottom.

When the design requires telescoped screen assemblies, install one or more sand-tight seals between the top of the telescoped screen assembly and the casing.

Upon completion, provide a suitably threaded, flanged, or welded cap or compression seal to prevent entry of contaminants into the well.

Well Development: After completion of well construction, ensure that the well is developed. Well development is required regardless of whether the well is finished in unconsolidated materials or hard rock aquifers. Use one or more development techniques to effectively loosen and remove silt, fine sand, drill cuttings, drilling muds, or additives deposited by the drilling operation on the uncased borehole face and in adjacent portions of the aquifer. For screened zones, the development technique must collapse sand bridges and remove fines outside the screen. Following the development process, remove accumulated sediment at the bottom of the well bore by bailing or pumping.

Pump the well at approximately 120 percent of the anticipated normal production rate until suspended sediment and associated turbidity clears. Do not use the permanent pump to conduct any well development work.

Unless otherwise set forth in Section 5, wells to be completed without a filter pack in unconsolidated granular aquifers shall be developed following guidance provided in ASTM D 5521, *Standard Guide for*

Development of Ground-Water Monitoring Wells in Granular Aquifers.

The method shall be selected based on geologic character of the aquifer, type of drilling rig, and type of screen.

Aquifer Development: For massive, unfractured rock formations unresponsive to well development procedures, the use of aquifer stimulation techniques may be used to improve well efficiency and capacity, if permitted in Section 5 of this specification. Techniques may include dry ice, acidizing, explosives, or hydrofracturing, depending on the composition and structure of the formation, and as specified in Section 5.

Access Port: An access port with a minimum diameter of 0.5 inch shall be installed to allow for unobstructed measurement of depth of the water surface, or for a pressure gage for measuring shut-in pressure of a flowing well. Access ports and pressure gages or other openings in the cover shall be sealed or capped to prevent entrance of surface water or foreign material into the well. Removable caps are acceptable as access ports.

Wellhead Protection: Surface runoff and drainage that might reach the wellhead from areas used by livestock or other contaminant sources shall be diverted away from the well.

The ground surface around the well shall be graded away from the well for a distance of at least five feet in all directions. Low points where water can puddle on the surface shall be eliminated.

If the well water is intended for human consumption, the casing shall be surrounded at the ground surface by a 4-inch thick concrete slab extending at least 2 feet in all directions.

If the top of the well casing is subject to flooding from surface water, either of two methods shall be used to prevent floodwater

from entering the well: (1) the well cap shall be water tight and equipped with a vent that extends two feet above the 100 year flood level, or (2) the well casing shall be extended to two feet above the 100 year flood level.

Disinfection: Wells shall be disinfected immediately following their construction or repair to neutralize any contamination from equipment, material, or surface drainage introduced during construction. The disinfection process shall comply with all local or state requirements.

Prior to final chemical disinfection, remove foreign substances, such as grease, soil, sediment, joint dope, and scum from the well and near the wellhead. Clean all pump parts before placing them into the well. Disinfect the well using a chlorine compound at a concentration of no less than 100 mg/L (100 ppm) available chlorine in solution to treat the entire well.

Water Quality Testing: Sampling and testing shall comply with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements. These requirements vary according to the water quality parameters associated with the intended use(s) of the water. Test well water according to the *Construction Specification for Groundwater Testing (PA355)*.

Well Performance Testing. After completion of well construction and the water level is stable, conduct a pump test to determine specific capacity and dynamic water level. Record the length of test and pumping rate.

Documentation: The well driller shall provide to the landowner and the PA-DCNR Topographic and Geological Survey copies of the water well completion report.

5. ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS WHICH APPLY TO THIS PROJECT ARE: