



December 7, 2018

Dear Geoexchange Driller,

You are receiving this letter because you are listed as a qualified geoexchange well driller on the provincial register of well drillers. This letter is a reminder to all geoexchange well drillers of the need to submit well reports for closed-loop geoexchange wells and open-loop geoexchange wells (the latter considered a water supply well).

Did you know...

Boreholes are classified as drilled geotechnical wells under the *Water Sustainability Act* and the Groundwater Protection Regulation (GWPR). Under the GWPR, open-loop geoexchange wells fall under the well classes of water supply wells and injection wells. Closed-loop geoexchange wells are in their own well class. These wells are subject to GWPR regulatory requirements, **except for horizontal closed-loop geoexchange wells shallower than five metres deep.**

The GWPR requires well reports to be submitted for the construction, alteration and decommissioning of geoexchange wells (other than for the exception noted above). Provincial groundwater staff are aware that active geoexchange well drilling has occurred in the province since the *Water Sustainability Act* came into effect on February 29, 2016, but very few reports have been submitted to the Comptroller.

Please submit a report to the Comptroller for all geoexchange wells (other than for the exception noted above) that you have constructed, altered or decommissioned since February 29, 2016. For open-loop geoexchange wells, a report should be submitted for each well. For closed-loop geoexchange wells, one report for a representative well in the geoexchange system should be submitted. Note that reports must be submitted to the Comptroller within 90 days of constructing, altering or decommissioning a geoexchange well, and well records must be retained for at least 10 years (see Part 10 and Schedule 6 of the GWPR).

Submitting a report is easy and can be done by mail or online. Our Groundwater Data Specialist will be able to provide you with a provincial well construction book at your request. This book contains carbon copy paper and enables you to copy in triplicate. This allows you to keep one copy for your records, provide one copy to your client, and send one copy by mail¹ to the Comptroller. Note that the submission of paper records via mail will be phased out at the end of 2019.

Did you know...

The majority of well drillers in other well drilling classes submit their records to the Comptroller within 90 days of well construction.

¹ Mailing instructions are on the form

Alternatively, you can enter construction, alteration, or decommissioning information electronically through e-Wells, <https://a100.gov.bc.ca/ext/ewells/>.

Training for e-Wells data entry can be provided to you upon request to the Groundwater Data Specialist at the address noted below.

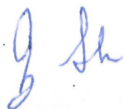
In addition to the requirements to submit reports for well construction, alteration and decommissioning, there are also water licensing requirements for open loop geoexchange wells as these water supply wells involve the diversion or transfer of water from an aquifer to the well. Closed loop geoexchange wells, defined as having no transfer of water between an aquifer and the well, generally do not require a water licence.

However, open-loop geoexchange wells, where there is a transfer of water between an aquifer and the well typically require a water licence. Applications for authorizations, such as water licences, can be made online at www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca or in person at any FrontCounter BC office.

Aquifer information contained in well reports is extremely valuable and helps us better manage our natural resources. By submitting reports for geoexchange wells, you will be contributing to the stewardship of our natural resources.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact the undersigned. For information on how to submit records, please contact the Groundwater Data Specialist, Groundwater@gov.bc.ca

Sincerely,



Amy Sloma, P.Eng.
Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights
Aquifer and Watershed Science