

Kansas Administrative Regulations

Department of Health and Environment

Article 30.—Water Well Contractor's License; Water Well Construction and Abandonment

28-30-202. Plugging operations for an abandoned water well or borehole; responsibility.

(a) Each water well or borehole shall be considered abandoned if at least one of the following conditions exists:

- (1) The water well or borehole was not completed.
- (2) The water well or borehole threatens to contaminate fresh groundwater.
- (3) The water well or borehole poses a safety or health hazard.
- (4) Uncontrolled fluid flow is encountered or present in the water well or borehole.
- (5) The use of the water well or borehole has ceased.

(6) The borehole testing, sampling, or other operations are completed within 30 days of completion of the borehole drilling.

(7) The water well or borehole owner has not demonstrated the intention to use the water well or borehole.

- (8) The water well can not be maintained in an active or inactive status.
- (9) The water well or borehole is not operational or functional for the intended use.

(b) Each water well or borehole owner or the landowner of the property shall plug or cause an abandoned water well or borehole to be plugged as required in subsection (c) of this regulation.

(c) Except as specified in subsection (e), the minimum plugging operations for an abandoned water well or borehole shall include the following:

(1) Before plugging operations begin, the following water well or borehole data shall be recorded as follows:

(A) The legal description of the water well or borehole location, to the nearest 10-acre tract and, if available, the geographic coordinates consisting of the latitude, longitude, and base datum;

- (B) the diameter of the water well or borehole;
- (C) the static water level; and
- (D) the total depth of the water well or borehole.

(2) The materials used to plug a water well or borehole shall be clean, free of defects, properly prepared, and installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.

(3) All plugging material that forms a bridge, entraps air or other fluids, or forms a blockage in the water well or borehole shall be freed or removed before continuing plugging operations.

(4) All pumping, sampling, logging, and related equipment and any other material or debris in the water well or borehole shall be removed from the water well or borehole.

(5) The annular space of the water well shall be grouted as specified in K.A.R. 28-30-203.

(6) Before plugging operations begin and when plugging operations are suspended or interrupted, the opening of the water well or borehole shall be secured to prevent fluids from entering the water well or borehole.

(7) Before placement of any plugging material, the water well or borehole shall be disinfected as specified in K.A.R. 28-30-205.

(8) Except as specified in subsection (d) of this regulation, all of the following minimum grouting requirements shall be met:

(A) The water well or borehole shall be grouted from the bottom to three feet below ground level.

(B) Each water well meeting the requirements of subsection (d) shall be grouted from the top of the sand or gravel plugging material to three feet below ground level.

(C) Grout shall be placed in the water well or borehole using one of the following:

- (i) A grout tremie pipe;
- (ii) free-fall; or
- (iii) a grouting procedure recommended by the grout manufacturer.

(D) Grout shall be allowed to cure as recommended by the grout manufacturer.

(9) Except as required by K.A.R. 28-30-203, the water well casing shall be cut off at a minimum of three feet below land surface and removed.

(10) From three feet below land surface to land surface, the water well or borehole shall be backfilled with clean, compacted topsoil and sloped so that drainage or runoff is directed away from the plugged water well or borehole.

(d) Any water well or borehole owner, landowner of the property, water well contractor, licensed geologist, or licensed professional engineer may utilize coarse sand or fine gravel to plug a water well by filling the water well casing to the static water level or six feet below ground level, whichever is the greater distance below ground level, if both of the following water well conditions are present:

(1) The water well is cased.

(2) The water well is completed in a single unconfined aquifer.

(e) Drill cuttings from the original borehole may be used to plug a borehole that meets all of the following conditions:

(1) The depth of the borehole is less than the highest historical groundwater level.

(2) The depth of the borehole is 25 feet or less below ground level.

(3) The borehole is not located in a contaminated area.

(Authorized by and implementing K.S.A. 2004 Supp. 82a-1028 and K.S.A. 82a-1213; effective Sept. 30, 2005.)

***** Authenticated Kansas Administrative Regulation *****