



POLICY FOR CORRELATING WELL SAMPLING RESULTS TO
DNREC WELL ID NUMBERS

JULY 2007

A. Policy Statement

The policy of the Department of Natural Resources, and Environmental Control, (DNREC), Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), Department of Agriculture (DDA), and the Delaware Geological Survey (DGS) is that the DNREC water well permit identification number (DNREC ID) shall be used for forms and databases which house data obtained from water wells. The DNREC ID represents the only statewide water well numbering system unique to each well permit issued in Delaware. DNREC will encourage other agencies which rely on water well information to take steps to incorporate the DNREC ID number to field data collection and databases housing well information. This policy augments the longstanding DNREC Ground Water Monitoring Strategy (1987) and Ground Water Management Plan (1987).

B. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the consistent use of the DNREC ID as part of all sampling activities associated with water wells. The DNREC ID is a unique identifier which is assigned to all wells permitted by DNREC. Consistent use of this unique number within databases will greatly increase the utility of that data. Advances in access to multiple databases for obtaining well information will be greatly enhanced with the use of these unique identification numbers, which will tie the data point to a specific well with specified construction details. The 2006 Cancer Consortium report on ground water and wells identified this issue as a key reason that more data were not available for project findings.

C. Protocol

There are several agencies that routinely use water well data within their programs and their associated databases. These include the DHSS, DNREC, DGS, USGS, and DDA.

1. DHSS – The DHSS Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water (DPH/ODW) manages both the Public Water Supervision Program and the Domestic Well Sampling Program, both of which collect data from potable wells or water delivery systems.

Most public wells for which the DPH maintains a database (SDWIS/State- Safe Drinking Water Information System/State version) and conducts periodic sampling have IDs assigned by DNREC with numbered tags attached to the well or well house.

Therefore, when sampling is done for these wells the sampler must designate the sample point and sample point number and the facility and facility number on a sample request form.

A corresponding bar code goes on the sample. The results will then be correlated to the DNREC IDs. If the sampler cannot find a tag with the public well ID that person shall obtain it from the SDWIS or by contacting DNREC Water Supply Section. A new tag shall be provided by the DNREC Water Supply Section and attached to well by DPH.

Domestic wells also have similar well ID tags assigned to them. These should also be attached to the well, but are frequently missing. The domestic well sampling kit contains a bottle, instructions, and a sample form. The well owner should supply the well ID to DPH when submitting the samples using the clearly identified space in which to write the tag number. This will ensure correlation of sample results to well IDs. If the ID is missing the well owner should contact DNREC Water Supply Section. It is highly recommended that the instructions be modified to include information on how to locate the well tag, or obtain the well ID from DNREC.

Personnel at the Environmental Health Field Services shall be trained in and be required to notify purchasers of the kits about the importance of including the DNREC ID on the sample form. The field on the sample request forms and in the Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) shall be revised to accommodate this additional data field.

II. DNREC – Many DNREC programs which regulate discharges to ground water or which investigate non-permitted discharges to ground water use monitoring or observation wells or collect samples from various other existing wells. In addition, the DNREC Well Permitting program issues all DNREC IDs, well tags, and other documents pertaining to water wells as applications are approved by the Department. An extensive database and file system are maintained housing these records. These wells will be issued well tags, unless they are one-time direct-push grab samples. (The latter still receive a DNREC ID but no tag). The ID tags shall be affixed to the well terminus.

Programs such as the Tank Management Branch, Site Investigation and Restoration, Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste, and Non-Hazardous waste programs shall require that all well analytical results tables contain a field for the DNREC ID. Under current practice, many of the programs have assigned local ID numbers which are not unique (there are hundreds of MW-1s, for instance). This practice can be continued for convenience, however it shall be supplemented with the use of the DNREC ID, and consultants' reports shall also correlate local IDs to the DNREC ID.

The databases containing this data shall also have a data field for the DNREC ID. Any domestic wells sampled as part of a site investigation shall likewise be correlated to the DNREC ID.

III. Geological Surveys – Both the DGS and USGS use their own well database numbering system. However, it is imperative that they continue to use the DNREC ID both in reports and in their databases in order to assure correlation of data to well records. DGS shall coordinate with USGS on the implementation of this policy.

IV. DDA - DDA shall coordinate with the DNREC Water Supply Section to assure that they are using the DNREC ID for well records and databases. For instance, the DDA maintains a statewide pesticide monitoring network and database for ground water. All wells used in this network shall have DNREC IDs assigned to them and in their database.

APPROVED DATE: 7/23/07

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/23/07

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