

CHAPTER 534 - UNDERGROUND WATER AND WELLS

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

NAC 534.010 Definitions. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in [NAC 534.015](#) to [534.245](#), inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

(Supplied in codification; A by St. Engineer, 1-9-90; 12-30-97)

NAC 534.015 “Abandon” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Abandon” means to discontinue the use of a well or borehole or to leave the well or borehole in such a state of disrepair that to use it would be impracticable, may result in contamination of groundwater or may otherwise pose a hazard to the health or safety of the general public.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97)

NAC 534.020 “Annular space” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Annular space” means the space between two cylindrical objects, one of which surrounds the other, such as the space between the walls of the well bore and the casing.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.01, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97)

NAC 534.030 “Aquifer” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Aquifer” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 534.0105](#).

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.02, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90)

NAC 534.040 “Artesian well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Artesian well” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 534.012](#).

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.03, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90)

NAC 534.041 “Bentonite chips” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Bentonite chips” means a crushed or crushed and formed raw, native predominantly sodium montmorillonite clay which:

1. Has a size gradation between 3/4 inch and 8 mesh;
2. Is designed for dry installation that hydrates and swells upon contact with water as a sealant for hole plugging, casing seals or any vertical seal to prevent water movement up or down a borehole; ~~and~~

3. May be coated to retard hydration for in-water applications; *and*

4. *Must be placed in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendation.*

↪ The term includes, without limitation, chip bentonite, bentonite pellets or bentonite tablets.
(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.042 “Bentonite grout” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Bentonite grout” means a commercially manufactured product consisting of the sodium montmorillonite that, when mixed with water pursuant to the specifications recommended by the manufacturer, is specifically designed by the manufacturer to seal and plug wells and boreholes and:

1. Consists of not more than 80 percent water and not less than 20 percent sodium bentonite by weight of water, except that additional additives may increase the solids ratio above and beyond the minimum 20 percent sodium bentonite;

2. Is easily hydrated when mixed with fresh water in the ratio of 24 gallons for every 50-pound bag of bentonite grout;

3. Has hydraulic conductivity or permeability values of 10^{-7} centimeters per second or less; and

4. Has a fluid weight of not less than 9.4 pounds per gallon.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.043 “Blast hole” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Blast hole” means a borehole that is drilled and, as soon as practicable, is loaded with explosives for mining purposes.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.045 “Board” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Board” means the statewide Well Drillers’ Advisory Board.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90)

NAC 534.047 “Borehole” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Borehole” means a penetration in the ground that is deeper than the longest dimension of its opening at the surface

~~created during the well drilling process and is made to obtain geologic, geophysical or geotechnical information relating to engineering or for any purpose other than for use as a well.~~

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.048 “Bridge” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Bridge” means an obstruction in the well bore or annular space of a borehole or well caused when the walls of the well bore collapse or when materials are jammed or wedged into the well bore or annular space.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.050 “Casing” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Casing” means the conduit required to prevent waste and contamination of the groundwater and to hold the formation open during the construction or use of the well.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.04, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90)

NAC 534.060 “Cement grout” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Cement grout” means a mixture consisting of equal parts by volume of portland cement and sand, consisting of a grain size of not more than 2 millimeters, with not more than 6 gallons of water for each 94-pound bag (1 cubic foot) of cement. For example, one cubic yard of cement grout contains 12 bags of cement, 72 gallons of water and not more than 13 cubic feet of sand.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.14, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.065 “Cement-bentonite grout” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Cement-bentonite grout” means a mixture of sodium bentonite and portland cement ~~that, when mixed with water, is specifically designed to seal and plug instrumentation boreholes~~ and:

1. ~~Consists of a range of water to cement to bentonite ratios by weight of between 2.5 to 1 to 0.3 and 4 to 1 to 1. For example, the ratio by weight of 2.5 to 1 to 0.3 is obtained by mixing 30 gallons of water per 94 pound bag of portland cement with 25 pounds of bentonite and the ratio by weight of 4 to 1 to 1 is obtained by mixing 45 gallons of water per 94 pound bag of portland cement with 94 pounds of bentonite;~~

~~—2. Has hydraulic conductivity or permeability values of 10^{-7} centimeters per second or less;~~

~~—3. Has a fluid weight of not less than 10 pounds per gallon; and~~

~~—4. Has a 28-day compressive strength of at least 100 pounds per square inch.~~ *a maximum of 6 percent, by dry weight, unbeneficiated (not enhanced “high yield”) bentonite may be added to the neat cement grout. With bentonite additive, the mixture of cement and water should begin at the base ratio of 5.2 gallons of water per 94-pound sack of cement plus an additional 0.65 gallons of water per sack of cement for each 1 percent bentonite additive.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)

Closed-loop heating/cooling exchange well defined. “Closed-loop heating/cooling exchange well” means the subsystem of a geothermal heat pump system that consists of the drilled vertical borehole into the ground that is equipped with a heat exchange media conveyance tube (loop tube), and is grouted from the bottom of the vertical borehole to the ground surface at the drilling site. Construction of a geothermal heat pump loop well includes, in continuous order, drilling of the vertical borehole, placement of the loop tube to the bottom of the vertical borehole with the grout tremie, and grouting of the vertical borehole from the bottom of the vertical borehole to the ground surface at the drill site. Closed loop systems circulate a heat transfer fluid (such as water or a

mixture of water and food grade/non-toxic anti-freeze) to exchange heat with the subsurface geological environment.

NAC 534.070 “Concrete grout” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Concrete grout” means a mixture of portland cement, sand, 1/4-inch minus aggregate and water which contains at least five bags of cement per cubic yard of concrete and not more than 7 gallons of clean water per bag of cement (1 cubic foot or 94 pounds).

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.13, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90)

NAC 534.080 “Conductor casing” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Conductor casing” means the temporary or permanent casing used in the upper portion of the well bore to prevent collapse of the formation during the construction of the well ~~or to conduct the gravel pack to the perforated or screened areas in the casing.~~

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.05, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97)

NAC 534.094 “Contaminant” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Contaminant” means any chemical, mineral, live organism, organic material, radioactive material or heated or cooled water that may adversely affect the quality of groundwater.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.095 “Contamination” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Contamination” means the impairment of water quality by the introduction of contaminants into the groundwater.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97)

“Cathodic protection well” defined. A “cathodic protection well” means a well constructed for the purpose of installing deep anodes to minimize or prevent electrolytic corrosive action of metallic structures installed, such as pipelines, transmission lines, well casings, storage tanks, or pilings.

NAC 534.097 “Development of a well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Development of a well” means the process of cleaning out materials introduced during the drilling process before putting a well into service and increasing the discharge capacity of the well.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R044-14, eff. 10-24-2014)

Direct supervision defined. “Direct supervision” shall mean daily on-site, close contact whereby the supervisor is able to respond quickly to the needs of the client or supervisee and, if necessary, can take control of the well drilling equipment.

Dissolved mineral resource exploration borehole defined. “Dissolved mineral resource exploration borehole” means a penetration in the ground that is made to sample or obtain water or chemical, geologic, geophysical or geotechnical information about a dissolved mineral resource and which cannot be pumped as a well. Approval to drill a dissolved mineral resource exploration borehole must be granted by the Nevada Division of Minerals.

Dissolved mineral resource exploration well defined. “Dissolved mineral resource exploration well” means a well drilled to measure, test or sample water, including, without limitation, pumping

tests to determine whether dissolved mineral resources are present in concentrations and volumes sufficient to justify production. Approval to drill a dissolved mineral resource exploration well must be granted by the Nevada Division of Minerals.

NAC 534.100 “Division” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Division” means the Division of Water Resources of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources *and is synonymous with the Office of the State Engineer.*

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.07, eff. 5-19-81]

NAC 534.110 “Domestic use” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Domestic use” has the meaning ascribed to it [NRS 534.013](#).

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.08, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90)

NAC 534.112 “Drill rig” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Drill rig” means any power-driven percussion, rotary, boring, coring, digging, jetting or augering machine used in the construction of a well or borehole.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.113 “Drive point well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Drive point well” means a temporary monitoring well constructed by driving a drive point attached to the end of a section of pipe into the ground for the purpose of obtaining geotechnical or environmental information. The term is synonymous with a push point well.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97)

NAC 534.120 “Exploratory well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Exploratory well” means a ~~borehole~~ well constructed to determine the availability, quantity or quality of water or whether an aquifer is capable of transmitting water to a well *in unproven areas*.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.09, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

Geotechnical soil boring defined. “Geotechnical soil boring” means a boring made to obtain geological, geophysical or geotechnical information or properties of the subsurface relating to engineering or for any purpose other than for a well and may not be used to determine any water quality or quantity information.

NAC 534.140 “Groundwater” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Groundwater” means water below the surface of the land that is in a zone of saturation.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.11, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 12-30-97)

NAC 534.144 “Instrumentation borehole” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Instrumentation borehole” means a borehole constructed by intentionally placing or leaving any monitoring instrumentation in the hole as the hole is plugged and sealed at the time of construction.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)

Liner defined. “Liner” refers to a casing string that does not extend to the top of the wellbore, but instead is anchored or suspended from inside the bottom of the previous casing string.

NAC 534.148 “Monitoring well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Monitoring well” means any well that is constructed to evaluate, observe or determine the quality, quantity, temperature, pressure or other characteristic of groundwater or an aquifer. The term includes an observation well, piezometer, drive point well or vapor extraction well. The term does not include an instrumentation borehole that is plugged and sealed and is not open to the atmosphere upon completion.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.150 “Neat cement” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Neat cement” means a mixture of:

1. Clean water and cement in a ratio of not more than 5.2 gallons of water per bag of portland cement (1 cubic foot or 94 pounds); or
2. Clean water, cement and sodium bentonite in a ratio of not more than 7.8 gallons of water per 3.76 pounds of sodium bentonite by dry weight and one bag of portland cement (1 cubic foot or 94 pounds).

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.12, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 12-30-97)

NAC 534.160 “Nominal size” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Nominal size” means the manufactured commercial designation of the diameter of a casing. An example would be casing with an outside diameter of 12 3/4 inches which may be nominally 12-inch casing by manufactured commercial designation.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.15, eff. 5-19-81]

NAC 534.165 “Observation well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Observation well” means a borehole in which a temporary casing has been set and which is used to observe, test and measure the elevation of the water table, the pressure variations within an aquifer and the movement of contaminants inside or outside a zone of saturation.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

Open-loop heating/cooling exchange well defined. “Open-loop heating/cooling exchange well” means a well system in which groundwater is extracted from a typical water production well and pumped through an above ground heat exchanger inside the heat pump system. Heat is either extracted or added by the primary refrigerant loop (primary loop refrigerant does not come into contact with the pumped water), and then the water is returned to the same aquifer by injection through the original extraction well or through a separate injection well.

NAC 534.175 “Permit” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Permit” means the written permission from the State Engineer to appropriate public waters for a beneficial use from a surface or underground source, at a specific point of diversion, under limited circumstances.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90)

NAC 534.179 “Piezometer” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Piezometer” means a well that is constructed to measure water pressure or soil moisture tensions at one or more discrete intervals.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.182 “Pitless adapter” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Pitless adapter” means a commercially manufactured device designed for attachment to openings through the casing of a water well that permits water service pipes to pass through the wall or an extension of a casing and prevents the entry of contaminants into the well or water supply.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97)

NAC 534.183 “Plug” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Plug” means the procedure in which a well or *geotechnical soil boring* ~~borehole~~ is sealed ~~after it is abandoned~~.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97)

Pressure grouting defined. “Pressure grouting” is a process by which grout is confined within the wellbore or casing by the use of retaining plugs or packers and by which sufficient pressure is applied to drive the grout slurry into the annular space or zone to be grouted.

NAC 534.185 “Public land survey” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Public land survey” means the description of the location of land using the survey system of the United States Government and includes the 40-acre subdivision within a quarter-quarter section, quarter section, section, township and range.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006)

NAC 534.188 “Reconditioning” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Reconditioning” means the deepening, ~~reaming, casing, recasing, perforating, re-perforating, installing of liner pipe, packers and seals or any other significant change in the design or construction of a water well~~ *hydrofracturing, re-casing, perforating, installation of packers or seals and any other material change in the design or construction of a well. Material changes include but are not limited to: casing installation or modification including casing extensions, installation or modification of liner pipe; reaming or under reaming of the borehole; pitless unit installation or re-sealing. The rehabilitation of a well shall not result in the comingling of aquifers.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97)

NAC 534.189 “Rehabilitation” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Rehabilitation” means the process of revitalizing an existing well by various methods that do not cause a significant change in the design or construction of the well, including, without limitation, chemical treatment, brush cleaning, surging, ~~and~~ high-pressure jetting *and re-perforating. Any chemicals placed in a well for the purpose of rehabilitation shall be specifically designed for that purpose and used according to the manufacturer’s recommendation.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R044-14, eff. 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.190 “Seal” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Seal” means the watertight seal established in a borehole or the annular space between the well casings or a well casing and the ~~well bore~~ *borehole* to prevent the inflow or vertical movement of surface water or shallow groundwater, or to prevent the outflow or vertical movement of water under artesian pressures. The term includes a sanitary seal.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.19, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97)

NAC 534.192 “Seismic shot hole” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Seismic shot hole” means a borehole in which an explosion is detonated to assist studies of the geology of the earth.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.194 “Sodium bentonite” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Sodium bentonite” means a colloidal clay that:

1. Consists primarily of the weathered volcanic clay mineral montmorillonite where sodium is the predominant, exchangeable cation;
2. Has the ability to swell; and
3. Is easily hydrated when mixed with fresh water to form bentonite drilling fluids or bentonite grout.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.195 “Static water level” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Static water level” means the stabilized level or elevation of the surface of the water in a well, ~~or~~ borehole *or geotechnical soil boring* that is not being pumped and is not affected by the pumping of other wells ~~or boreholes~~.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97)

Tremie pipe defined. “Tremie pipe” means a device that carries materials such as seal material, gravel pack, or formation stabilizer to a designated depth in a borehole or annular space.

Uncontaminated fill defined. “Uncontaminated fill” means a material that does not contain contaminants in concentrations that pose a threat to human health and safety and the environment.

NAC 534.205 “Vapor extraction well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Vapor extraction well” means any well constructed to remove vapors that may contaminate the groundwater.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.210 “Waste” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Waste” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 534.0165](#).

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.21, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90)

NAC 534.220 “Well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Well” means a penetration in the ground made for the purpose of measuring, testing, sampling or producing groundwater. The term includes a water well, monitoring well or exploratory well.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.22, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R039-12, 6-29-2012)

~~**NAC 534.235 “Well bore” defined.** ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Well bore” means a cylindrical hole made in the construction or drilling of a well.~~

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.240 “Well driller” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Well driller” has the meaning ascribed to it in [NRS 534.017](#), *and includes a person who is a holder of a Nevada well driller’s license, regardless of the license status being active, suspended, revoked or expired.*

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 1.24, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90)

NAC 534.243 “Well Driller’s Report” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) “Well Driller’s Report” means the log and record of work for a drilled, *reconditioned* or plugged well required to be submitted to the State Engineer pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) and [NAC 534.340](#).

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.245 “Well drilling” and “drilling a well” defined. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. “Well drilling” and “drilling a well” have the meaning ascribed to them in [NRS 534.0175](#).
2. As used in [NRS 534.0175](#), the State Engineer interprets “well drilling” and “drilling a well” to include, without limitation, the *plugging*, reconditioning and rehabilitation of a well.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R009-06, eff. 6-1-2006; A by R044-14, 10-24-2014)

Well drilling site defined: “Well drilling site” means the physical location on which a well is drilled, plugged or reconditioned.

Other definitions. All other words used herein shall be given their usual, customary, and accepted meaning. Terms defined in the statutes or regulations of the State Engineer shall use the meaning given therein. All words of a technical nature specific to the water well industry shall be given the meaning generally accepted in said industry.

WELL DRILLING LICENSES

NAC 534.280 Application for license. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#)) An application for a well- drilling license must be submitted to the Division ~~in person or by mail~~. The application:

1. Must be completed and signed by the applicant on a form provided by the Division;
2. Must be accompanied by the fee prescribed in [NRS 534.140](#); and
3. Is valid for 1 year after the date of submission of the application.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 2.01, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.282 Qualifications of applicant; denial of application. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. An applicant for a well- drilling license must:
 - (a) Be at least 18 years of age;
 - (b) Be a citizen of the United States, or be lawfully entitled to remain and work in the United States;
 - (c) Submit an application and the fee pursuant to [NAC 534.280](#), *which shall include*:
 1. *Documentation of at least 2 years of full-time well drilling experience within the last 5 years, that is determined to be appropriate by the State Engineer for the license for which the applicant applies;*
 2. *At least four professional references determined to be satisfactory and appropriate by the State Engineer for the license for which the applicant applies; and*
 3. *Any other information requested by the State Engineer; and*
- ~~(d) Demonstrate a good working knowledge of:~~
- ~~(1) Standard drilling practice;~~
 - ~~(2) The regulations of the State Engineer and applicable laws relating to well drilling; and~~
 - ~~(3) The method by which land is described by public land survey;~~

~~—(e) Have at least 2 years of full-time experience under the supervision of a licensed well driller in good standing with the State Engineer as a water well driller that is determined to be appropriate by the State Engineer for the license for which the applicant applies;~~

~~—(f) Have at least four professional references determined to be satisfactory and appropriate by the State Engineer for the license for which the applicant applies; and~~

(gd) Pass an *two part* examination, consisting of the following sections:

(1) A written examination which includes:

(I) A written test consisting of questions on which the applicant must obtain a passing score of at least 80 percent; and

(II) A test of the applicant's ability to use a standard 7.5 minute topographic map from the United States Geological Survey to provide the public land survey description of the location of a well, which will be scored on a pass or fail basis; and

(2) An oral examination conducted by the Board.

2. The State Engineer will deny an applicant a license if the applicant:

(a) Fails to notify the Division at least 3 working days before the scheduled examination date that he or she cannot appear for the examination as instructed by a notice to appear before the State Engineer or the Board;

(b) Fails to pass all sections of the examination described in paragraph (g) of subsection 1 within the period for which the application is valid pursuant to [NAC 534.280](#); or

(c) Fails to pass any section of the examination described in paragraph (g) of subsection 1 after two consecutive attempts.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.286 Oral examination of applicants. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) Except as otherwise provided in [NAC 534.288](#), the Board shall conduct the oral examination section of the examination for each applicant for a well- drilling license. The oral examination section of the examination must be conducted to determine the sufficiency of the applicant's:

1. Knowledge of the provisions of this chapter and [chapter 534](#) of NRS, including, without limitation, knowledge of the minimum standards established in this chapter for the construction, plugging, development or testing of wells;

2. Qualifications and experience;

3. Proficiency in the operating procedures and construction methods associated with the various types of drilling rigs *and equipment* used for well drilling; and

4. Ability to resolve problems that may arise during the construction, plugging, development or testing of a well.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.288 Board not required to conduct oral examination of certain applicants. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) The Board is not required to conduct the oral examination section of the examination for an applicant for a well- drilling license who:

1. Receives a score of less than 80 percent on the written test portion of the written examination; ~~or~~

2. Is unable to demonstrate his or her ability to locate a well by public land survey on a topographic map; *or*

3. *Has not received four professional references as required by NAC 534.282.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

~~NAC 534.290 Revocation or denial of license. (NRS 534.020, 534.110, 534.150, 534.160)~~

~~1. The State Engineer may revoke or refuse to reissue a well-drilling license if the State Engineer determines, after an investigation and a disciplinary hearing, that the well driller has:~~

~~— (a) Been found to be incompetent as a well driller by the State Engineer or the Board;~~

~~— (b) Supplied false information to an owner of a well or a holder of a permit or his or her agent;~~
~~or~~

~~— (c) Failed to report information concerning improper construction or improper plugging of a well pursuant to NAC 534.355.~~

~~2. The State Engineer will avail himself or herself of the services of the Board pursuant to NRS 534.150 if the State Engineer determines that to do so is appropriate under the circumstances.~~

~~[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. §§ 8.01 & 8.02, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006)~~

NAC 534.292 Notice to renew license; notification by well driller of change in mailing address. (NRS 534.020, 534.110, 534.140)

1. The Division will send, ~~by mail~~ to each licensed well driller, a notice to renew his or her license ~~approximately 30 days~~ before the expiration of the license. Failure to receive the notice does not relieve a well driller of the well driller's obligation to file the appropriate forms and pay the fee for renewal in a timely manner.

2. A well driller shall notify the Division of any change in his or her mailing address within 30 days after the change.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.2923 Renewal of license: Application for renewal. (NRS 534.020, 534.110, 534.140) A well driller may renew his or her well-drilling license by submitting a renewal application to the Division ~~in person or by mail~~ so that the Division receives the application not later than June 15. The renewal application must:

1. Be completed and signed by the well driller on a form provided by the Division;

2. Be accompanied by the renewal fee prescribed in [NRS 534.140](#); and

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of [NAC 534.2927](#), include documentation satisfactory to the Division that the applicant has completed eight credit units of continuing education within the ~~appropriate licensing period~~ ~~previous year beginning July 1 and ending June 30~~. At least once within two consecutive renewal periods, the units of continuing education completed by an applicant must include the successful completion of the *“Nevada Well Drilling Regulations, Statutes and Forms”* ~~following~~ courses offered by the Division.:

~~— (a) “Nevada Well Drilling Regulations and Statutes”; and~~

~~— (b) “Well Drilling Forms: How to Properly Complete a Well Driller’s Report, Notice of Intent Card, Affidavit of Intent to Abandon and Waivers.”~~

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R009-06, eff. 6-1-2006; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006, eff. 7-1-2008; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.2925 Renewal of license: Processing of and action on application. (NRS 534.020, 534.110, 534.140, 534.160)

1. The Division shall process each application submitted for renewal of a well-drilling license pursuant to [NAC 534.2923](#) in the order in which the applications are received by the Division. If the State Engineer determines that an application is complete and the applicant is qualified, the Division shall renew the license for the period ending on June 30 of the year after approval of the renewal.

2. The Division shall not renew a license if the State Engineer determines, upon investigation ~~and after a hearing held upon at least 15 days' notice sent by registered or certified mail to the licensed well driller~~, that the well driller:

(a) Has not submitted all required notices of intent ~~to drill~~ to the Division as required by [NAC 534.320](#);

(b) Has not furnished a copy of the Well Driller's Report for every well drilled, *plugged or reconditioned* to the State Engineer pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) and [NAC 534.340](#);

(c) Has not complied with all orders requiring the repair or plugging of improperly constructed wells;

(d) Is not otherwise in compliance with this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS; or

(e) Has accumulated 100 demerit points or more against his or her license.

3. If the State Engineer determines, ~~after consultation with the Board~~, that a well driller has an unacceptable history of noncompliance with this chapter and [chapter 534](#) of NRS, the Division may deny renewal, refuse renewal for a specified time, or renew the license of the well driller with conditions that the State Engineer considers appropriate. In making this determination, the State Engineer will consider:

(a) The actions of the well driller ~~within the 5 years immediately preceding the date on which the renewal application is received by the Division~~ with regard to his or her well-drilling license or other permits issued by the State Engineer pursuant to this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS.

(b) The failure to submit or the failure to submit in a timely manner by the well driller any corrections to a Well Driller's Report required pursuant to [NAC 534.345](#).

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R009-06, eff. 6-1-2006; A by R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.2927 Continuing education of well drillers. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. A credit unit of continuing education is earned for each hour the holder of a well-drilling license attends a workshop, seminar or course or participates in any other type of educational activity related to well drilling or related subjects approved by the Division. Such educational activities may include, without limitation, the completion of college courses or Internet courses, compiling and instructing courses approved by the Division, active participation on the board of a professional organization and authoring appropriate publications.

2. Documentation of completion of continuing education which is satisfactory to the Division includes, without limitation:

(a) A log, on a form provided by the Division, indicating the type of educational activity claimed, the sponsoring organization, the duration of the course or activity, the name of the instructor and the number of credit units; and

(b) Documents providing evidence of attendance at or participation in an educational activity, including, without limitation, a certificate of completion.

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, the Division shall deny the renewal of a license if, at the time of renewal, the well driller is unable to provide documentation of completion of the number of credit units of continuing education required by [NAC 534.2923](#).

4. The Division may exempt *or defer* a well driller from all or part of the number of credit units of continuing education required by [NAC 534.2923](#) if the well driller:

(a) Served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States for 120 consecutive days or more during the licensing period immediately preceding the application for renewal;

(b) Was prevented from earning the number of credit units of continuing education required by [NAC 534.2923](#) because of a physical disability, serious illness or other extenuating circumstances; or

(c) Is within the first renewal period after the well driller has applied or reapplied for his or her license.

5. A well driller who is not a resident of this State is subject to the same requirements of continuing education as a well driller who is a resident of this State.

6. The Division shall review each educational activity submitted to the Division to satisfy the continuing education requirements set forth in [NAC 534.2923](#) to determine the number of credit units of continuing education, if any, to assign to the educational activity.

7. The Division is not obligated to provide credit units of continuing education for a course that was completed before the Division has approved the course.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R009-06, eff. 6-1-2006; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.293 Requirements to reinstate *an expired* license ~~if prior license has expired or been suspended or revoked~~. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

To reinstate *an expired* license, a well driller whose license has been:

1. Expired for 1 year or less must:

(a) File a *new reinstatement* application with the fee required by [NRS 534.140](#);

(b) Pass the examination required by [NAC 534.282](#) or petition the Division, *in writing*, ~~for~~ and receive from the Division *permission to forgo a waiver of* the requirement to pass the examination; and

(c) Reduce the number of demerit points the well driller has accumulated against his or her license to zero.

(d) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of [NAC 534.2927](#), include documentation satisfactory to the Division that the applicant has completed eight credit units of continuing education within the appropriate licensing period. At least once within two consecutive renewal periods, the units of continuing education completed by an applicant must include the successful completion of the "Nevada Well Drilling Regulations, Statutes and Forms" course offered by the Division.

2. Expired for more than 1 year ~~or suspended or revoked~~ must:

(a) File a new application with the fee required by [NRS 534.140](#);

(b) Pass the examination required by [NAC 534.282](#); and

(c) Reduce the number of demerit points the well driller has accumulated against his or her license to zero.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.294 Scope of authority under license; issuance of ~~restricted~~*limited* licenses; request to modify scope of ~~restricted~~*limited* license. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. A well-~~drilling~~ license authorizes the licensee to drill, ~~or~~ plug *or recondition* the following types of wells:

(a) Water wells; *and*

(b) Monitoring wells. ~~;~~ *and*

~~—(c) Geothermal wells.~~

2. The State Engineer may issue ~~restricted~~*limited* well-drilling licenses that limit a well driller to a class of work or type of drilling rig, or both, for which the Board has determined the driller is qualified. ~~The following restricted well-drilling licenses may be issued:~~

~~—(a) A monitoring well-drilling license;~~

~~—(b) A geothermal well-drilling license; and~~

~~—(c) Any other class of well-drilling license determined to be appropriate by the Board and the State Engineer.~~

3. If a well driller wishes to modify the scope of his or her ~~restricted~~*limited* well-drilling license, the well driller ~~may submit a written request to the Division to appear before the Board for further examination.~~*shall:*

1. File a new application with the fee required by NRS 534.140;

(b) Pass the examination required by NAC 534.282. The well driller may petition the Division, in writing, and receive from the Division permission to forgo the written examination; and

(c) Reduce the number of demerit points the well driller has accumulated against his or her license to zero.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

DUTIES OF WELL DRILLERS

NAC 534.300 Designated basins; replacement wells; waivers. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection 6 and~~[NAC 534.315](#), a well driller shall not drill a water well within a groundwater basin designated by the State Engineer until the well driller determines that a permit to appropriate the groundwater has been issued pursuant to [NRS 534.050](#), *or a waiver has been issued pursuant to this chapter.*

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsections ~~3, 5 and~~ 6, a water well may be drilled to replace an existing well if a valid permit, waiver or certificate of water right exists for the well to be replaced.

3. If continued use will not be made of the existing well, the existing well must be plugged as required by [NAC 534.420](#) at the time the replacement well is drilled. ~~If continued use will be made of the existing well or the well owner does not want to plug the existing well, a permit must be issued for the replacement well before any drilling is commenced.~~

4. If continued use will be made of the existing well or the well owner does not want to plug the existing well, an approved waiver or a permit must be issued for the replacement well before any drilling is commenced.

~~45. The replacement well must not be drilled more than 300 feet from the location of the existing point of diversion described in the permit, waiver or certificate and may not be moved outside of the 40-acre subdivision described in the permit, waiver or certificate pursuant to NRS 534.XXXX.~~ Drilling must not be suspended without completing the replacement well or plugging the original well unless approved by the Division.

~~56.~~ If water service is available from an entity, including, without limitation, a public utility, a water district or a municipality presently engaged in furnishing water to the inhabitants of an area, a well for temporary use for which a revocable permit was granted pursuant to [NRS 534.120](#) may not be drilled or replaced unless, pursuant to [NAC 534.450](#), a waiver from the provisions of this section is first obtained from the Division.

~~—6.— In basins designated by the State Engineer, a waiver is required for any well:~~

- ~~—(a) That does not comply with the requirements for construction prescribed in this chapter;~~
- ~~—(b) The water appropriated from which will be used in constructing a highway or exploring for oil, gas, minerals or geothermal resources;~~
- ~~—(c) That may be used as a monitoring well;~~
- ~~—(d) That may be used as an exploratory well; or~~
- ~~—(e) That is located in a shallow groundwater system for removing water for the purpose of alleviating potential hazards to persons and property resulting from the rise of groundwater caused by secondary recharge.~~

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. §§ 10.01-10.03, 10.05 & 10.06, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.310 Nondesignated basins. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 and [NAC 534.315](#):

(a) In basins which have not been designated by the State Engineer, a person who drills a well before receiving a permit to appropriate water does so at the risk that a permit to appropriate water cannot be obtained; and

(b) A person shall not use water from a well until a permit or waiver has been obtained pursuant to [NRS 534.050](#).

2. In basins which have not been designated by the State Engineer, the well driller may proceed to drill a well whether or not the owner of the property has a permit to appropriate water *or a waiver. The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.*

3. A replacement well must ~~not be drilled more than 300 feet from the location of the existing point of diversion described in the permit, waiver or certificate and may not be moved outside of the 40-acre subdivision described in the permit, waiver or certificate~~*pursuant to NRS 534.XXXX.* Drilling must not be suspended without completing the replacement well and plugging the original well unless approved by the Division.

4. ~~In basins which have not been designated by the State Engineer, a waiver is required before any diversion of water may be made for any well:~~

- ~~—(a) That does not comply with the requirements for construction prescribed in this chapter;~~
- ~~—(b) The water appropriated from which will be used in constructing a highway or exploring for oil, gas, minerals or geothermal resources;~~
- ~~—(c) That may be used as a monitoring well;~~
- ~~—(d) That may be used as an exploratory well; or~~
- ~~—(e) That is located in a shallow groundwater system for removing water for the purpose of alleviating potential hazards to persons and property resulting from the rise of groundwater caused by secondary recharge.~~*If a permit or waiver has not been applied for within 1 year after the completion of well, the well must be plugged pursuant to NAC 534.427.*

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 11, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.315 Wells for domestic use. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#), [534.180](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 8, permits to appropriate groundwater are not required for the drilling of wells for domestic use.

2. A well driller shall take into account the normal annual fluctuations in the demand for water of an area and, if the well is in a developed area, some annual drop in static water level.

3. Water may not be diverted from more than one well for domestic use in one single-family residence.

4. A well drilled for domestic use only must have a casing size not larger than 8.625 inches in diameter.

5. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, if a well drilled for domestic use cannot be reconditioned, a replacement well may be drilled if the original well is plugged as required by [NAC 534.420](#) ~~before the equipment used for well drilling is moved from the drilling site~~ *within 60 days from the completion of the replacement well.*

6. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 7, a well may be drilled for domestic use if not more than 2 acre-feet of water per year is diverted from the well for use by a single-family household, including a residence with a lawn, garden and domestic animals.

7. If water service is available from an entity, including, without limitation, a public utility, a water district or a municipality presently engaged in furnishing water to the inhabitants of the area, a well for domestic use may not be drilled, including, without limitation, deepened or reconditioned, or replaced unless a waiver from the provisions of this section is first obtained from the Division.

8. A permit must be obtained from the Division if:

- (a) More than 2 acre-feet of water per year is diverted from a water well for domestic use;
- (b) Water is used for purposes other than domestic use; or
- (c) The single-family dwelling is furnished water by an entity that is authorized to furnish water to the inhabitants of the area where the dwelling is located.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 10.04 + Part 12, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.320 Notice of intent ~~to drill~~: Submission; approval by Division required; contents; fees; correction; forms. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a well driller shall not set up a well rig or commence drilling, ~~or plugging~~ *or reconditioning* a well until the well driller has submitted to the Division a notice of intent ~~to drill~~, *received approval for the notice of intent from* ~~and~~ *the Division* ~~and has approved the notice of intent to drill~~ *notified the Division, in writing, 24 hours prior to the commencement of work. All work performed will be subject to all statutes, regulations and the terms of the notice of intent approval.*

2. The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ must be submitted for ~~work on an exploratory, water or monitoring well~~ *the drilling, plugging or reconditioning of a well. A well driller shall notify the Division before drilling or plugging a geothermal well by submitting a notice of intent to drill if a permit to appropriate water is required pursuant to NRS 534.050.* Submission of a notice of intent ~~to drill~~ is not required for the rehabilitation of an existing well.

3. The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted pursuant to subsection 1 must give the name of the person for whom the work is being performed, the location of the well by public land survey, the lot number, block number and county assessor's parcel number, *the parcel size*, the purpose of the well, the date on which the work is to be commenced, the type of work to be done and the diameter of casing to be installed. The notice must be accompanied by the filing fee required by [NRS 533.435](#) and must include:

- (a) The signature of ~~the~~ *a qualified individual that is named on the contractor's license* or the well driller responsible for the work;
- (b) The license number of the well driller responsible for the work; and

(c) If applicable, the governmental agency identification number mandating the installation of the well, such as the number of a water right permit, waiver, case file or facility identification.

4. The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted pursuant to subsection 1 must be received by the Division at least 3 working days before the well rig is to be set up. If a permit or waiver is required for the drilling operation, the number of the permit or waiver issued by the Division must be indicated on the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ in addition to the information required by subsection 3.

5. In addition to the requirements of subsections 3 and 4, the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ must include global positioning system coordinates which:

(a) Are either identified by latitude and longitude using decimal degrees or are identified using coordinates of the Universal Transverse Mercator system; and

(b) Specify for each coordinate whether the North American Datum of 1927, North American Datum of 1983 or the World Geodetic System 1984 was used.

6. If a well driller omits any of the information required by this section from the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted to the Division pursuant to subsection 1, the Division may return the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ to the well driller for correction. A well driller must not set up the well rig or commence drilling or plugging the well until the well driller receives approval of the corrected notice of intent ~~to drill~~ from the Division.

7. A well driller may submit the notice of intent to drill required pursuant to subsection 1 to the Division in an electronic format if the Division approves this manner of submission for the well driller before the well driller submits the notice of intent to drill.

8. The forms evidencing notice of intent to drill will be furnished by the Division to the well driller ~~on request and will be stamped and self-addressed.~~

9. If a well is to be drilled, ~~or~~ plugged *or reconditioned* in a township that is located north of the Mount Diablo baseline, the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ must be submitted to the office of the Division located in Carson City. If a well is to be drilled, ~~or~~ plugged *or reconditioned* in a township which is located south of the Mount Diablo baseline, the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ must be submitted to the office of the Division located in Las Vegas.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 4, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.325 Notice of intent ~~to drill~~: Lapse; new notice. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. If the drilling, ~~or~~ plugging *or reconditioning* of a well described on a notice of intent ~~to drill~~ is not commenced within 60 days after the Division approves the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ *or the intended start date, whichever is later.*; If the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ lapses, ~~and~~ a new notice of intent ~~to drill~~ must be submitted *with the required fees* and approved by the Division before such activity may proceed. The new notice of intent ~~to drill~~ must include the number of the lapsed notice of intent ~~to drill~~.

2. The well driller may set up the drill rig and commence drilling, ~~or~~ plugging *or reconditioning* a well immediately after the Division receives and approves the new notice of intent ~~to drill~~ *and has notified the Division, in writing, 24 hours prior to the commencement of work.*

3. The well driller shall indicate on the Well Driller's Report for the well the number of the notice of intent ~~to drill~~ that the well driller last submitted for that well.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.330 Responsibilities of licensed well driller at drilling site. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#)) A well driller licensed by the State Engineer:

1. Must be ~~present at the well drilling site~~ *in direct supervision of the well drilling site* when the drill rig is in operation and when any activity involving the construction, reconditioning or plugging of the well is conducted. If the licensed well driller leaves the drilling site, the drilling operation must be shut down until that licensed well driller or another well driller licensed pursuant to this chapter returns to the site. If the Division determines that drilling operations occurred during any period in which a licensed well driller was not present at the well- drilling site, *or the drilling operation is in violation of any regulation of this chapter*, the Division may order the drilling operation to cease and conduct an investigation. The drilling operation may not recommence until the Division approves the drilling operation.

2. Shall ensure that the drilling of the well complies with:

- (a) The provisions of this chapter;
- (b) The terms and conditions of any permit, waiver or order issued by the State Engineer; and
- ~~—(c) The requirements of all other federal, state and local agencies which have jurisdiction over the land on which the well is to be drilled.~~

3. Shall carry the well driller's license card when he or she is present at the drilling site and produce the card when requested to do so by a representative of the Division.

4. Shall have in his or her possession at the well- drilling site the documentation of the approval by the Division of the notice of intent to drill submitted by the well driller for the well and shall produce that documentation upon request by a representative of the Division.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 2.02, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.335 Responsibility to obtain written authorization from owner of land to access project if certain waiver granted. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) A waiver granted by the State Engineer pursuant to [NAC 534.440](#) to [534.444](#), inclusive, and [534.448](#) does not extend to the well driller the right of ingress or egress across and upon public, private or corporate lands. To obtain such a right, the person who requested the waiver must obtain written authorization from the owner of the land to access the project area.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R044-14, eff. 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.340 Well Driller's Report: Form; contents. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#), [534.170](#))

1. A Well Driller's Report must be submitted to the State Engineer within 30 days after the completion of the drilling, ~~or~~ plugging *or reconditioning* of a well by the well driller pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) and must be typewritten or legibly handwritten in black ink on a form provided by the Division. Submission of a Well Driller's Report is not required for the rehabilitation of an existing well.

2. In addition to the information required pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#), the following information must be contained in the Well Driller's Report:

- (a) The complete name and address of the person for whom the work is being performed.
- (b) The location of the well, including:
 - (1) A description of its location by public land survey and county assessor's parcel number.
 - (2) Global positioning system coordinates which:
 - (I) Are either identified by latitude and longitude using decimal degrees or are identified using coordinates of the Universal Transverse Mercator system; and

(II) Specify for each coordinate whether the North American Datum of 1927, North American Datum of 1983 or the World Geodetic System 1984 was used.

(3) In a Well Driller's Report for a well drilled for domestic use, the address of the house to be served by the well, the county assessor's parcel number and, if available, the lot and block description and the name of the subdivision.

(c) Any pumping test or development data.

(d) An accurate identification of the water-bearing formations.

(e) The static water level, measured from the land surface.

(f) Any applicable water rights permit or waiver number.

(g) The temperature of the water in the well measured in degrees Fahrenheit.

3. An accurate description of the perforations in the casing must be set forth in the section of the Well Driller's Report that contains a record of the well casing.

4. If the well is tested by:

(a) Pumping pursuant to subsection 3 of [NRS 534.170](#), the information must be reported on the Well Driller's Report in gallons per minute of flow.

(b) Flow, the length of time it takes to fill a container of known capacity, if the flow is not too large to be accurately measured in that manner, must be reported on the Well Driller's Report.

↪ The duration of such testing must not exceed 72 hours, unless otherwise approved by the Division.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 7, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.345 Well Driller's Report: Completion; execution; submission; correction.
([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#), [534.170](#))

1. All work performed by the well driller during the drilling operation must be accurately described in the Well Driller's Report submitted by the well driller pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) and [NAC 534.340](#).

2. The completed Well Driller's Report must be signed by:

(a) The licensed well driller who is present at the well- drilling site as required pursuant to [NAC 534.330](#); ~~or~~

(b) ~~The drilling contractor responsible for the work.~~ *The licensed well driller responsible for the work; or*

(c) *The licensed contractor responsible for the work.*

3. A well driller may submit the Well Driller's Report in an electronic format if the Division approves this manner of submission for the well driller before the well driller submits the Well Driller's Report.

4. If any of the information required to be included by this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS is omitted from a Well Driller's Report, the Division ~~shall~~*may* return the Well Driller's Report to the well driller for correction. Any corrections to the Well Driller's Report must be made and submitted to the State Engineer within 30 days after the date on which the well driller receives the returned Well Driller's Report from the Division. If corrections are made to the returned Well Driller's Report and submitted to the State Engineer 31 days or more after the date on which the Division returned the Well Driller's Report to the well driller for correction, the Well Driller's Report will be accepted by the State Engineer but the late submittal of the Well Driller's Report shall be deemed to be a failure to file the Well Driller's Report and the Division shall assess demerit points against the license of the well driller pursuant to [NAC 534.500](#).

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.350 Identification of well rig. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#)) The name and address of the contractor drilling the well must be conspicuously displayed in legible letters at least 3 inches high on the drill rig operated or owned by that contractor.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 9, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.355 Reporting of improper construction or plugging of well. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#)) A licensed well driller who becomes aware of specific information relating to improper construction or improper plugging of a well shall report that information to the Division as soon as practicable.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006)

DRILLING, CONSTRUCTION AND PLUGGING OF WELLS AND ~~BOREHOLES~~ **GEOTECHNICAL SOIL BORINGS**

~~— **NAC 534.358 Construction of well: Compliance with chapter 445A of NAC in certain circumstances.** ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) — If a well is regulated by the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water of the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the well must be constructed in accordance with [chapter 445A](#) of NAC.~~

~~— (Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)~~

NAC 534.360 Construction of well: Casing. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, all wells must be cased ~~to the bottom of the well bore and~~ *within two percent of the total depth drilled; shall be resistant to the corrosive effects of the surrounding formations, earth and fluid and shall be* constructed to prevent contamination or waste of the groundwater.

2. If no additional water is developed in the bottom portion of a well bore, neat cement, cement grout or concrete grout must be placed by tremie pipe in an upward direction from the bottom of the well bore to the bottom of the casing.

3. The casing must:

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph and [NAC 534.362](#), be of new steel or clean and sanitary used steel. Materials other than steel may be used if the design of the well or the subsurface conditions prevent the use of steel casing and a professional engineer who holds a license issued pursuant to [chapter 625](#) of NRS has approved the casing materials.

(b) Be free of pits and breaks.

(c) In no case shall holes be cut in the casing wall for lifting or lowering into the borehole.

4. The thickness of the wall of the casing must *meet the following standards:*

Minimum thickness for steel well casing

<i>Depth of</i>	<i>Nominal Casing Diameter (in)</i>
-----------------	-------------------------------------

Casing (ft)	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	30
0-100	3/16 (0.188)	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)
100-200	3/16 (0.188)	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)
200-300	3/16 (0.188)	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	3/8 (0.375)
300-400	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	3/8 (0.375)	3/8 (0.375)
400-600	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	3/8 (0.375)	3/8 (0.375)	7/16 (0.4375)
600-800	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	3/8 (0.375)	3/8 (0.375)	3/8 (0.375)	7/16 (0.4375)
800-1,000	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	3/8 (0.375)	7/16 (0.4375)	7/16 (0.4375)	1/2 (0.50)
1,000-1,500	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	3/8 (0.375)	3/8 (0.375)	3/8 (0.375)	7/16 (0.4375)	*	*
1,500-2,000	3/16 (0.188)	1/4 (0.25)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	5/16 (.3125)	3/8 (0.375)	3/8 (0.375)	7/16 (0.4375)	7/16 (0.4375)	*	*

*Reference Section 4.4.5 of A100-15 regarding thickness of well casings.

~~— (a) For depths of 300 feet or less, conform to the following minimum specifications, allowing for mill tolerance:~~

~~— (1) If the conductor casing is 50 feet or less in depth, the thickness of the wall must be:~~

~~— (I) At least 0.141 or 9/64 of an inch if the wall is made of a material other than galvanized steel pipe that has been corrugated; or~~

~~— (II) At least 0.109 or 7/64 of an inch if the wall is made of galvanized steel pipe that has been corrugated.~~

~~— (2) If the depth of the conductor casing exceeds 50 feet, and for all production or intermediate casing, the wall must be sufficiently thick to conform to the casing sizes listed in sub-subparagraphs (I) to (IV), inclusive:~~

~~— (I) If the casing is smaller than 10 inches nominal size, the wall must be at least 0.188 or 3/16 of an inch thick.~~

~~— (II) For 8-, 10-, 12-, 14- and 16-inch nominal size casing, the wall must be at least 0.250 or 1/4 of an inch thick.~~

~~— (III) For 18-, and 20-inch nominal size casing, the wall must be at least 0.312 or 5/16 of an inch thick.~~

~~— (IV) For casing larger than 20 inches nominal size, the wall must be at least 0.375 or 3/8 of an inch thick.~~

~~— (b) For depths of more than 300 feet, be increased in accordance with the American Water Works Association Standard A100-06, which is hereby adopted by reference. A copy of the standard may be obtained by mail from the American Water Works Association, 6666 West~~

Quincy Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80235-3098, by telephone at (800) 926-7337 or at the Internet address <http://www.awwa.org>, at a cost of \$88.

5. The top of the casing on all wells must be at least 18 inches above the surface of the ground or the finished grade.

6. All production casing joints must be threaded and coupled or welded and be watertight. If the casing joints are welded, each joint must be welded completely *and be equal to or greater than the casing thickness*. Spot welds of casing joints are prohibited.

7. *No perforated or screened section of casing may be placed in a well bore causing the interconnection of aquifers nor can the perforated or screened section be placed above the lowest expected static water level.*

78. The well driller shall ensure that the integrity of any casing to be used in the construction of the well has not been impaired by storage, shipping, handling, perforating or exposure to ultraviolet light.

9. *Inner casing installed in a well shall extend or telescope at least 8 feet into the lower end of the adjacent well casing. The space between the two well casings shall be sealed so as to prevent the movement of water between the two casings.*

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. § 3.01, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.362 Construction of well: Thermoplastic casing. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. New thermoplastic water well casing made of polyvinyl chloride may be used as casing in a well if the casing:

(a) Is clearly marked as well casing; and

(b) Complies with the standards adopted by ASTM International designated as ASTM F480-12, or the current F480 designation at the time of installation, ~~which are hereby incorporated by reference. A copy of the standards may be obtained by mail from ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania 19428-2959, by telephone at (610) 832-9585 or at the Internet address <http://www.astm.org>, at a cost of \$57.~~

2. If polyvinyl chloride well casing is used:

(a) The differential pressures that may occur during the installation of casing, the development of the well and the operation of the well must be considered by the well driller and the person responsible for designing the well.

(b) The wall thickness must:

(1) For nominal diameters that are 6 inches or less, conform to a rating of schedule 40 or heavier. ~~For example, a nominal pipe that is 6 inches in diameter and has a rating of schedule 40 must have a wall thickness of at least 0.280 inch. The ASTM standard dimension ratio that would exceed this standard is an ASTM standard dimension ratio of 21 or heavier. An ASTM standard dimension ratio of 26 would not satisfy the requirements of this subparagraph for nominal diameters that are 6 inches or less.~~

(2) For nominal diameters that are more than 6 inches, conform to the ASTM standard dimension ratio of 21 or heavier. The standard dimension ratio is equal to the outside diameter divided by the wall thickness. ~~For example, a nominal pipe that is 8 inches in diameter and has an ASTM standard dimension ratio of 21 must have a wall thickness of at least 0.410 inch. A rating of schedule 40 would not satisfy the requirements of this subparagraph for a nominal pipe that is 8 inches in diameter and has a wall thickness of 0.322 inch.~~

(c) The joint connections must be:

(1) Flush-threaded;
(2) Threaded and coupled; or
(3) Joined with nonmetallic couplings that are sealed with elastomeric sealing gaskets and which consist of flexible thermoplastic splines that are inserted into precisely machined grooves in the casing.

↪ The joint connections must not be glued or joined by restraining devices that clamp into or otherwise damage the surface of the casing. If the joint connections are flush-threaded or threaded and coupled, the well driller shall ensure that the connections are not overtightened.

3. If polyvinyl chloride well casing is used in a water well or monitoring well, the well driller shall set a protective steel casing which complies with the provisions of [NAC 534.360](#) and extends not less than 5 feet inside the sanitary seal and not less than 18 inches above the finished grade. The top of the protective casing must be fitted with a locking cap or a standard sanitary well cap.

4. *No perforated or screened section of casing may be placed in a well bore causing the interconnection of aquifers nor can the perforated or screened section be placed above the lowest expected static water level.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.XXX Setbacks.

All wells shall be:

1. *All wells shall be set back from potential sources of contamination such as, but not limited to, septic tanks, sewage leach fields, cemeteries, livestock pens or lagoons and sewage lines a minimum of 100 feet from said potential sources of contamination, unless a waiver has been applied for and approved.*

2. *Set back from property lines a minimum of 10 feet unless properly protected by easement or written agreement.*

3. *Located where it is not subject to ponding and is not in the floodway and shall be protected from a 100-year flood and from any surface or subsurface drainage capable of impairing the quality of the groundwater supply, unless a waiver from the Division has been applied for and approved.*

NAC 534.370 Construction of well: Prevention of contamination; use of additives; securing against unauthorized entry; suspension of drilling. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. The well driller shall take the precautions necessary to:

(a) Seal off any known zones of poor quality water which may affect the zones of good quality water in the well.

(b) Prevent contamination or waste of groundwater.

(c) *For potable wells, prior to or after being placed in the well, pumping equipment, sand, gravel and well casing shall be thoroughly hosed or sluiced with water and shall be disinfected with a solution containing at least 50 ppm chlorine for a minimum contact period of not less than 2 hours.*

2. Any additive used in drilling a well, including, without limitation, lost circulation materials, must be capable of being broken down and removed from the borehole and must not contaminate or induce contamination of the groundwater or be an organic substance unless certified as appropriate for use in a potable aquifer under *the most current edition of the Drinking Water Treatment Chemicals - Health Effects*, NSF/ANSI Standard 60-2014, ~~which is hereby adopted by reference. A copy of the standard may be obtained by mail from NSF International/Teckstreet, 3916 Ranchero Drive, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108, by telephone at (800) 699-9277 or at the~~

~~Internet address <http://www.techstreet.com/nsf/products>, at a cost of \$325.~~ As used in this subsection:

(a) “Lost circulation materials” means substances added to drilling fluids when drilling fluids are being lost to the formations downhole.

(b) “Organic substance” includes, without limitation, paper products, wood products, brans, hulls, grains, starches, hays, straws and proteins.

3. If it becomes necessary for the driller to discontinue the drilling operation before completion of the well, the well must be covered securely to prevent a contaminant from entering the casing or borehole and rendered secure against entry by ~~children~~*persons*, domestic animals and wildlife.

4. After drilling is completed, all openings must be closed off to prevent contamination of the well. A sanitary well cap or ~~welded~~*steel* plate must be welded to the well.

5. If drilling is suspended for any reason, the Division must be notified within 24 hours after drilling is suspended or before the drilling equipment is moved from the drilling site, whichever occurs first. The suspension of drilling without completing or plugging the well must be approved by the Division.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. §§ 3.14 & 3.15, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.375 Measures required before constructing new water well and if contaminant or contaminated water is encountered during construction of water well. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. Before commencing construction of a new water well, a licensed well driller shall investigate the drilling conditions, the geology of potential aquifers and overlying materials in the area in which the new water well is located by examining Well Driller’s Reports in the database maintained on the Division’s website for wells located in the area in which the new water well will be located.

2. If a contaminant or contaminated water is encountered during the construction of a water well, the strata which contain the contaminant or contaminated water must be cased or sealed in such a manner that the contaminant or contaminated water does not commingle with or impair other strata or the water contained in other strata. The well driller shall, by grouting or by using special seals or packers, prevent the movement of the contaminant or contaminated water in the well bore.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.378 Construction of well: Measures required if artesian condition is encountered. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. If an artesian condition is encountered in a well, the well driller shall, in addition to complying with the provisions of subsections 2 and 3 of [NRS 534.060](#), ensure that unperforated casing extends through the confining strata above the artesian zone. The annular space between the casing and the walls of the well bore must be sealed by placing neat cement, cement grout or bentonite chips by tremie pipe in an upward direction from the top of the artesian zone to the level necessary to prevent the leakage of artesian water above or below the surface.

2. Any flow of artesian water must be stopped completely in the manner set forth in subsection 3 of [NRS 534.060](#) before the drill rig is removed from the drill site.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.380 Construction of well: Seals. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, before the drill rig is removed from the drill site of a well, the annular space between the well bore and the casing must be sealed to a minimum depth of 50 feet below ground level by:

(a) Placing neat cement, cement grout, concrete grout or bentonite chips from the sealing depth to 20 feet from the surface; and

(b) Placing neat cement, cement grout or concrete grout from 20 feet below the surface to the surface.

↪ If sodium bentonite chips are placed in the annular space, the chips must be placed in such a manner that a bridge does not occur. If bentonite chips are poured in standing water, the bentonite chips must be screened to eliminate the fines.

2. Before the drill rig is removed from the drill site of a well, the annular space between the well bore and the casing must be sealed to a depth of greater than 50 feet below ground level if sealing to such a depth is required by subsection 1 of [NAC 534.370](#), [NAC 534.375](#), subsection 1 of [NAC 534.378](#) or paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of [NAC 534.390](#). ~~If the well is regulated by the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water of the Division of Environmental Protection of the State Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the annular space must be sealed in accordance with [NAC 445A.66905](#).~~

3. The casing must be centered as nearly as practicable in the well bore to allow the sanitary seal to surround the casing.

4. If a temporary conductor casing is used, it must be withdrawn during the placement of the grout.

5. If a pitless adapter is used:

(a) The sanitary seal must begin not more than 5 feet below ground level;

(b) The sanitary seal must extend at least 50 feet below the bottom elevation of the pitless adapter; ~~and~~

(c) A minimum of 20 feet of neat cement, cement grout, or concrete grout must be placed below the pitless adapter; and

(ed) The portion of the casing above the sanitary seal must be backfilled to ground level with uncontaminated soil which is compacted.

6. A pipe used to feed gravel through the cement seal or to provide access to the interior of the well must be fitted with a watertight cap.

7. A licensed well driller must place the seal or directly supervise the placement of the seal.

8. The seal must be placed:

(a) In the annular space within 3 days after the casing is set and before the drill rig is removed from the drill site.

(b) In one continuous mass from the minimum depth of 50 feet below ground level to the surface.

~~(c) By tremie pipe in an upward direction to displace the fluid to the surface of the ground, if any fluid is standing in the well bore above the sealing depth. Any grout slurry must be placed with sufficient pressure to create a uniform seal within the annular space. If using bentonite chips, they must be placed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.~~

9. The diameter of the well bore must be at least 4 inches larger than the largest diameter of the outside of the outermost casing to be used, including any joints or collars *for the entire depth of the seal*. If a fill pipe for gravel is installed, the diameter of the well bore must be 4 inches larger than the largest diameter of the casing plus the largest diameter of the fill pipe for gravel. A fill

pipe for gravel or any other pipe to provide access to the interior of the well must be completely surrounded by the seal. A conductor casing may be used to convey the gravel pack. If a conductor casing is used:

(a) The diameter of the well bore must be at least 4 inches larger than the largest diameter of the conductor casing *for the entire depth of the seal*; and

(b) The annular space between the conductor casing and the well bore must be sealed.

10. A watertight seal must be installed at the surface level between the conductor casing and the production casing to prevent any contaminants from entering the gravel pack conductor area. A welded plate or a seal consisting of neat cement, cement grout or concrete grout from a minimum depth of 10 feet below ground level to the surface must be used. If a welded plate is used, the entire length of the plate must be welded to the conductor casing and production casing.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. §§ 3.02-3.13 & 3.16, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.390 Construction of well: Location near river, lake, perennial stream, unlined reservoir or unlined canal; compliance with permit or waiver. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. If a well, other than a monitoring well, is drilled within 1/4 mile of a river, lake, perennial stream, unlined reservoir or unlined canal:

~~— (a) Perforations in the production casing are prohibited from ground level to a depth of 100 feet.~~

~~(ba)~~ The well must be sealed to a *minimum* depth of 100 feet.

~~(eb)~~ A permanent conductor casing may be used to convey the gravel pack to the 100-foot level.

2. If a well is being drilled pursuant to a permit or waiver, the well driller is responsible for satisfying the terms and conditions of the permit or waiver concerning the construction of the well.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 5, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97)

NAC 534.420 Plugging of well: General requirements. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. Wells must be plugged in order to:

(a) Restore, as far as feasible, the controlling hydrological conditions that existed before the well was drilled and constructed;

(b) Eliminate physical hazards;

(c) Prevent contamination of ground water and the movement of contaminants inside or outside the well casing;

(d) Conserve the yield and hydrostatic head of aquifers; and

(e) Prevent the movement of surface or ground water into unsaturated zones, into another aquifer, or between aquifers.

~~12.~~ Except as otherwise provided in [NAC 534.422](#), wells other than monitoring wells must be plugged in the manner prescribed in this section by a well driller licensed by the State Engineer.

~~23.~~ A well driller shall:

(a) Ensure that in accordance with [NAC 534.320](#) a notice of intent to drill is received by the Division not less than 3 working days before the drill rig is moved to the location where the well will be plugged; and

(b) Notify the Division, *in writing*, not less than 24 hours before beginning to plug the well.

~~34.~~ Before the well driller begins to plug the well, he or she shall:

(a) If possible, obtain the Well Driller's Report for that well from the Division or the owner of the well.

(b) Visually inspect the area around the well and examine Well Driller's Reports in the database maintained on the Division's website to identify any well in the area in which the well to be plugged is located that may be impacted by the plugging activities. If such a well is identified, the well driller shall request an alternative plan for plugging the well pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#).

45. A well must be plugged pursuant to this section by:

(a) Removing the pump or debris from the well bore with appropriate equipment; and

(b) If an annular cement seal was not installed, attempting to break the casing free with appropriate equipment so that the casing may be pulled from the well.

56. ~~If the casing in the well:~~

~~—(a) Breaks free, the well driller shall plug the borehole in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.4371](#) as the casing is pulled from the well. The well must be plugged from the total depth of the well to the surface of the well, in stages if necessary, to displace in an upward direction any fluid or debris in the well.~~

~~—(b) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), does not break free, the well driller shall perforate that portion of the casing which extends from the bottom of the well to not less than 50 feet above the top of the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum or to the surface of the well, or to the level of the annular seal if the annular seal remains intact. That portion of the casing must be perforated with not less than four equidistant cuts per each 2 linear feet to allow the plugging fluid to penetrate the annular space and the geologic formation. The perforations made in each 2 linear feet of the casing must be made along a horizontal plane of the well bore. A well with a diameter of more than 8 inches in nominal size must be perforated a sufficient number of additional times per linear foot to ensure that the plugging fluid penetrates into the annular space and formation. The well driller shall then plug the well from the total depth of the well to 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum or to within 20 feet of the surface of the well with neat cement, cement grout or bentonite grout or, if authorized under an alternative plan pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#), with bentonite chips. The well driller may use uncontaminated fill from the top of the plug installed 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum to within 20 feet of the surface of the well. The well driller shall place a surface plug in the well consisting of neat cement, cement grout or concrete grout from a depth of at least 20 feet to the surface of the well.~~

~~—(c) Does not break free and there is no evidence of a sanitary seal around the well casing, the well driller shall perforate the casing from the bottom of the well to not less than 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum and from a depth of at least 50 feet to the surface of the well. The casing must be perforated with not less than four equidistant cuts per each 2 linear feet to allow the plugging fluid to penetrate the annular space and the geologic formation. The perforations made in each 2 linear feet of the casing must be made along a horizontal plane of the well bore. A well with a diameter of more than 8 inches in nominal size must be perforated a sufficient number of additional times per linear foot to ensure that the plugging fluid penetrates into the annular space and the geologic formation. The well driller shall then plug the well from the total depth of the well to 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum or within 50 feet of the surface of the well with neat cement, cement grout or bentonite grout or, if authorized under an alternative plan pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#), with bentonite chips. The well driller may use uncontaminated fill from the top of the plug installed 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum to within 50 feet of the surface of the well. The well driller shall place a~~

~~surface plug in the well consisting of neat cement or cement grout from a depth of at least 50 feet to the surface of the well.~~

(a) *Plugging a well in which the casing of the well does not break free and there is evidence of a sanitary seal.*

1. *Perforate: The portion of the casing which extends from the bottom of the well to not less than 50 feet above the top of the uppermost saturated groundwater or to the level of the annular seal. That portion of the casing must be perforated with not less than four equidistant cuts per each 2 linear feet to allow the plugging fluid to penetrate the annular space and the geologic formation. The perforations made in each 2 linear feet of the casing must be made along a horizontal plane of the well bore. A well with a diameter of more than 8 inches in nominal size must be perforated a sufficient number of additional times per linear foot to ensure that the plugging fluid penetrates into the annular space and formation.*

2. *Acceptable Plugging Materials:*

Total depth to the uppermost saturated groundwater level:

- a. Neat cement;*
- b. Cement grout; or*
- c. Bentonite grout*

Top of saturated groundwater level to 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater level:

- a. Neat cement or*
- b. Cement grout*

50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater level to within 20 feet of the surface:

- a. Neat cement;*
- b. Cement grout;*
- c. Concrete grout; or*
- d. Bentonite chips*

20 feet below ground surface to ground surface:

- a. Neat cement;*
- b. Cement grout; or*
- c. Concrete grout*

If authorized under an alternative plan pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#), the well driller may use bentonite grout or uncontaminated fill from the top of the plug installed 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum to within 20 feet of the surface of the well.

3. *Cut the casing 2 feet below ground surface.*

(b) *Plugging a well in which the casing does not break free and there is no evidence of a sanitary seal around the well casing.*

1. *Perforate: the well driller shall perforate the casing from the bottom of the well to not less than 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum and from a depth of at least 50 feet to the surface of the well. The casing must be perforated with not less than four equidistant cuts per each 2 linear feet to allow the plugging fluid to penetrate the annular space and the geologic formation. The perforations made in each 2 linear feet of the casing must be made along a horizontal plane of the well bore. A well with a diameter of more than 8 inches in nominal size must be*

perforated a sufficient number of additional times per linear foot to ensure that the plugging fluid penetrates into the annular space and the geologic formation.

2. Acceptable Plugging Materials:

Total depth to the top of the uppermost saturated groundwater level:

- a. Neat cement;*
- b. Cement grout; or*
- c. Bentonite grout*

Top of the saturated groundwater level to 50 feet above uppermost saturated groundwater level:

- a. Neat cement or*
- b. Cement grout*

50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater level to within 50 feet of the surface:

- a. Neat cement;*
- b. Cement grout;*
- c. Concrete grout; or*
- d. Bentonite chips*

50 feet below ground surface to ground surface:

- a. Neat cement or*
- b. Cement grout*

If authorized under an alternative plan pursuant to NAC 534.422, the well driller may use bentonite grout or uncontaminated fill from the top of the plug installed 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum to within 20 feet of the surface of the well.

3. Cut the casing 2 feet below ground surface.

(c) Plugging a well where the casing can be pulled from the borehole or plugging a geotechnical soil boring. If preexisting static water level cannot be determined, it is to be assumed that preexisting static water level was at the bottom of the borehole.

1. If the uppermost preexisting saturated groundwater stratum is above the bottom of the borehole:

i. Acceptable Plugging Materials:

Total depth to the uppermost saturated groundwater level:

- 1. Neat cement;*
- 2. Cement grout;*
- 3. Concrete grout;*
- 4. Bentonite chips; or*
- 5. Bentonite grout*

Top of saturated groundwater level to within 20 feet of the surface:

- 1. Neat cement;*
- 2. Concrete grout;*
- 3. Bentonite chips; or*
- 4. Cement grout*

20 feet below ground surface to ground surface:

- 1. Neat cement;*
- 2. Cement grout; or*
- 3. Concrete grout*

(d) Plugging a geotechnical soil boring.

1. If the uppermost preexisting saturated groundwater stratum is below the bottom of the borehole:

i. Acceptable Plugging Materials:

Total depth to within 20 feet of the surface:

- 1. Neat cement;*
- 2. Concrete grout;*
- 3. Cement grout;*
- 4. Bentonite chips; or*
- 5. Clean uncontaminated fill*

20 feet below ground surface to ground surface:

- 1. Neat cement;*
- 2. Cement grout; or*
- 3. Concrete grout*

6. A well driller shall submit a Well Driller's Report to the State Engineer within 30 days after a water well has been plugged. The Well Driller's Report must contain the location of the well by public land survey and county assessor's parcel number, the name of the owner of the well, the condition of the well, the static water level before plugging and a detailed description of the method of plugging, including, but not limited to:

- (a) The depth of the well;
- (b) The depth to which the materials used to plug the well were placed;
- (c) The type, size and location of the perforations which were made in the casing;
- (d) The debris encountered in, milled out of or retrieved from the well; and
- (e) The materials used to plug the well.

7. If there is any standing liquid in the interval of the well bore that is being plugged, all grout materials used pursuant to this section must be placed by tremie pipe in an upward direction.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 14, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.422 Plugging of well: Use of exceptional method. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. A well driller who wishes to plug a well in a manner that does not comply with the provisions set forth in [NAC 534.420](#) must request a waiver pursuant to [NAC 534.450](#).

2. If the Division authorizes the well driller to plug the well in a manner other than the manner set forth in [NAC 534.420](#), the well driller shall comply with the instructions he or she receives from the Division, if any, relating to the manner in which the well must be plugged.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.424 Plugging of well: Responsibility for cost. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. If a well is located on private land, the owner of the land at the time the well is plugged is responsible for the cost of plugging the well.

2. If a well is located on public land, the person who last drilled or used the well is responsible for the cost of plugging the well. If the person who last drilled or used the well does not plug the well after receiving notice from the Division by certified mail, return receipt requested, that the well must be plugged, the Division shall notify the person who owns the land on which the well is located that it is his or her responsibility to plug the well.

3. *If the Division has on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment, that party is responsible for the cost of plugging the well.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006)

NAC 534.426 Plugging of well: Artesian conditions. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) If an artesian condition is encountered in any well such that water is flowing at the surface, the artesian water strata must be contained pursuant to [NRS 534.060](#) and [NAC 534.378](#) and the well must be sealed by placing concrete grout, cement grout or neat cement by tremie pipe in an upward direction from the bottom of the well to the surface. The owner and the lessor of the land on which the well is located, the operator of the exploration project and the drilling contractor for the project shall take the necessary steps to prevent the loss of water above or below the surface and to prevent the vertical movement of water in the well bore.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.427 Mandatory plugging of certain wells. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. If any type of permit, certificate, waiver or application to appropriate water from a water well is cancelled, abrogated, forfeited, withdrawn, expired or denied, the well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#).

2. A well, other than a water well drilled for a domestic purpose, must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#) if:

(a) The Division has not issued a permit or waiver for the well; or

(b) The well is not located in a designated basin and ~~there is no reasonable expectation of obtaining~~ a valid permit, ~~or waiver or certificate of water right~~ *has not been applied for* from the Division *within 1 year from the date of completion of the well.*

3. A well, including a water well drilled for a domestic purpose, must also be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#) if the State Engineer sends a notice to the owner of the well by certified mail, return receipt requested, indicating that the well must be plugged and either:

(a) The State Engineer has determined that the well is in any manner defective; or

(b) The Division makes a finding that:

(1) The well tends to impair existing rights or the safety and welfare of the residents of this State;

(2) The mechanical integrity of the construction of the well has failed or is unknown;

(3) The well was not drilled in compliance with the provisions of this chapter;

(4) The well was not drilled in compliance with the provisions of [chapter 534](#) of NRS;

(5) The well tends to cause contamination of the groundwater aquifer;

(6) There is no evidence of impending use of the well for any legal purpose or that no legal use of the well is allowed; or

(7) The well tends to cause water to be wasted above or below the surface of the well.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.430 Means to measure level of water in well required. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. ~~Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, e~~Each well that is drilled must have:

(a) An access port near the top of the casing *or in the casing cover* that is not less than 2 inches in diameter;

(b) A commercially manufactured sanitary well cap that may be easily removed to determine the level of water in the well; or

(c) A reliable electronic means to measure the level of water in the well.

2. An access port must have a watertight, screw-type cap ~~seal~~ *or a removable plug* to prevent contamination and must be kept closed.

~~3. On wells that are 8 5/8 inches in diameter or smaller, the access may be a 1 inch hole at the top of the casing or in the casing cover with a removable plug or bolt.~~

43. As used in this section, “access port” means an opening in the top of a well casing in the form of a tapped hole and plug or a capped pipe welded on the casing to permit entry of a device to measure the water level of the well.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 6, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.432 Mandatory plugging of well as result of noncompliance with requirements for well drilling. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#), [534.160](#)) If a well was:

1. Constructed by a person who, at the time the well was constructed, was not the holder of a well-drilling license issued pursuant to [NRS 534.140](#); or

2. Not constructed or completed in compliance with the provisions of this chapter as determined by the State Engineer,

↳ the well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) at the expense of the person who constructed the well.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.4351 Monitoring wells: Restrictions on construction. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#), [534.170](#)) A monitoring well must be:

1. Drilled only by a well driller who is licensed by the State Engineer; and

2. Constructed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, except for any provision that is waived by the State Engineer.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.4353 Monitoring wells: Responsibilities of owner; permits; affidavit of responsibility for plugging. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. The owner of a monitoring well shall ensure that the well:

(a) Is constructed in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or a waiver and does not allow contamination of groundwater during its use; and

(b) Is plugged upon abandonment in accordance with [NAC 534.4365](#) when the well is no longer monitored or when otherwise required.

2. A permit to appropriate water or a waiver from the State Engineer is required to drill and collect data from a monitoring well.

3. ~~The well driller shall, when submitting the notice of intent to drill pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#), submit to the Division a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility~~ *The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the*

Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before a notice of intent to drill will be approved by the Division.

4. The owner of a monitoring well shall maintain a record of the current status of the monitoring well and shall notify the Division in writing as soon as practicable after determining that the well will no longer be used.

5. If a monitoring well or any other well is to be used to remove a contaminant from groundwater, an environmental permit must be obtained from the State Engineer pursuant to the provisions of [NRS 533.437](#) to [533.4377](#), inclusive.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.4355 Monitoring wells: Casing; prevention of contamination. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. A well driller shall install casing in a monitoring well. If polyvinyl chloride casing is used, it must comply with the standards adopted by reference pursuant to subsection 1 of [NAC 534.362](#).

2. The well driller shall take the precautions necessary to prevent contamination of groundwater. The equipment used to construct a monitoring well must be decontaminated before the construction of the well is commenced.

3. The diameter of the casing must not exceed 4 inches in nominal size.

4. The connections of the casing must comply with the provisions of [NAC 534.360](#) or [534.362](#). The connections must be made watertight by:

(a) Wrapping them with teflon tape;

(b) Placing a ring or gasket between them; or

(c) By any other method which will not introduce contaminants into the well except gluing.

5. Both ends of the casing must be capped.

6. The perforations must be of a width and length which will allow the strata to be observed while not permitting the infiltration of the gravel pack through the casing or allowing the contaminants or water from separate strata to commingle.

7. To ensure adequate space for the gravel pack and seals, the well bore of a monitoring well must, for the entire length of the casing placed in the well, be not less than 4 inches larger than the diameter of the casing.

8. Not more than one perforated or screened section of casing may be placed in the well bore of a monitoring well ~~unless the vertical intervals of the well bore in between the screened sections are sealed with neat cement, cement grout or cement-bentonite grout.~~

9. Not more than one casing may be placed in the well bore of a monitoring well unless the vertical intervals of the well bore in between the screened sections of the casings are sealed with neat cement, cement grout or cement-bentonite grout.

10. Monitoring wells must be drilled an adequate distance from each other to ensure that there is no commingling of the contaminants or groundwater encountered in the wells.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.4357 Monitoring wells: Placement of gravel and seals in annular space. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. If the water or vapors which are being monitored in a monitoring well are not encountered within 5 feet below the surface of the ground, the well driller shall place in the annular space of the well:

(a) From the bottom of the well to a maximum of 2 feet above the uppermost perforation in the casing, a gravel pack which consists of quartz sand, silica or other materials which will not contaminate the groundwater or the geologic formation;

(b) From the gravel pack placed pursuant to paragraph (a) to a minimum of 2 feet above that gravel pack or to within 20 feet below the surface of the ground, a seal consisting of bentonite chips; and

(c) From the seal placed pursuant to paragraph (b) to the surface, a seal, with a minimum thickness of 20 feet below the surface, consisting of cement grout, neat cement or concrete grout.

2. If the water or vapors which are being monitored in a monitoring well are encountered within 5 feet below the surface of the ground, the well driller shall comply with the requirements of subsection 1, except that:

(a) The gravel pack required pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 1 must extend only 6 inches above the uppermost perforation in the casing; and

(b) The surface seal required pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 1 must be placed from 1 foot below the surface to the surface.

3. The well driller shall ensure that a bridge does not occur in the annular space during the placement of the gravel pack and seals required pursuant to this section.

4. If more than 20 continuous feet of grout are placed in the annular space of the well or if there is standing liquid in the well bore above the sealing depth, the grout must be placed by tremie pipe in an upward direction.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.4359 Monitoring wells: Measures required if contaminant or contaminated water is encountered. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#)) If a contaminant or contaminated water is encountered during the construction of a monitoring well, the strata which contain the contaminant or contaminated water must be cased and sealed in such a manner that the contaminant or contaminated water does not commingle with or impair other strata or the water contained in other strata. The well driller shall seal the strata by grouting or by using special seals or packers, if necessary, to prevent the movement of the contaminants or contaminated water in the well bore.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.4361 Monitoring wells: Surface pad; prevention of unauthorized use; additional protective measures. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))

1. Unless the area surrounding a monitoring well is paved with concrete or asphalt, a surface pad must be installed around the casing at the surface.

2. A threaded or flanged cap or compression seal must be installed to prevent unauthorized use of the well. If the top of the well is flush with the surface and the well protector required pursuant to subsection 3 is of a type which may not be locked, the cap or seal must be of a type which may be locked.

3. The well must also be protected and secured by:

(a) If it is not necessary for the well to be flush with the surface:

(1) Setting a steel surface casing which complies with the requirements set forth in [NAC 534.360](#) and extends not less than 5 feet below the surface pad and not less than 1 foot above the surface pad;

(2) Fitting the top of the steel casing with a locking cap; and

(3) Clearly marking the well as a monitoring well; or

(b) If it is necessary for the well to be flush with the surface:

(1) Placing a well protector capable of supporting vehicular travel which extends one-half inch above the surface pad or concrete or asphalt paving; and

(2) Clearly marking the well as a monitoring well.

4. As used in this section, “surface pad” means a formation of *neat cement, concrete or cement grout or concrete grout* with a ~~radius from the center of the well of not less than 12 inches and a~~ thickness of not less than 3 1/2 inches which is set around a monitoring well at a slope to ensure that water flows away from the well. *The surface pad must extend at least one foot laterally in all directions from the outside of the well casing and shall be free of cracks, voids, and other significant defects likely to prevent water tightness. Contacts between the base and the annular seal, and the base and the well casing, must be watertight and must not cause the failure of the well casing or annular seal.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.4363 Monitoring wells: Artesian conditions. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#)) If an artesian condition is encountered in a monitoring well, the well driller shall ensure that the well is sealed in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.378](#).

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.4365 Monitoring wells: Plugging. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a monitoring well must be plugged by a licensed well driller within 30 days after monitoring is no longer required.

2. If an annular cement seal was not installed, attempting to break the casing free with appropriate equipment so that the casing may be pulled from the well

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, if the casing in the monitoring well cannot be removed from the well bore, the monitoring well must be plugged by placing neat cement by tremie pipe in an upward direction from the bottom of the well to the surface of the well *or by pressure grouting.*

3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4, if the casing in the monitoring well can be removed from the well bore, the bottom end of the casing in the monitoring well must be removed or perforated and neat cement must be placed by tremie pipe in an upward direction from the bottom of the well to the surface of the well as the casing is removed from the well bore. If the casing in the monitoring well does not exceed 4 inches in diameter, the casing may be used as the tremie pipe.

4. If a request for a waiver of the requirements in subsection 3 of [NAC 534.4355](#) or NRS 534.4357 has been granted by the State Engineer pursuant to [NAC 534.441](#), the well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#).

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

~~**NAC 534.4367 Drive point wells.** ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.140](#))~~

~~—1.— A well driller may construct a drive point well without placing in the annular space of the well the gravel pack and seals required pursuant to [NAC 534.4357](#).~~

~~—2.— The diameter of the casing used in a drive point well which is not constructed pursuant to the provisions of [NAC 534.4357](#) must not be larger than 2 inches in nominal size.~~

~~3. A drive point well which is not constructed pursuant to the provisions of [NAC 534.4357](#) must be plugged within 60 days after the well is constructed. Upon abandonment, the casing must be removed from the well bore and the well bore must be plugged in the manner provided in [NAC 534.4371](#).~~

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.4369 Boreholes*Geotechnical soil boring*: Generally. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. A ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* may be drilled or plugged by a person who is not a licensed well driller.

2. A person who constructs or plugs a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* is not required to file with the Division a notice of intent to drill or plug the borehole.

3. A ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* may be drilled without obtaining from the Division a permit to appropriate water or a waiver of the requirement to obtain such a permit.

4. A person who drills or plugs a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*, the operator of the exploration project or the owner of the land where the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* is located must maintain a record of the drilling operation which includes:

- (a) The dates on which the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* is constructed and plugged;
- (b) The location of the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* as shown by public land survey;
- (c) The depth and diameter of the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*;
- (d) The depth at which groundwater is encountered in the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*;

and

- (e) The methods and materials used to plug the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*.

5. The State Engineer may, at any time, require the person drilling or plugging the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*, the operator of the exploration project or the owner of the land on which the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* is located to submit to the State Engineer a copy of the record required pursuant to subsection 4 and any other information relating to the construction, operation or plugging of the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* that the State Engineer determines is necessary.

6. The owner and the lessor of the land on which a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* is located, the operator of the exploration project and the drilling or plugging contractor for the project shall ensure that the groundwater is uncontaminated during the drilling, operation or plugging of the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*.

7. A ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* must not be used to divert water for any purpose.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006)

NAC 534.4371 Boreholes*Geotechnical soil boring*: Plugging requirements. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. A ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* must be plugged within 60 days after it is drilled.

2. Except as otherwise provided in subsections ~~4, 73~~ and ~~48~~ and [NAC 534.438](#), a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* must be plugged ~~in~~ the manner prescribed for plugging a well in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#); or

~~(b) If the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum is above the bottom of the borehole~~

~~(1) By placing concrete grout, cement grout, neat cement or bentonite grout by tremie pipe in an upward direction from the bottom of the borehole to within 20 feet of the surface and by placing concrete grout, cement grout or neat cement from 20 feet below the surface to the surface;~~

~~—(2) By placing bentonite chips specifically designed to be used to plug boreholes from the bottom of the borehole to within 20 feet of the surface and by placing concrete grout, cement grout or neat cement from 20 feet below the surface to the surface; or~~

~~—(3) By placing any of the plugging materials described in this subsection from the total depth of the borehole to 50 feet above the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum and by placing concrete grout, cement grout, or neat cement from 20 feet below the surface to the surface.~~

~~—3. If the concrete grout, cement grout, neat cement, bentonite grout or bentonite chips are not brought to within 20 feet of the surface pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 2, the person responsible for plugging the borehole shall:~~

~~—(a) Measure the depth of the top of the lower plug with the appropriate equipment after he or she has allowed sufficient time for the lower plug to set up;~~

~~—(b) Continue to install concrete grout, cement grout, neat cement, bentonite grout or bentonite chips until the top of the lower plug remains at least 50 feet above the top of the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum;~~

~~—(c) Install uncontaminated fill material or one of the plugging materials described in this subsection from the top of the lower plug to within 20 feet of the surface; and~~

~~—(d) Place concrete grout, cement grout or neat cement from 20 feet below the surface to the surface.~~

~~—4. If the elevation of the bottom of the borehole is higher than the preexisting natural elevation of the uppermost saturated groundwater stratum, the borehole must be plugged by:~~

~~—(a) Backfilling the borehole from the bottom of the borehole to within 20 feet of the surface with uncontaminated soil; and~~

~~—(b) Placing concrete grout, cement grout or neat cement from 20 feet below the surface to the surface.~~

~~—5. If bentonite chips or uncontaminated soil is placed in the borehole, they must be placed in such a manner that a bridge does not occur. If poured in standing water, bentonite chips must be screened to eliminate the fines. Bentonite chips may be placed by tremie pipe.~~

~~—6. If casing is set in a borehole, the borehole must be completed as a well pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. The borehole must be plugged pursuant to NAC 534.420 or as authorized pursuant to NAC 534.422 or the casing must be removed from the borehole when it is plugged. The upper portion of the borehole may be permanently cased if the annular space between the casing and the walls of the borehole is completely sealed from the bottom of the casing to the surface pursuant to NAC 534.380.~~

~~—7.3. If there is evidence that water-draining formations (lost circulation), or water-bearing formations of different water quality or hydraulic head were encountered during the original borehole construction and if bentonite chips or bentonite grout is used as the plugging material, the well driller must, in addition to the requirements of this section, place neat cement across the water-confining formations so that the plugging fluid penetrates the geologic formation to prevent the vertical movement of water. Any drilling casing or pipe that does not break free, and occludes the placement of neat cement across a confining formation, must be perforated so that the plugging fluid penetrates the annular space and the geologic formation in that interval.~~

4. If the water-bearing formations are unknown and any drilling casing or pipe does not break free, the well driller must plug the borehole in accordance with paragraph (b) of subsection 5 of [NAC 534.420](#) so that the plugging fluid penetrates the annular space and the geologic formation in the perforated intervals.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.4373 Boreholes*Geotechnical soil boring*: **Responsibility for plugging.** ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) The owner and lessor of the land on which a *borehole geotechnical soil boring* is located, the operator of the exploration project and the plugging contractor for the project are jointly and severally responsible for plugging the *borehole geotechnical soil boring* pursuant to this chapter.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97)

NAC 534.4375 Boreholes*Geotechnical soil boring*, **blast holes and seismic shot holes: Artesian conditions.** ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#)) If an artesian condition is encountered in any *borehole geotechnical soil boring*, blast hole or seismic shot hole, the artesian water strata must be contained pursuant to [NRS 534.060](#) and [NAC 534.378](#), and the *borehole geotechnical soil boring*, blast hole or seismic shot hole must be sealed by placing concrete grout, cement grout, bentonite chips or neat cement by tremie pipe in an upward direction from the bottom of the *borehole geotechnical soil boring* to the surface. The owner and lessor of the land on which a *borehole geotechnical soil boring* is located, the operator of the exploration project and the drilling contractor for the project shall take the necessary steps to prevent the loss of water above or below the surface and to prevent the vertical movement of water in the well bore.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.4376 Instrumentation boreholes. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. An instrumentation borehole may be drilled by an unlicensed well driller.
2. The installation of monitoring instruments and simultaneous plugging must be:
 - (a) Completed by a well driller who is licensed in this State; or
 - (b) Supervised and documented by the responsible project geologist, hydrologist or engineer.
3. An instrumentation borehole must be permanently plugged at the time of completion pursuant to [NAC 534.4371](#).
4. Documentation of each instrumentation borehole must be completed and maintained pursuant to [NAC 534.4369](#).

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)

~~— **NAC 534.43763 Electrical cathodic protection conductor deemed specific type of instrumentation borehole.** ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) For the purposes of this chapter, an electrical cathodic protection conductor is a part of a system to prevent corrosion or to provide electrical grounding and is deemed to be a specific type of instrumentation borehole.~~

~~— (Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)~~

~~— **NAC 534.43767 Core hole deemed specific type of borehole.** ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) For the purposes of this chapter, a core hole is deemed to be a specific type of borehole.~~

~~(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012)~~

NAC 534.4377 Treatment of certain holes as *boreholes geotechnical soil boring*. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. If the construction of a seismic shot hole or a hole used for the installation of electrical conductors as part of a system to prevent corrosion or provide electrical grounding ~~may cause~~

~~waste or contamination of the groundwater~~, the hole shall be deemed a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* for the purposes of [NAC 534.4369](#) and [534.4371](#).

2. Any borehole which is drilled for oil, gas or geothermal resource observation, temperature gradient survey, production or injection purposes shall be deemed a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* for the purposes of [NAC 534.4369](#) and [534.4371](#), ~~unless another governmental agency has requirements that are the same as or more strict than the requirements of this chapter.~~

3. Any borehole which is drilled for oil, gas or geothermal resource observation, temperature gradient survey, production or injection purposes, and which has casing or tubing installed for more than 60 days, shall be deemed a well or a monitoring well for the purposes of [NAC 534.4351](#) to [534.4365](#), inclusive, and subsection 6 of [NAC 534.4371](#), ~~unless another governmental agency has requirements that are the same as or more strict than the requirements of this chapter.~~

4. Any borehole drilled for ~~geothermal heat loop installation~~*a closed-loop heating/cooling exchange well* shall be deemed a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* for the purposes of [NAC 534.4369](#) and [534.4371](#), ~~unless another governmental agency has requirements that are the same as or more strict than the requirements of this chapter.~~

5. *Any cathodic protection well.*

6. *Any core hole.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

NAC 534.438 Prerequisites to using bentonite grout to seal, grout or plug ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#)) Before using bentonite grout to seal, grout or plug a ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*, the responsible project geologist, hydrologist or engineer using the bentonite grout must:

1. Consider the geology encountered in the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring* and any requirements set forth in this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS in his or her selection of the bentonite grout;

2. Mix the bentonite grout and place the bentonite grout in accordance with specifications recommended by the manufacturer; and

3. Place additional cement plugs as necessary, across low permeability geologic formations encountered in the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*, to ensure that no water can move vertically in the ~~borehole~~*geotechnical soil boring*.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R009-06, eff. 6-1-2006; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012)

WAIVERS

Waivers. General requirements.

1. *Work activity related to a waiver request shall not proceed until a written or verbal approval is granted by the State Engineer. If the request for a waiver is approved, the issuance of the waiver is subject to the terms and conditions contained in the waiver approval. Any verbal approval will be followed by a written approval.*

2. *In a public health emergency or other exceptional circumstance, a verbal request for a waiver may be given to the Division. Convenience does not constitute an emergency. Written notification and fees must be submitted to the Division following the verbal notification within 3 business days of verbal approval.*

Waiver to drill or recondition a domestic well in an area where water service is available from an entity.

1. A request for a waiver to drill or recondition a domestic well in an area where water service is available from an entity, including, without limitation, a public utility, water district or municipality, which are presently engaged in furnishing water to the inhabitants thereof, pursuant to NRS 534.120(3)(d,) must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing. The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by [NRS 533.435](#) and must include:

(a) The location of the proposed domestic well by public land survey, GPS location and county assessor's parcel number;

(b) A letter from the water purveyor stating:

- (1) whether the property can legally and physically receive water service,
- (2) the improvements and costs associated with providing water service to that property, and
- (3) an estimated time of completion of work;

(c) A letter from the well drilling contractor stating:

- (1) the costs associated with drilling or reconditioning a domestic well and
- (2) an estimated time of completion of work;

(d) The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land on which the domestic well will be located; and,

(e) The purpose and reason for requesting the waiver.

2. The domestic well must be drilled or reconditioned within 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.

3. Each waiver will bear a unique number preceded by the letters "DOM." The notice of intent submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller's Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.

4. This section does not apply to any groundwater basin for which the State Engineer has in effect on July 1, 1983, a procedure of issuing revocable permits.

NAC 534.440 Waiver to drill exploratory well to determine quality or quantity of water in designated basin. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#))

1. A request for a waiver to drill an exploratory well to determine the quality or quantity of water pursuant to [NRS 534.050](#) in a designated basin must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing ~~and contain the following information~~. The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by [NRS 533.435](#) and must include the following:

(a) The location by public land survey, *GPS location*, county assessor's parcel number, map of the vicinity and plat map of the exploratory well anticipated to be drilled;

(b) The name, address and telephone number of the person who:

- (1) Is collecting data from the exploratory well; and
- (2) Will be available to answer questions concerning the well;

(c) The reason for requesting a waiver;

(d) The proposed diameter and depth of the exploratory well;

(e) The estimated starting and completion dates of the exploratory well, ~~not to exceed 90 days after authority is given to drill~~;

(f) The name, address and telephone number of the person who will be responsible for plugging the well, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land where the well will be located if the owner is not the person responsible for plugging the well; and

~~(g)2. A notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility~~ *The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the*

person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.

~~23.~~ Each waiver for an exploratory well will bear a unique number preceded by the letter “W.” The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller’s Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.

~~34.~~ The duration of the development and testing of the flow of the exploratory well must not exceed 72 hours, unless otherwise approved in the waiver.

~~45.~~ A copy of the waiver must be in the possession of the well driller at the drill site.

~~56.~~ The exploratory well must be:

(a) Plugged by the well driller in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#) within 3 days after the completion of the aquifer tests for which the well was drilled; or

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, completed as a well pursuant to the provisions of this chapter before the drill rig is removed from the drill site. The wellhead must be secured at the surface and water may not be used from the well until a permit to appropriate underground water is approved. If a permit to appropriate underground water is not approved at the location of the well within 1 year after the date of completion of the well, the well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#).

~~67.~~ The water from the exploratory well may not be used for any purpose other than the purposes set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.

~~78.~~ A waiver to drill an exploratory well will not be granted pursuant to this section for a well in an area in which the Division determines there is sufficient information existing concerning the aquifer for the area.

9. The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 16, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.441 Waiver to drill monitoring well. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#))

1. A request for a waiver to drill a monitoring well must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing, ~~and contain~~*The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by NRS 533.435 and must include:*

(a) The location of the proposed monitoring well by public land survey, *GPS location*, county assessor’s parcel number, map of the vicinity and plat map;

(b) The name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land on which the monitoring well will be located;

(c) A statement of the reason for requesting the waiver;

(d) A proposed construction sketch of the monitoring well;

(e) The name of the monitoring well or, if a waiver is requested for multiple monitoring wells, a list of all monitoring wells for which a waiver is requested on the “Additional Well Locations” form;

(f) If requested or previously required, a current, updated copy of the list setting forth the numbers of the monitoring wells for which waivers have been issued previously and the disposition of those wells;

(g) The name, address and telephone number of the person who:

(1) Will collect data from the monitoring well; and

(2) Will be available to answer questions concerning the monitoring well; and

~~(h)2. A notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility~~*The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.*

~~23.~~ A waiver to drill a monitoring well will bear a unique number preceded by the letters “MO.” The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller’s Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.

~~34.~~ A copy of the waiver must be in the possession of the well driller at the drill site.

~~45.~~ The monitoring well must be completed as a well pursuant to the provisions of this chapter or the waiver before the drill rig is removed from the drill site.

~~56.~~ Water from the monitoring well may not be used for any purpose other than the purpose set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.

7. The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R039-12, eff. 6-29-2012; A by R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.442 Waiver to use water to explore for minerals. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#))

1. A request for a waiver to allow a temporary use of water from an existing well to explore for minerals or to drill a well and to use the water from the well to explore for minerals must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing ~~and contain~~. *The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by NRS 533.435 and must include:*

(a) The amount of water that will be used from the well each day, which must not exceed 5 acre-feet per project *as defined by NAC 534B*;

(b) A brief description of the manner in which the water will be put to a beneficial use;

(c) The location of the water well by public land survey, *GPS location*, county assessor’s parcel number, map of the vicinity and plat map;

(d) The name, address and telephone number of the person who will be responsible for plugging the well, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land where the well will be located if the owner is not the person responsible for plugging the well;

~~—(e) A notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility;~~

~~(f)~~ (e) The name, address and telephone number of a person who will be available to answer questions concerning the well; and

~~(g)~~ (f) The date the project is scheduled to be completed.

2. The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.

~~23.~~ A waiver granted for the temporary use of water from a well for the exploration of minerals will bear a unique number preceded by the letters “MM.” The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller’s Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.

~~34.~~ A copy of the waiver must be in the possession of the well driller at the drill site.

~~45.~~ The well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#) within 3 days after the completion of the project.

~~56.~~ The water from the well may not be used for any purpose other than the purpose set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.

7. *The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.*
(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.444 Waiver to use water to explore for oil, gas or geothermal resources. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#))

1. A request for a waiver to allow the temporary use of water from an existing well to explore for oil, gas or geothermal resources, or to drill a well and use the water from the well to explore for oil, gas or geothermal resources, must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing ~~and contain~~. *The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by NRS 533.435 and must include:*

(a) The location of the proposed water well and the oil, gas or geothermal well by public land survey, *GPS location*, county assessor's parcel number, map of the vicinity and plat map;

(b) The oil, gas or geothermal state or federal permit and lease number, name of the well and American Petroleum Institute number, if assigned;

(c) The amount of water that will be used from the well each day, which must not exceed 5 acre-feet per ~~each~~-well *for the duration of the waiver*;

(d) The date the project is scheduled to be completed;

(e) The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for plugging the well, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land if the owner is not the person who is responsible for plugging the well; *and*

~~—(f) A notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility; and~~

(~~g~~) The name, address and telephone number of a person who will be available to answer questions concerning the well.

2. *The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.*

23. A waiver that allows the temporary use of water from a water well to explore for oil, gas or geothermal resources will bear a unique number preceded by the letters "OG." The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller's Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.

34. A copy of the waiver must be in the possession of the well driller at the drill site.

45. The well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#) within 3 days after the completion of the project or upon expiration of the waiver, whichever occurs first.

56. The water from the well may not be used for any purpose other than the purpose set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.

67. A waiver will not be granted pursuant to this section if the State Engineer determines that the quantity of water requested will adversely affect or impair existing water rights or domestic wells.

8. *The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.*
(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.446 Waiver to use water for construction of highway. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#))

1. A request for a waiver to allow the temporary use of water from an existing well for the construction of a highway, or to drill a well and use the water from the well for the construction of a highway, must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing ~~and contain~~. *The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by NRS 533.435 and must include:*

(a) The location of the proposed water well by public land survey, *GPS location*, county assessor's parcel number, map of the vicinity and plat map;

(b) The project and contract number, if applicable;

(c) The total amount of water that will be used from the well each day;

(d) The name, address and telephone number of the contractor responsible for plugging the well, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land where the well will be located if the owner is not the person responsible for plugging the well in accordance with [NAC 534.420](#);

(e) A notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility; *and*

~~(f) The name, address and telephone number of a person who will be available to answer questions concerning the project; and~~

(~~g~~) The date the project is scheduled to be completed.

2. *The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.*

23. A waiver that allows the temporary use of water from a well for the construction of a highway will bear a unique number preceded by the letter "C." The notice of intent to drill submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller's Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.

34. A copy of the waiver must be in the possession of the well driller at the drill site.

45. The well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#) within 3 days after the completion of the project or upon expiration of the waiver, whichever occurs first.

56. The water from the well may not be used for any purpose other than the purpose set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.

7. *Monthly records shall be kept of the amount of water pumped from each well granted in the waiver, and the records submitted to the State Engineer on a quarterly basis within 15 days after the end of each calendar quarter unless otherwise specified in the waiver.*

8. *The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 1-9-90; A 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.448 Waiver to drill well in shallow groundwater system to alleviate certain potential hazards. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#))

1. A request for a waiver to drill a well in a shallow groundwater system for removing water for the purpose of alleviating potential hazards to persons and property resulting from the rise of groundwater caused by secondary recharge must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing ~~and contain~~. *The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by NRS 533.345 and must include:*

(a) The location of the proposed well by public land survey, *GPS location*, county assessor's parcel number, map of the vicinity and plat map;

(b) The project and contract number, if applicable;

- (c) The total amount of water that will be used from the well each day;
 - (d) *A proposed construction sketch of the well;*
 - (e) *The name of the well or, if a waiver is requested for multiple wells, a list of all wells for which a waiver is requested on the "Additional Well Locations" form;*
 - (~~f~~) The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for plugging the well, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land where the well will be located if the owner is not the person responsible for plugging the well;
 - ~~—(e) A notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility;~~
 - (~~f~~g) The name, address and telephone number of a person who will be available to answer questions concerning the project; and
 - (~~g~~h) The date the project is scheduled to be completed.
2. *The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.*
23. A waiver to drill a well in a shallow groundwater system for removing water for the purpose of alleviating potential hazards to persons and property resulting from the rise of groundwater caused by secondary recharge will bear a unique number preceded by the letters "DW." The notice of intent to drill submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller's Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.
34. A copy of the waiver must be in the possession of the well driller at the drill site.
45. The well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in [NAC 534.420](#) or authorized pursuant to [NAC 534.422](#) within 3 days after the completion of the project or upon expiration of the waiver, whichever occurs first.
56. The water from the well may not be used for any purpose other than the purpose set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.
67. Written authorization from the appropriate agency for the discharge of dewatering water must be submitted with the waiver request.
78. A waiver will not be granted pursuant to this section if the State Engineer determines that the quantity of water requested will adversely affect or impair existing water rights or domestic wells.
9. *Monthly records shall be kept of the amount of water pumped from each well granted in the waiver, and the records submitted to the State Engineer on a quarterly basis within 15 days after the end of each calendar quarter unless otherwise specified in the waiver.*
10. *The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.*
- (Added to NAC by St. Engineer, eff. 12-30-97; A by R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.449 Waiver of requirement to plug well. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.060](#), [534.110](#))

1. The owner of a well, ~~other than a well drilled for domestic use,~~ who wishes to obtain a waiver pursuant to subsection 7 or 8 of [NRS 534.060](#) from the requirement that a well be plugged must submit a written request for the waiver to the State Engineer. The State Engineer may, for good cause shown, grant such a waiver. ~~The State Engineer will not grant such a waiver if the State Engineer determines that the well is dry or abandoned. The waiver is valid for 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved. On or before the date on which the waiver is no longer valid,~~

~~†~~The owner of the well may submit a request to ~~extend the waiver or to~~ make the waiver permanent, if appropriate, as determined by the State Engineer.

2. A request ~~for a waiver, the extension of a waiver or~~ to make a waiver permanent made pursuant to subsection 1 must:

(a) *Include the location of the proposed well by public land survey, GPS location and county assessor's parcel number;*

(~~a~~b) Be made on a form provided by the State Engineer;

(~~b~~c) Include sufficient information and evidence for the State Engineer to determine that the well is not in any manner defective, including, without limitation, that the conditions set forth in subsection 2 of [NAC 534.427](#) do not apply to the well; *and*

~~—(c) Include a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility; and~~

(d) Provide evidence that the well would be useful as a site for monitoring groundwater.

3. *The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.*

4. *The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.*

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R009-06, eff. 6-1-2006; A by R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.450 Waiver of requirement of this chapter. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#))

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the State Engineer may, for good cause shown, waive a requirement of the provisions of this chapter.

~~—2. The State Engineer will not waive the requirements set forth in subsection 4 of [NAC 534.360](#).~~

~~3~~2. A request for a waiver of a requirement of this chapter must be made in writing to the State Engineer ~~and include~~. *The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by [NRS 533.345](#) and must include:*

(a) A detailed statement of the reason for requesting the waiver and the section of this chapter to be waived;

(b) ~~The location or proposed location of the well by public land survey~~ *The location of the proposed well by public land survey, GPS location and county assessor's parcel number;*

(c) The name and address of the owner of the well;

(d) The street address of the location of the well or, if there is no street address, a description of the location of the proposed well, including, but not limited to, common landmarks and cross-streets near the location of the well;

~~—(e) The county assessor's parcel number for the location of the proposed well;~~

(~~f~~e) A description of the proposed design and a sectional drawing of the proposed well that includes the depths to the aquifers, the locations of the screens and seals and the materials that will be used;

(~~g~~f) A notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person who will be responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility;

(~~h~~g) Any available data to categorize the hydraulic heads, water quality and permeability characteristics of the aquifer; and

(~~i~~h) Any other information required pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

43. After reviewing the request, the State Engineer will issue a written notice of his or her decision to the responsible party.

54. Each waiver will bear a unique number preceded by the letter “R.” The notice of intent ~~to drill~~ submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller’s Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.

65. The well driller shall ensure that the well complies with the provisions of the waiver and have a copy of the waiver in the well driller’s possession when he or she drills the well.

76. The water from the well may not be used for any purpose other than the purpose set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. Part 15, eff. 5-19-81) — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006; R039-12, 6-29-2012; R044-14, 10-24-2014)

Waiver to drill drain well in shallow groundwater system to alleviate certain potential hazards. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.050](#), [534.110](#))

1. *A request for a waiver to drill a drain well in order to depressurize the earth to prevent potential hazards to persons and property during mining activities must be submitted to the State Engineer in writing. The waiver must be accompanied by the filing fee required by NRS 533.345 and must include:*

(a) The location of the proposed well by public land survey, GPS location, county assessor’s parcel number, map of the vicinity and plat map;

(b) The project and contract number, if applicable;

(c) The total amount of water that will be used from the well each day;

(d) A proposed construction sketch of the well, and a proposed plugging plan or sketch of the well;

(e) The name of the well or, if a waiver is requested for multiple wells, a list of all wells for which a waiver is requested on the “Additional Well Locations” form;

(f) The name, address and telephone number of the person responsible for plugging the well, and the name, address and telephone number of the owner of the land where the well will be located if the owner is not the person responsible for plugging the well;

(g) The name, address and telephone number of a person who will be available to answer questions concerning the project; and

(h) The date the project is scheduled to be completed.

2. *The Division shall have on file a notarized affidavit, on a form prescribed by the Division, from the person currently responsible for plugging the well upon abandonment acknowledging that responsibility before the waiver will be approved by the Division.*

3. *A waiver to drill a drain well in order to depressurize the earth to prevent potential hazards to persons and property during mining activities will bear a unique number preceded by the letters “DR.” The notice of intent to drill submitted to the Division pursuant to [NAC 534.320](#) and the Well Driller’s Report submitted to the Division pursuant to [NRS 534.170](#) must bear this number.*

4. *A copy of the waiver must be in the possession of the well driller at the drill site.*

5. *The well must be plugged in the manner prescribed in the approved waiver within 3 days after the completion of the project or upon expiration of the waiver, whichever occurs first.*

6. *The water from the well may not be used for any purpose other than the purpose set forth in the waiver without the written approval of the State Engineer.*

7. *Written authorization from the appropriate agency for the discharge of the water must be submitted with the waiver request.*

8. A waiver will not be granted pursuant to this section if the State Engineer determines that the quantity of water requested will adversely affect or impair existing water rights or domestic wells.

9. Monthly records shall be kept of the amount of water drained from each well granted in the waiver, and the records submitted to the State Engineer on a quarterly basis within 15 days after the end of each calendar quarter unless otherwise specified in the waiver.

10. The waiver is valid for a maximum of 1 year after the date on which the waiver is approved.

Extension of time for a waiver.

1. The State Engineer may, for good cause shown, grant any number of extensions of time for which a waiver has been approved. A request for an extension of time must in all cases be:
 - a. Submitted to the State Engineer on a form prescribed by the Division; and
 - b. Made within 30 days before the expiration of the waiver.
2. An extension of time for a waiver may be requested for the following waivers:
 - a. Waiver to drill an exploratory well;
 - b. Waiver to drill a monitoring well;
 - c. Waiver to use water to explore for minerals;
 - d. Waiver to use water to explore for oil, gas or geothermal resources;
 - e. Waiver to use water for the construction of a highway;
 - f. Waiver to drill a well in a shallow groundwater system to alleviate certain potential hazards; and
 - g. Waiver of the requirement to plug a well.

ENFORCEMENT

NAC 534.500 Assessment of demerit points against license of well driller; suspension and reinstatement of license; removal of demerit points. (NRS 534.020, 534.110)

1. The Division shall assess demerit points against the license of a licensed well driller who is found by the State Engineer to have violated any provision of this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS pursuant to the following table:

Classification of Violations	Maximum Demerits
Notice of Intent/Approval Failing to submit a notice of intent to drill to the Division <i>Setting up a drill rig or commencing the drilling, plugging or reconditioning of a well prior to submitting to the Division and receiving approval for the notice of intent as required by NAC 534.320.....</i>	25 50
Failing to notify the Division or obtain approval from the Division as required by NAC 534.370 if drilling is suspended or drilling equipment is moved from the drilling site before a well is completed or plugged.....	7550
Well Driller's Report Failing to furnish a copy of a Well Driller's Report to the State Engineer as required by NRS 534.170 , intentionally making a	75

Classification of Violations

Maximum
Demerits

material misstatement of fact in a Well Driller’s Report submitted to the State Engineer pursuant to NRS 534.170 or intentionally making a material misstatement of fact in an amendment to a Well Driller’s Report submitted to the State Engineer pursuant to NRS 534.170	
Submitting a Well Driller’s Report to the State Engineer pursuant to NRS 534.170 more than 30 days after a well is completed.....	10
Submitting a Well Driller’s Report to the Division pursuant to NAC 534.420 more than 30 days after a water well has been plugged....	10
Licenses	
Intentionally making a material misstatement of fact in an application for a well- drilling license.....	100
A well driller failing to have the well driller’s license card in his or her possession at a drilling site or failing to produce the license card when requested to do so by a representative of the Division as required by NAC 534.330	10
Failing to have a licensed well driller at a well- drilling site when a drill rig is in operation or when any activity involving the construction, reconditioning or plugging of the well is conducted as required by NAC 534.330 . (Demerit points will be assessed against the license of the principal well driller for the well- drilling company and against the license of the well driller listed on the notice of intent to drill .).....	50
Well construction and plugging	
Failing to comply with any provision of this chapter which establishes standards for the construction, reconditioning or plugging of a well, including, without limitation, improperly placing the annular seal, constructing a well with substandard well casing, using improper products or procedures during the construction, reconditioning or plugging of a well and failing to protect against contamination.....	75
Failing to make a well accessible to measurements of the water level of the well as required by NAC 534.430	30
Failing to prevent, control or stop the flow of water from an artesian well as required by NRS 534.060 and NAC 534.378	30
Approvals	
Drilling a replacement well more than 300 feet from the location of the existing point of diversion described in the permit, waiver or certificate or moving the replacement well outside of the 40-acre subdivision described in the permit, waiver or certificate of water right in violation of NAC 534.300	25
Failing to comply with any term or condition of a permit, waiver or order issued by the State Engineer concerning the drilling or	50

Classification of Violations

Maximum Demerits

plugging of a well as required by NAC 534.330 , including, without limitation, the depth of the annular seal, the location of perforations and the minimum or maximum depth of the well.....	
Miscellaneous	
Any other violation of any of the provisions of this chapter or chapter 534 of NRS..... To be determined by the Division based on the severity of the violation, but not to exceed 100

2. The Division shall assess demerit points against the license of a well driller only:

(a) After the State Engineer makes a finding that the well driller has violated a provision of this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS as provided in subsection 1. *Demerits will be assessed at the time the State Engineer becomes aware of the violation regardless of when the violation occurred;*

(b) After the Division gives written notice of an alleged violation to the well driller by registered or certified mail to the last known address of the well driller which specifies the provision of this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS that the well driller is alleged to have violated;

(c) If, within 30 days after the date on which the well driller receives a notice of an alleged violation sent pursuant to paragraph (b), the well driller has failed to respond to the notice of an alleged violation or provides a response to the notice of an alleged violation that is unsatisfactory, as determined by the Division; and

(d) After the conditions set forth in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) are satisfied, regardless of when the violation occurred.

3. If a licensed well driller accumulates:

(a) ~~100 or more~~ *Less than 169* demerit points, the State Engineer may, after giving notice and holding a hearing pursuant to [NRS 534.160](#) to determine that the violations which resulted in the demerit points occurred, *apply conditions that the State Engineer considers appropriate*, suspend *or revoke* the license of the well driller indefinitely. ~~If the State Engineer suspends the license of a well driller, the Division shall notify the well driller that his or her license is suspended and the well driller is prohibited from engaging in any activity for which a well drilling license issued pursuant to [NRS 534.140](#) is required until the license of the well driller is reinstated.~~

(b) *169 or more demerit points, the State Engineer shall, after giving notice and holding a hearing pursuant to [NRS 534.160](#) to determine that the violations which resulted in the demerit points occurred, apply conditions that the State Engineer considers appropriate or suspend or revoke the license of the well driller indefinitely.*

4. *If the State Engineer suspends or revokes the license of a well driller, the Division shall notify the well driller that his or her license is suspended or revoked and the well driller is*

prohibited from engaging in any activity for which a well drilling license issued pursuant to [NRS 534.140](#) is required until the license of the well driller is reinstated.

45. A well driller whose license has been suspended pursuant to subsection 3 may have the license reinstated if the well driller:

- (a) Satisfies the requirements set forth in subsection 2 of [NAC 534.293](#);
- (b) ~~Appears before the State Engineer at a hearing and t~~The State Engineer finds that the well driller is competent to engage in the practice of well drilling in the State of Nevada; and
- (c) Resolves any outstanding complaints related to his or her license as a well driller to the satisfaction of the Division.

6. A well driller whose license has been revoked pursuant to subsection 3 may not have the license reinstated unless an action for review by the district court is filed pursuant to [NRS 533.450](#).

57. The Division shall reduce the number of demerit points accumulated against the license of a well driller whose license has been suspended ~~or revoked pursuant to subsection 3~~ and reinstated ~~pursuant to subsection 4~~ to zero.

68. Demerit points assessed against the license of a well driller may be removed by the Division as follows:

(a) Five demerit points may be removed for each credit unit of continuing education approved by the Division and successfully completed by the well driller, as determined by the Division up to a maximum of 50 points per year. The credit units of continuing education that must be completed for the purposes of the removal of demerit points pursuant to this paragraph are in addition to those required by [NAC 534.2923](#).

(b) One-half of the demerit points assessed against the license of a well driller may be removed if the well driller is determined by the State Engineer to not have violated a provision of this chapter or [chapter 534](#) of NRS for the entire year ~~before his or her license is required to be renewed pursuant to [NRS 534.140](#)~~ following the issuance of the demerits.

(c) *The Division shall reduce the number of demerit points accumulated against the license of an active well driller who has not violated a provision of this chapter or chapter 534 of NRS for 4 consecutive years following the issuance of demerits to zero.*

(~~e~~d) Twenty demerit points may be removed if the well driller takes and passes the written examination for a license as a well driller. The Division may remove demerit points pursuant to this paragraph once every ~~other~~ year.

(Added to NAC by St. Engineer by R009-06, eff. 6-1-2006; A by R044-14, 10-24-2014)

NAC 534.xxx Revocation or denial of license. ([NRS 534.020](#), [534.110](#), [534.150](#), [534.160](#))

1. The State Engineer may revoke or refuse to reissue a well drilling license if the State Engineer determines, after an investigation and a disciplinary hearing, that the well driller has:

- (a) *Been found to be incompetent as a well driller by the State Engineer or the Board;*
 - (b) *Supplied false information to an owner of a well or a holder of a permit or his or her agent;*
- or*

(c) *Failed to report information concerning improper construction or improper plugging of a well pursuant to [NAC 534.355](#).*

2. The State Engineer may avail himself or herself of the services of the Board pursuant to [NRS 534.150](#) if the State Engineer determines that to do so is appropriate under the circumstances.

[St. Engineer, Drilling Wells Reg. §§ 8.01 & 8.02, eff. 5-19-81] — (NAC A 1-9-90; 12-30-97; R009-06, 6-1-2006)