

Nevada Division of Water Resources

Proposed Amendments to NAC 534
LCB File R027-25

October 3, 2025

Presented by
Chad Walling, Section Chief



NEVADA DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES



Temporary Regulations

- Adopted at a hearing held March 15, 2025
- Set to Expire November 1st
- Drafted by NDWR

Permanent Regulations

- Draft language to LCB on August 7, 2025
- Returned with revision on September 29, 2025
- Public Workshop
- Adoption Hearing



Executive Order 2023-004

Signed by Governor Lombardo 1/12/2023



EXECUTIVE ORDER 2023-004

Order Directing All Nevada Occupational and Professional Licensing Boards to Suspend the Issuance of Any New Regulations, Show Cause for All Occupational Licensing Requirements and to Provide a Recommended Pathway for Facilitating Licensure Reciprocity

- Review all occupational licensing requirements
- Provide a pathway for facilitating licensure reciprocity
- Submit a responsive report

JOE LOMBARDO
GOVERNOR

Nevada Well Driller's Licensing Statutes and Regulations



Report Responsive to Executive Order 2023-004

Submitted March 31, 2023

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
James Settelmeyer, Director

Division of Water Resources
Adam Sullivan, P.E., State Engineer

NDWR Report for Executive Order

Prepared by the Division at the
direction of the Advisory Board

The report consisted of 4 key sections

- Existing regulations
- Justification
- Recommended revisions
- Pathway for reciprocity

Board recommended regulation revisions and
establishing a reciprocity program

Small Business Impact Statement

Survey to solicit response from small businesses

Determine if the amended regulations are likely to impose a direct and significant economic burden upon a small business

13 responses from 7 qualifying small business

Comments received and considered

**Small Business Impact Statement
available on the Division's website**



REGULATIONS FOR WATER WELL AND RELATED DRILLING

Proposed Amendments

Focusing Exclusively on Licensing and Testing Regulations

- Material in *blue, bold italics* is new language
- Material in ~~red, brackets, and strikethrough~~ is proposed deleted language

Review material on the
Bulletin Board on the
Division's Website

Proposed Amendments

Existing Regulations

NAC 534.280 – Application for license

An application for a well-drilling license must be submitted to the Division. The application:

1. Must:

- (a) Be completed and signed by the applicant on a form provided by the Division.
- (b) Be accompanied by evidence that the applicant has at least 2 years of full-time experience . ~~Acquired during the immediately preceding 5 years.~~ The State Engineer will determine whether such experience is satisfactory and appropriate for the type of license for which the applicant is applying.
- (c) Be accompanied by at least four professional references ~~+~~, *of which not less than three references must be received and accepted by the Division before the applicant is eligible to take the written examination described in subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NAC 534.282.* The State Engineer will determine whether such references are satisfactory and appropriate for the type of license for which the applicant is applying.

Proposed Amendments

Existing Regulations

NAC 534.282 – Qualifications of applicant; denial of application.

1. An applicant for a well-drilling license must:

(a) Be at least 18 years of age; and

(b) Pass : ~~{a 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}~~ *Except as otherwise provided in section 1 of this regulation, an* oral examination conducted by the Board.

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

(c) Fails *two consecutive times* to pass ~~{any section of}~~ the *written or oral* examination described in paragraph

(b) of subsection 1 ~~{.}~~ *, if applicable.*

Proposed Amendments

Existing Regulations

NAC 534.288 – Board not required to conduct oral examination of certain applicants

The Board is not required to conduct the oral examination section of the examination for an applicant for a well-drilling license:

1. Who receives a score of less than 80 percent on the written test portion of the written examination;
2. ~~Who is unable to demonstrate his or her ability to locate a well by public land survey on a topographic map;~~
~~or~~
3. ~~If the State Engineer finds that the applicant's experience or professional references required pursuant to NAC 534.280 are not satisfactory or appropriate for the type of license for which the applicant is applying~~ ~~or~~;
3. Who is exempt from taking the oral examination pursuant to section 1 of this regulation.

Proposed Amendments

New Reciprocity Language

Section 1

- 1. The State Engineer may issue a well-drilling license by reciprocity to an applicant who:
 - (a) Holds a current well-drilling license issued by another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia and is in good standing with that state or territory;*
 - (b) Has held the license described in paragraph (a) for at least 2 years immediately preceding the date of application for licensure; and*
 - (c) Demonstrates, to the satisfaction of the State Engineer, that the requirements for the issuance of the license in the state or territory in which the applicant holds a current license are substantially similar to or more stringent than the requirements set forth in this chapter.**
- 2. To be granted reciprocity pursuant to this section, an applicant must:
 - (a) Submit an application to the Division pursuant to NAC 534.280;*
 - (b) Submit a request for reciprocity on a form provided by the Division; and*
 - (c) Satisfy the requirements of NAC 534.282.**
- 3. An applicant for reciprocity will be exempt from taking the oral examination described in subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of NAC 534.282 if the applicant receives a passing score of at least 87 percent on the written examination described in subparagraph (1) of paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of that section.*

Thank You

Chad Walling, P.E.

Chief, Well Drilling Regulations and Adjudications

Phone: 775-684-2855

E-mail: cwalling@water.nv.gov

Water.nv.gov



NEVADA DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES

