

Nevada Division of Water Resources

Proposed Amendments to NAC 534
LCB File R027-25RP2

September 1, 2026

Presented by:

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NEVADA DIVISION OF
WATER RESOURCES



Temporary Regulations

- Adopted at a hearing held March 15, 2025
- Expired November 1, 2025
- Drafted by NDWR

Permanent Regulations

- Draft language to LCB: August 7, 2025
- Returned with revision: September 29, 2025
- Public Workshop: October 3, 2025
- Adoption Hearing: November 12, 2025
- Legislative Commission: April 28, 2026
- Revised Language: July 13, 2026
- Adoption Hearing: September 1, 2026



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 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) Reschedules the written or oral examination more than twice; or

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

(b) of subsection 1.

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; *or*
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.~~

Thank You

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Water.nv.gov



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