



NEVADA DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES

Well Driller Continuing Education Unit Program

Nevada Administrative Code 534.2923, 2925 and 2927

Introduction and Objectives

Within each renewal cycle (spanning from July 1st to June 30th), licensed well drillers in Nevada are mandated to acquire a minimum of 8 continuing education units (CEUs) through attendance at training sessions or participation in ongoing education sponsored or approved by the Nevada Division of Water Resources (NDWR). This requirement is essential for the renewal of a Nevada Well Driller License and serves as a means to keep drillers well-informed about developing regulations, industry developments, and technological advancements. Combining hands-on field experience with continuous learning enhances the knowledge and capabilities of well drillers. The core objectives of the Nevada Driller CEU Program include:

- Fostering a reasonable level of confidence among well drillers and contractors.
- Improving public trust in well drillers and contractors.
- Enhancing the safeguarding of groundwater resources.
- Promoting adherence to well drilling regulations and relevant statutes.

Nevada CEU Requirements

The following is an overview of the CEU program requirements as stipulated by the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 534 for water wells and related well drilling.

- Licensed drillers must complete the NDWR-sponsored "Nevada Well Drilling Regulations and Statutes" once every 2 years.
- Licensed drillers must complete the NDWR-sponsored "How to Properly Complete a Notice of Intent Card, Well Driller's Report, Affidavit of Intent to Abandon, and Waiver Forms" review course once every 2 years.
- Licensed well drillers must earn a minimum of 8 CEUs during a 1-year licensing cycle to renew their license for the subsequent licensing cycle.
- Well drillers are responsible for procuring and retaining the required documentation for each course attended and must submit this documentation with their license renewal application.
- Generally, one hour of training or education equals one CEU. However, certain courses, while deemed valuable by NDWR, but not directly related to well drilling, may be rated at less than 1 hour per CEU. For instance, courses on topics like pumps, groundwater hydrology/hydrogeology are typically rated at 1 CEU for every 2 hours of instruction. Additionally, safety-related courses, such as MSHA, OSHA, HAZWOPER, and First Responder courses, are rated at 1 CEU for every 4 classroom hours.
- One CEU may also be assigned to training courses that do not meet the minimum duration of 1 hour; a course must be at least 45 minutes in length to receive 1 CEU.

- Licensed drillers who teach an "approved" CEU course will be granted 2 CEUs for each hour of classroom training, up to a maximum of 8 CEUs. However, if they teach the same course more than once within the renewal period, they may not earn additional CEUs for teaching the same course again; credit is granted for teaching the same course every other year.
- Up to 4 CEUs in excess of the required 8 can be carried over to the following licensing period. This is applicable unless the licensed well driller has incurred demerit points assessed against their license in accordance with NAC regulations. Any extra CEU's may first go towards reducing the total number of demerit points assessed to their license.

CEU Approval Process

NDWR grants approval for training programs eligible for CEUs. NDWR considers recommendations from the Nevada Well Drillers' Advisory Board and maintains an up-to-date roster of authorized courses, accessible on NDWR's website at water.nv.gov.

The responsibility for selecting the timing, location, and method of training falls squarely on the licensed driller. Training and educational courses should relate to occupational health and safety, office management, interpersonal skills, technical facets of the drilling industry, or any other subjects that contribute to improving business, technical, or regulatory knowledge, skills, and competencies. A well driller has the flexibility to seek training from a variety of sources, including professional associations, government entities, private enterprises, or individual instructors. While drillers can choose from the pre-approved course list, they are not restricted to exclusively enrolling in those courses. Potential training opportunities can be found in trade publications, training announcements, brochures, newspaper advertisements, mailings, and university courses. It is essential to ensure that any coursework not on the approved list is pre-authorized by NDWR to determine whether it qualifies for CEU credit. Although some well drillers may opt to complete a course before seeking CEU approval, there is no guarantee that the course will ultimately be approved.

The subsequent list outlines topics relevant to well drilling that could potentially align with the CEU program. Please note that this list is neither exhaustive nor a guarantee that each course will receive a 1 CEU credit for every hour of instruction. It is provided solely for informational purposes.

Request for Course Accreditation or Program

If a class or course does not appear as approved as listed on the NDWR website, a well driller or course instructor may obtain prior approval to ensure the credits will be accepted. The well driller or instructor will be asked to provide information on the course content, instructors, and course length. The "Request for a Program or Course Accreditation" form is available on NDWR's website.

Obtaining, Maintaining, and Submitting Training Records

To be eligible for course credit, well drillers are required to secure a document certifying their completion and attendance from the course instructor or provider. This validation of attendance can take the form of certificates, transcripts, diplomas, or attendance records. Upon renewal, a licensed well driller must provide these documents. The onus lies with the licensed well driller to maintain all records associated with their CEUs.

Special Conditions and Appeals

Newly licensed well drillers are exempt from submitting CEUs during their initial renewal cycle. For instance, if a well driller was licensed in August 2022, they do not need to provide 8 CEUs when renewing their license in June 2023. However, they must present proof of completing 8 CEUs for all subsequent renewal cycles. If a newly licensed well driller participates in eligible CEU courses during their first renewal period, up to 4 CEUs may be carried over to the following renewal period.

Well drillers have the option to appeal NDWR's decision regarding course approval or credits. Appeals should be submitted in writing to NDWR, and NDWR will assess them on a case-by-case basis, potentially holding a hearing if required.

Drillers facing challenges in meeting the CEU requirements before the annual deadline on June 30th due to hardship circumstances should contact NDWR in writing. NDWR will review each situation and provide recommendations and may involve the Well Drillers' Advisory Board to assist in evaluating appeals and hardships.

Every well driller's license expires on June 30th annually unless a timely and approved renewal application is received. To reinstate an expired license, you must either submit an Application for Well Driller's License along with the \$100.00 fee and pass the required examination or petition NDWR for and receive a waiver from the examination requirement.

WELL DRILLING-RELATED EDUCATION TOPICS

- Nevada Regulations (NAC 534)
- Water Rights Process
- Geologic Principles
- Groundwater Principles
- Cuttings Identification and Description
- Map Reading and GPS Use
- Aquifer Testing
- Well Disinfection Issues
- Well Rehabilitation Issues
- Water Quality and Geochemistry
- Surface Seals
- Groundwater Contamination
- Drinking Water Regulations
- Hydrology/Hydrogeology
- Well Plugging
- New Drilling Technology
- OSHA Certifications
- MSHA Certifications
- First Aid/CPR
- Drilling Muds
- Pump Systems
- Compressors Rigs and Maintenance
- Bits, Drill Pipe, Collars, Stabilizers
- Safety
- Contracting & Business
- Horizontal Drilling
- Hydrofracturing
- MW Construction & Environmental
- Screens & Perforations
- Client Relationships
- Geophysics & Down Hole Cameras
- Water Treatment Technology
- Well Maintenance
- Water Quality Sampling & Analysis
- Well Development
- Welding