

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: September 1, 2023

TO: Licensed Well Contractors and Environmental Well Contractors

FROM: Teresa Purrington
Program Manager
Well Management Section
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SUBJECT: Temporary Borings

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has the duty and authority to regulate the drilling, construction, modification, repair, and sealing of wells and borings (Minnesota Statutes, section 103I.101, subdivision 2 (www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/103I.101)).

MDH may enter into agreements with community health boards to delegate inspection, reporting, and enforcement duties pertaining to permitting, construction, repair, and sealing of wells and elevator borings. The delegation authority does not include permitting, construction, repair, and sealing of temporary borings. (Minnesota Statutes, section 103I.111, subdivision 1 (www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/103I.111)).

Please submit all sealing notifications and sealing records for temporary borings to the Minnesota Department of Health.

Temporary borings are defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 103I.005, subdivision 17a (www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/103I.005):

“Temporary boring” means an excavation that is 15 feet or more in depth, is sealed within 72 hours of the time of construction, and is drilled, cored, washed, driven, dug, jetted, or otherwise constructed to:

- (1) conduct physical, chemical, or biological testing of groundwater, including groundwater quality monitoring;*
- (2) monitor or measure physical, chemical, radiological, or biological parameters of earth materials or earth fluids, including hydraulic conductivity, bearing capacity, or resistance;*
- (3) measure groundwater levels, including use of a piezometer; and*
- (4) determine groundwater flow direction or velocity.*

If you are doing well work within a Delegated Well Program jurisdiction, please make sure that you submit the notification, permit, and records to the correct program. Please see Delegated Well Programs (www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/delegated.html) for a list of delegated well programs.

If you have additional questions, please contact Kara Dennis at kara.dennis@state.mn.us or 651-201-4589.

KD

cc: Delegated Well Programs, Advisory Council on Wells and Borings, Minnesota Water Well Association, and Well Management Section Staff