

Cost-Share Assistance

Contact your local county conservation district and/or Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP)/County Sanitarian about possible cost-share assistance available through the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation. These funds are available to assist with plugging abandoned wells and also installing new or replacement livestock water supply wells. Specific program rules do apply.

Helpful Contacts & Websites

Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
(785) 479-1369

<http://www.kacdnet.org/districts.html>

*Local Environmental Protection Programs
County Sanitarians*

<http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/lepp/lepp.htm>

*Kansas Department of Agriculture/ Division of
Conservation*

(785) 564-6778

<http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/divisions-programs/division-of-conservation/financial-assistance>



KDHE District Offices

Southwest

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Plugging Abandoned Wells



Bureau of Water
Geology & Well Technology Section
Water Well & Technical Support Unit
Curtis State Office Building
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(785) 296-3565
Email: pchaffee@kdheks.gov
Water Well Program Website:
www.kdheks.gov/waterwell/index.html

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What is an abandoned water well?

Regulations define an abandoned water well as a well determined by KDHE to meet at least one of the following (KAR 28-30-2 (a)):

1. Use has been permanently discontinued;
2. Pumping equipment has been permanently removed;
3. Is either in such disrepair that it cannot be used to supply water or has the potential for transmitting surface contaminants to the aquifer, or both;
4. Poses potential health and safety hazards; or
5. Is in such a condition that it is not an active well or cannot be placed into inactive status.

There are more than an estimated 250,000 abandoned wells and test holes in Kansas that should be plugged.

Which Wells Should Be Plugged?

All water wells abandoned by the landowner on/after 1 July 1979, and all wells abandoned prior to that date which pose a threat to groundwater supplies, shall be plugged or caused to be plugged by the landowner (KAR 28-30-7(a)).

Why Plug An Abandoned Well?

- Prevent contamination of water source;
- Remove the hazard of small children or animals falling into a hole;
- Prevent sinkholes by restoring stability of the land;
- Prevent loss of head pressure for artesian aquifers, which could affect other wells;
- Avoid potential liability for wells that could allow groundwater contamination.

How to identify abandoned wells?

- Licensed water well contractors, local government staff, and citizen organizations can help protect groundwater by identifying and mapping abandoned well locations.
- Community involvement through meetings or newspaper articles may help raise public awareness and initiate well plugging action.



How Can I Plug a Well Properly?

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment encourages the use of a licensed water well contractor to plug an abandoned well. Lists of licensed contractors are available at the Water Well Program website at: <http://www.kdheks.gov/waterwell/index.html>.

It may be practical for some wells to be properly plugged by the landowner. Proper plugging procedures must be followed and a water well plugging record (WWC-5P Form) must be submitted to KDHE within 30-days after plugging the well. Both the plugging regulations in Article 30 (KAR 28-30-7) and the WWC-5P Form are available at the above website link or call KDHE at (785) 296-3565 or (785) 296-5524.

Requirements for plugging abandoned water wells are based on whether well was cased or hand-dug, and whether it had been supplied by an unconfined or confined aquifer. Additional regulations cover plugging of abandoned test holes, heat pump boreholes, and oil field water supply wells. Responsibility for the latter or other well type previously owned and used by someone other than the landowner, may be conveyed to the landowner in lieu of plugging if the well meets the requirements of active or inactive status. Transfer must be made through the legal document Form WWC-7 Assignment of Water Well to Landowner, available at the Water Well Program website.

A water well maintained in conditions outlined in KAR 28-30-7(f) may be placed in inactive status instead of being plugged, if approved by KDHE. Submission to KDHE of the Inactive Water Well Request Form WWC-6 is required.

Hand Dug Well Plugging

