



C. Earl Hunter, Commissioner

Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment

PRIVATE WELL PROGRAM

Tenth Annual Report 2008-2009

The 2008-2009 Private Well Program report is submitted by the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control in compliance with the reporting requirements set forth in Regulation 61-44.

Act 119 of 2005 mandates that agencies provide all such reports to the General Assembly in an electronic format.

Additional information and resources regarding the Private Well Program may be found at:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/environment/water/dwrw.htm>

Introduction

About 560,000 South Carolina residents depend on individual residential wells for their water needs. Proper well construction is vitally important to help ensure that the groundwater produced from individual wells is a safe and reliable source of water. The purpose of the Private Well Program is to ensure compliance with the well construction standards.

Permitting

August 24, 2009, marked the tenth anniversary of the Private Well Program at DHEC. During the tenth year, 4,259 Notices of Intent were submitted for residential wells and 1,676 for irrigation wells, totaling 5,935 wells. This total is 3,805 less than the previous year. Lexington County was the busiest with 468 approvals issued. Aiken, Charleston, and York Counties were the next most active with about 350 approvals each.

Fees

The fees collected during fiscal year 2008 totaled \$310,640 for residential wells and \$93,490 for irrigation wells, totaling \$404,130 for the year. This total is significantly less than the \$588,380 collected for the previous year. These fees are the sole source of funding for the Private Well Program, supporting permitting and technical personnel, EQC well inspectors and operating expenses.

Inspections

The DHEC Well Inspectors conducted 2,939 inspections during the tenth year of the program. A majority of the wells inspected were found to be in compliance with the *Well Standards*, R.61-71. Enforcement action was brought against drillers whose wells were not in compliance. During the reporting period, warning letters were sent to five drillers.