



Abandonment fees for High Yield / Irrigation Wells

The Well Installation Board voted in 2009 to not charge registration fees for plugging domestic and irrigation wells. The intent for not charging a fee was not to discourage homeowners from plugging an abandoned well by assessing a fee. However, high yield / irrigation wells were included in this decision. Most irrigation wells are owned by farming operations or companies. Review of the abandonment records for high yield bedrock wells involves more staff time than domestic wells. A fee of \$50 dollars is currently required for plugging of heat pump, monitoring and public water wells. High yield / irrigation wells should be included.

It is staff's recommendation that high yield / irrigation wells are assessed a registration fee of \$50. The chart below shows the amount of lost revenue by not charging a fee.

Unconsolidated Irrigation Wells Plugged

2014	38	\$1900
2013	16	\$800
2012	13	\$650
<u>2011</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>\$550</u>
Total	78	\$3,900

Bedrock Irrigation Wells Plugged

2014	0	\$0
2013	2	\$100
2012	1	\$50
<u>2011</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
Total	3	\$150