

WATER WELL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM - WELL DECOMMISSIONING PROJECT GUIDELINES

Purpose:

To prevent groundwater contamination via improperly abandoned or unused wells by encouraging the proper plugging of wells that are dry or no longer used.

1.0 Cost Share Details:

Tier 1 – Outside a Municipal Drinking Water Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)

Approved projects funded at 100% up to a maximum of \$1,000 per well.

Tier 2- Within a Municipal Drinking Water Wellhead Protection Area (WHPA)

Approved projects funded at 100% up to a maximum of \$2,000 per well.

For farm properties, the completion of an Environmental Farm Plan is highly recommended but not required prior to grant payment. WWIP grants may be combined with other funding sources. Combined grants are not to exceed 100% of total expenses. Applicants must inform WWIP staff of additional cost share funding.

2.0 Eligible Projects:

- Proper plugging of unused wells (dug, bored or drilled) by a licensed well contractor.
- Conservation Authorities and Municipalities are eligible

3.0 Project Details:

- Must comply with Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks procedures for plugging or abandoning unused water well according to R.R.O. 1990: Wells, Ontario Regulation 903.
- Landowners must hire a contractor licensed to work on wells.
- A drilled well inside a dug well is considered one project and therefore qualifies for one grant only.
- Well pits must be properly decommissioned.
- The contractor is required to complete a Ministry of the Environment Well record to document the steps taken to plug the well. A copy of the well record must be submitted upon completion to the program representative.
- If you have an existing well record for the well that you are proposing to decommission, please include a copy with the application form. If you do not have a well record, please

contact the Water Well Help Desk at 1-888-396-WELL (9355) or helpdesk@waterwellontario.ca or use the website map tool at www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/map-well-records

- A directory of Licensed Well Contractors in Ontario can be found here: www.ontario.ca/page/find-licenced-well-contractors
- If you want to find out more about Municipal Well Head Protection in your area go to Source Water Protection Portal for mapping: <https://swpip.ca/>

4.0 Eligible Costs:

- Licensed contractor fees.
- Any labour or materials associated with proper well plugging procedures.

5.0 Ineligible Costs:

- Labour and machinery use of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business.
- Grant will not be paid on HST if the applicant is entitled to a HST rebate.

Water Well Improvement Program Contact Information:

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