

NORTHERN TRINITY

GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Quick Reference Guide

Registration Requirement for New Wells:

All new wells and existing non-exempt wells must be registered with the District. A new well is any well for which drilling or excavation commenced on or after October 1, 2010. The registration application requires detailed information such as the owner's details, purpose of water use, well location, production capacity, water withdrawal purpose, closure plan, and any additional information deemed necessary by the District Board. Non-exempt wells must not be operated without authorization and compliance with permitting and metering provisions. Altering or using a well in a manner that would constitute a substantial change from the information in the existing registration or that would trigger the requirement to register the well under District Rules must also submit and obtain District approval of a registration application, as applicable, prior to altering or operating the well in a new manner.

WELL SPACING:

All new water wells, including existing well alterations, must comply with the following minimum horizontal spacing requirements:

<u>Maximum Production Capacity (GPM)</u>	<u>Minimum Horizontal Spacing from Registered Wells (ft)*</u>
< 20	200
20-39	600
40-59	1,000
60-79	1,400
80-99	1,800
100 or more	2,500

** Vertical Spacing: If the screened interval of the proposed well is separated vertically by more than fifty (50) feet from the screened interval of a registered well, that registered well is not considered when evaluating compliance with horizontal well spacing requirements.*

- Compliance with the spacing and location requirements of District rules does not necessarily authorize a person to drill a well at a specified location in the District. Agencies or other political subdivisions of the State of Texas that are located in whole or in part within the boundaries of the District may impose additional requirements related to the drilling or completion of water wells.
- All water wells drilled within the District must comply with all the requirements provided in the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation rules.
- The owner and driller of a well are jointly responsible for ensuring that the well is drilled at a location that strictly complies with the location requirements of the District and other applicable requirements. Wells determined to not comply with location requirements, in addition to other appropriate enforcement action, may be required to be plugged.

Exceptions to Spacing Requirements:

There are limited exceptions to District spacing requirements. The District may grant exceptions to the District's spacing requirements for wells that are operated solely for domestic use, livestock use, poultry use, or agricultural irrigation, are incapable of producing more than 17.36 gallons per minute of groundwater, and that are on a tract of land that was platted or configured prior to December 17, 2018, and is not further subdivided after December 17, 2018.



WELLS EXEMPT FROM WATER USE FEE PAYMENT, METERING, REPORTING, AND PERMITTING:



- Wells used solely for domestic, livestock, poultry, or agricultural irrigation purposes.
- Existing or new non-public water supply well or well systems not exceeding 17.36 gallons per minute capacity.
- Leachate wells and monitoring wells, with exceptions noted for monitoring wells exceeding 5,000 gallons per year.
- Closed loop geothermal wells, with a requirement for written notice to nearby registered well owners.
- Temporary water wells supplying rigs drilling groundwater production wells permitted by the District.

Capacity Determination for Exemption:

The total capacity of a non-public water supply well or well system, combining individual well capacities, must not exceed 17.36 gallons per minute for exemption to be eligible for a capacity exemption.

Loss of Exemption Status:

A well will lose its eligibility to claim a capacity exemption if well or wells are used for non-exempt purposes, exceed 17.36 GPM, are substantially altered, or no longer supply water solely for rig drilling.

Replacement Wells:

Replacement wells require authorization and compliance with specific criteria regarding location, size, and cessation of production from the old well. Replacement wells must be drilled and completed so that they are located no more than 50 feet from the well being replaced.



DRILLING AND COMPLETION/ RECORD-KEEPING:

Registrants for new wells have specific timelines for drilling, completion, and filing well reports. Extensions may be granted under certain conditions. Detailed records of drilling, pump installation, alteration, and plugging activities must be maintained and submitted to the district within specified timelines.

- The person who drilled, deepened, completed, or otherwise altered a well shall, within 60 days after the date the well is completed, file a TDLR well report to the District.
- A driller, licensed pump installer, or well owner who plugs a well shall submit a plugging report to the District no later than 30 days after the well is plugged.