


PROCEDURE			
SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT			
PROCEDURE FOR QUALITY OF WATER IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (QWIP)			
TITLE: FUNDING ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE			
GEOHYDROLOGIC DATA /			
SECTION/DEPT.:	RESOURCE DATA & RESTORATION	NUMBER:	61-7
		PAGE:	1 of 2
APPROVED BY:		EFFECTIVE DATE:	4/15/2009
	DAVID L. MOORE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	SUPERSEDES:	8/29/2001

INTRODUCTION:

Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 40D-3, Florida Administrative Code, reference the proper abandonment of abandoned artesian wells. In 1974, the District created the QWIP to locate and plug all known abandoned artesian wells, as deemed appropriate by the District.

PURPOSE:

The QWIP Funding Assistance Initiative is designed to serve as an added incentive for landowners to come into compliance with well plugging requirements as stated in Chapter 373, Florida Statutes. The purpose of this procedure is to establish guidelines for cost reimbursement procedures to landowners who comply with QWIP's Funding Assistance Initiative when plugging abandoned artesian wells.

PROCEDURE:

1. QWIP staff must inspect each reported well (four (4) inches diameter and larger) using geophysical logs to evaluate bore hole characteristics to determine if the well meets the criteria of an abandoned artesian well as defined in the Florida Statutes. If well meets the referenced criteria, the landowner shall qualify for the QWIP Funding Assistance Initiative. Funding for this initiative is limited. Qualified wells will be considered for reimbursement in the order in which they are reported to QWIP.
2. QWIP staff will provide the landowner the eligible reimbursement amount, not to exceed \$6,000 per well and \$18,000 maximum per fiscal year, using the QWIP Reimbursement Claim Form (available under separate cover). The eligible reimbursement amount is determined by the well's depth and diameter, as specified on the QWIP reimbursement schedule. A copy of the geophysical logs and a Internal Revenue W-9 form are provided to the landowner. The landowner is then responsible to solicit and negotiate an agreement with a licensed State of Florida Water Well Contractor to plug their well within 90 days of the claim form date. If not plugged within 90 days, the landowner will be forwarded to the District's Enforcement Department as non-compliance. The landowner must then re-apply for funding, if available.
3. The well plugging activity is witnessed by District staff and/or other permitting authority. The District is then provided a copy of the contractor's invoice, executed claim form, W-9 form and the well grouting/abandonment form. Upon review of these documents by QWIP staff, the District reimburses the landowner the eligible reimbursement amount or the contractor's invoice amount, whichever is less. Any amount invoiced by the contractor over the eligible reimbursement amount is the sole responsibility of the landowner.

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TITLE: **FUNDING ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE**

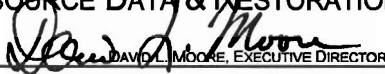
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4. The eligible reimbursement amount, to plug each abandoned artesian well, is derived from QWIP staff reviewing geophysical logs. Cost may be updated periodically to keep abreast of current market conditions.
5. QWIP staff to maintain Abandoned Artesian Well database.
6. QWIP staff to compile and submit an annual update of the progress of the Funding Assistance Initiative to the Planning Department to be included as part of the District Water Management Plan.
7. Any cost associated with the installation of new well casing is the sole responsibility of the landowner and is not covered under the QWIP Funding Assistance Initiative.
8. The following wells are not eligible for funding under this program:
 - a. Any well within one (1) year of construction that cannot be used due to improper well construction, poor water quality, driller error or incorrect well location.
 - b. Any well constructed for reasons other than a water supply.
9. Exceptions to this procedure may be approved by the Executive Director.

REFERENCE: Chapter 373, Florida Statutes
Chapter 40D-3, Florida Administrative Code