

Well Closure Program

Management Objective. The objective of the well closure program is to obtain the closure and plugging of derelict and abandoned wells in a manner that is consistent with state law, for the protection of the aquifers, the environment and the public safety.

Summary of Program. The District will conduct a program to identify, inspect, categorize and cause abandoned and derelict water, oil and gas wells to be closed and plugged, by annually funding the program or segments or phases of the program appropriate to be funded in such fiscal year.

Performance Standards.

1. The District will publish a notice each fiscal year requesting well owners and the public at-large to report abandoned or derelict wells. The notice will be published in newspapers of general circulation in Milam County and in Burleson County.
2. The District will include information about this program, and the request to report abandoned and derelict wells to the District, in the annual public educational program that is conducted by the District.
3. The District will annually inventory and record the location of abandoned and derelict wells as reported to the District.
4. Not later than the fiscal year following receipt of notice of an abandoned or derelict well, the District will determine the specific location, and to the extent reasonably possible the party responsible for, the well by enquiry and search of public records.
5. The Board will annually establish priorities and determine the funding for each segment, phase or program for the following fiscal year.
6. The District will review and prepare an annual report on the well closure program. The report will include the following for the fiscal year:
 - a) the number of abandoned and derelict wells reported in the fiscal year;
 - b) the number of wells for which the specific location was determined;
 - c) the number of wells for which the responsible party was established;
 - d) the number, location and ownership of wells for which another governmental agency has taken responsibility to have closed in compliance with state law;
 - e) the number of wells closed as a result of action taken directly by the District.
7. The Board will annually evaluate the program, and based on the annual report, the progress in identifying all abandoned and derelict wells in the District, as well as the progress of advancing identified wells to a subsequent stage in the resolution process.
8. A summary of the annual evaluation will be posted on the District's website and be available for examination at the District's offices.