



# TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING & REGULATION

RPM Division / WWD/PI/ABW Program • PO Box 12157 • Austin, Texas 78711 • (512) 334-5540

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December 2, 2019

Steven Walthour, PG, General Manager  
 North Plains Groundwater Conservation District  
 Box 795  
 Dumas, Texas 79029

Re: NPGCD Blanket Variance Request for variance of the well plugging requirements as outlined in 16 TAC §76.1004 for the plugging of test wells and water wells within the North Plains Groundwater Conservation District (NPGCD) boundaries.

Dear Mr. Walthour:

The Department acknowledges receipt of the above-mentioned variance request. NPGCD requested this variance because the previous variance was issued when the program was located with another State agency and the water wells driller/pump installer law and rules have been amended since the issuance of the original variance. Your request has been amended as indicated below:

**Test Wells:**

1. Mix the drill cuttings with the drilling mud and backfill the borehole to within fifteen (15) foot below surface;
2. Place a ten (10) foot cement plug or (8) eight foot of bentonite column with a two (2) foot cement plug from fifteen (15) feet to below plow depth;
3. Cover the plug with surface soil to land surface.

**Water Wells:**

1. Place chlorinated uniformed pea gravel from the bottom of the well to the top of the static water level. (The pea gravel shall be chlorinated in sufficient volume so that it is disinfected prior to placement in the well.)
2. Place a five (5) foot bentonite seal on top of the pea gravel.
3. Place caliche or native clays from the top of the bentonite seal to approximately fifty (50) foot from the surface. The remaining fifty (50) feet shall be pressure (tremie) filled with Portland cement slurry.
4. If a portion of the casing is to be cut off below plow depth, a cement cap shall be placed above the well casing as follows:
  - a. The Portland cement slurry shall extend minimum thickness of four (4) inches above the remaining casing,
  - b. A cement cap of the Portland cement slurry shall be a minimum thickness of four (4) inches and extend laterally at least two (2) feet from the well casing in all directions, and
  - c. Cover the cement cap with native soils to surface.

With the water wells plugged in accordance with the above referenced specified procedures, your request is approved as submitted and will not expire, unless, there are significant changes to the Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers Laws or Rules, or any indication of possible contamination of useable-quality ground water, or the commingling of water bearing strata that differs in chemical quality, subsequently, the variance may be amended or rescinded. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me via email at [water.well@tdlr.texas.gov](mailto:water.well@tdlr.texas.gov) or by phone at 512-334.5540.

Sincerely,

David Gunn, Manager  
 WWD/PI/ABW Program  
 Regulatory Program Management Division  
 TDLR