

Source Protection Program

2007-2008 Applicant Guide:

Well Decommissioning/Upgrading



WHY APPLY FOR THIS FUND?

Unsealed abandoned wells and improperly sealed or maintained house, business, institutional, and farm wells provide a direct link between surface pollutants and groundwater. Abandoned wells are a significant pathway for contamination of aquifers. Identifying and plugging or sealing these wells will reduce the risk of contamination to local aquifers and watersheds.

Damaged or poorly maintained drinking water wells pose an equally significant threat to personal and public health and must be maintained to prevent groundwater contamination.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

To be eligible to receive funding for the following projects, the applicant's property must be within or extend into a 100-metre radius of a municipal wellhead and/or a 200-metre radius of a municipal surface water intake.

- Sealing and capping old water wells (e.g., dug, bored, drilled or sandpoint) by a **licensed well technician/well contractor** licensed under the Ontario Water Resources Act.
- Upgrade maintenance for water wells currently in use to protect existing water wells from surface contamination by a **licensed well technician/well contractor** licensed under the Ontario Water Resources Act.

ELIGIBLE PROJECT COSTS

The following costs are eligible for grant assistance:

- Required permits and approvals for the project(s)
- Purchased material and supplies
- Contract labour (e.g., electrical and plumbing)
- Professional fees/technical support
- Fees for related design, inspection and construction

INELIGIBLE PROJECTS & COSTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

- Constructing new wells
- Labour and machinery of the applicant, family dependents and the applicant's business
- Funding provided from associated sources (e.g., Environmental Farm Plan, or Conservation Authority) will be reviewed by the Ministry of Environment and/or its delivery partner to determine grant rate. Applicants may not apply for more than 100 percent of the total cost of their project. *Providing inaccurate information on the portion of project funding received by other agencies is an offence.*

GRANT RATE: MAXIMUM 50%

GRANT CEILING: \$6,000

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PROGRAM TERMS & CONDITIONS

- For the 2007-08 funding, applicant's property must be within or extend into a 100-metre radius of a municipal wellhead and/or a 200-metre radius of a municipal surface water intake. *(Please contact your local conservation authority for more information.)*
 - The proposed well decommissioning and/or upgrading and request for funding are subject to approval by delivery agent to ensure compliance within acceptable standards, and for confirmation of funding availability/eligibility.
 - Funding provided from additional programs/projects will be reviewed by the Ministry of the Environment and/or its delivery partner to determine the applicable grant rate. The applicant must declare to the delivery agent any funding from other projects and programs.
 - Applicant is only eligible for one-time funding assistance for 2007-08 and may only complete one application form per well.
 - Each well decommissioned/upgraded is considered one project for the purposes of funding. There is no limit on the number of projects for which you may apply.
 - Funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis for eligible projects, until all funds are allocated or March 31, 2008, whichever occurs first.
 - No grants are available for constructing new wells.
 - It is your responsibility to ensure your project meets all legal requirements, including but not limited to:
 - ▶ Municipal by-laws;
 - ▶ *Ontario Water Resources Act, 1990*
 - ▶ R.R.O. 903
- Contact your delivery agent to discuss the approvals necessary.
- The applicant will be responsible for all payments and for hiring qualified industry professionals that meet the qualifications specified in *Regulation 903*.
 - Rented land - If your project is on rented/leased land, you will need to submit a letter from the property owner with your application form indicating that owner approves of the proposed project.
 - Projects may be constructed on any property, including residential, agricultural, commercial, or industrial.

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- Project must comply with Ministry of the Environment (MOE) procedures for plugging or abandoning an unused water well according to *Regulation 903*.
- Details of the procedure must be documented on a **Well Record** and a **copy** must be submitted to the delivery agent. As well, a copy of the contractor's **Well Contractor Licence** (valid for 2007-08) must be submitted to the delivery agent.
- Applicants are responsible for obtaining all necessary municipal, provincial, and other permits and approvals that may be required for the completion of their projects.
- Collect project quotes** - At least one cost estimate (outlining the materials, labour, and professional services) must be submitted with the application form prior to review of the funding application.
- Design Your Project** - Submit a sketch illustrating project location, dimensions, plans, and sizing calculations, where appropriate.
- Following the completion of the work(s), the landowner is responsible for submitting a statement of expenses incurred with copies of invoice(s) and building permit, if required, for the proposed work. The delivery agent is not responsible for any payments directly to contractors hired by the applicant.
- Wells that have recently been decommissioned and/or had their maintenance upgraded will be eligible for funding as long as the proposed work was started after September 19, 2006, when the funding was announced.
- The proposed project that has been approved by the delivery agent must be commenced by March 15, 2008, and invoices must be submitted to the delivery agent no later than June 30, 2008. (*Please contact delivery agent for more information.*)
- The delivery agent is allowed to have access to the site where the work is being completed, during and after construction for a post project inspection.
- These early actions address a potential risk to drinking water sources. The Source Protection Plans, expected to be finalised in 2012 on a region-by-region basis, will determine the measures necessary to protect wellheads and surface water intakes. Therefore, taking early actions, like decommissioning or maintaining your well, does not exempt the property owner from implementing additional practices as determined in that local Source Protection Plan. Property owners may be required to implement additional practices in the future to continue to protect drinking water sources.
- Information relating to *Regulation 903* is available at: www.e-laws.gov.on.ca.

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- Information on well contractors can be found on the Ministry of the Environment’s website: Directory of Licensed Well Contractors in Ontario: <http://209.47.226.245/> and/or contact the Water Well Help Desk 1-888-396-WELL (9355) to locate a licensed well contractor.
- Contact the Ministry of the Environment’s Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923, and email: picemail.moe@ontario.ca.

SCHEDULE OF ESTIMATED WELL DECOMMISSIONING COSTS

This schedule reflects province-wide estimates provided by the Ontario Ground Water Association. Costs are estimates only and will vary with regard to not only the well type but the nature of the location where work is to be undertaken. Note: early actions funding does not apply to water well upgrades or maintenance.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dug Wells (∇) using current methods: \$2,000 to \$3,000. Stone cribbed wells will generally take more grout due to the inconsistencies between the stones. Poor site access (many dug wells are in the basements of houses), contamination of the aquifer, etc., will increase the price of decommissioning. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drilled wells (●): \$1,500 to \$2,500. Extras such as poor site access, removing well pits, rock holes, cased holes, contaminated aquifers, etc., will increase the price of decommissioning. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring & geotechnical wells (*): \$900 for a typical well, although this number could be less per well if a large number of wells are clustered on the same property. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oil or gas wells (✦): Oil and gas wells are not covered under the standard well decommissioning funding provided through the Source Protection Program. If you have an operating or abandoned oil and gas well, please contact your local delivery agent for more information. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well Upgrades (√): This procedure can be as simple as the installation of a vermin proof cap in place of the old conduit cap. More often upgrades require the addition (welding on) of a piece of casing and installation of a pitless adapter to bring the well casing up out of the well pit and to meet the current code. There are issues like pulling pumps and pipe for the welding process, the removal of cement casings and pits, and the augmentation of the annular seal and subsurface connections, which all must be addressed. The price range is normally \$1,000 to \$3,000, with \$1,500 being a typical price for upgrading a drilled well. If there are confined space issues, it can easily add \$2,000, as special equipment and certification are required. |