

January 27, 2011

## **Notice to all Iowa Certified Well Drillers who also drill geothermal loop boreholes**

**What is happening?** New geothermal heat loop borehole rulemaking.

**When is this happening?** I presented the proposed rules to the Environmental Protection Commission at their January Commission meeting as an "information item." I will be presenting the proposed rules to the EPC again as a "decision item" at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting in Des Moines.

**Why do we need new rules?** Geothermal stakeholders with concerns for lack of adequate material and borehole grouting standards approached the department with questions on how to increase standards. The department needed to look at groundwater protection issues that were of concern.

### **How do I find a copy of the proposed rules and amendments to the current rules?**

Within a week you will be able to view a copy of the EPC agenda item that includes the rules at the following web site: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/epc/index.html>

Look under "2011 Schedule" then "Agenda Items" and specifically under "February 15, 2011." Open the "agenda" and then click on the person listed as the contact for "[New Rules, Chapter 48 – GHEX.](#)" You can also view the original draft of this rule under the "January 19, 2011" Commission meeting "agenda." The current version has been cleaned up and had a number of minor changes based on early comments.

### **How can I comment on these proposed rules?**

You can send me comments directly during the Public Hearings tentatively scheduled for the week of April 4, 2011. You can appear in person to issue a recorded comment or you can send me a letter via USPS or email stating your support, concerns, or disagreement with the rule content. The public hearings are tentatively set for the week of April 4, 2011 and the public hearing period will last 20 days.

### **How can I find out about the exact dates for the public hearings?**

Anytime after February 7, 2011 you can check the state's public meeting calendar at the following web site: <http://www.iowa.gov/pmc/pmc.php>. Chose "Iowa Department of Natural Resources" from the pull down list and then scroll the list until you find the "Chapter 48 GHEX Rules" hearing information.

You can also watch the Iowa DNR Private Well web site front page anytime after February 7, 2011 for additional information. This web page can be found at the following link: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/water/wells/index.html>

Or you can contact me:

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