Questions?

The Water Rights & Use Section of the DNR Division of Water will answer any questions concerning the Water Rights Statute or laws or rules pertaining to water well drillers and pump installers in Indiana. Contact the Water Rights & Use Section at:

Email: water_inquiry@dnr.IN.gov; or
Phone: (317) 232-4160 (Ext. 4) or
1-877-928-3755 (toll free)

For more information regarding hydrologic data or other resources available from the DNR Division of Water, please visit:

dnr.IN.gov/water



Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Water
402 West Washington Street, Room W264
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2641

DNR

Water Rights:
Emergency Regulation

Indiana Code 14-25-4



Indiana Department of Natural Resources
Division of Water

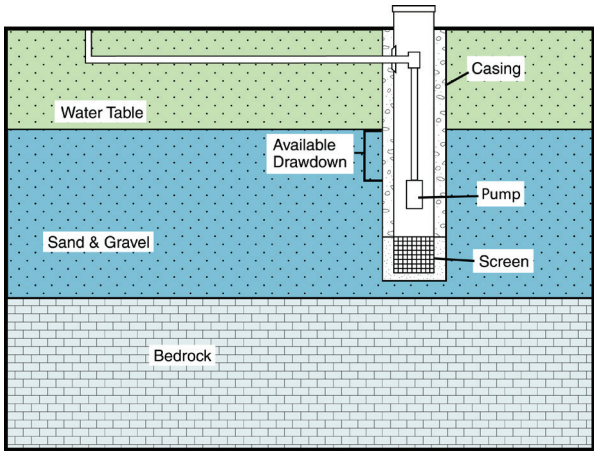


Provisions of Indiana's Water Rights Law

The availability of adequate quantities of safe, potable groundwater continues to be an important water resource issue in Indiana. With the enactment of Indiana Code 14-25-4 (Water Rights: Emergency Regulation Statute) by the 1985 Indiana General Assembly, owners of small capacity water wells (having a pump capacity of less than 70 gallons per minute) are protected from a substantial lowering of the groundwater level caused by pumping from a significant groundwater withdrawal facility. A significant groundwater withdrawal facility is defined in IC 14-25-4 as 'the groundwater withdrawal facility of a person that, in the aggregate from all sources and by all methods, has the capability of withdrawing at least 100,000 gallons of water (about 70 gallons-per-minute) in one day." The Water Rights Law attempts to balance the interests of small-capacity well owners and large-capacity users who wish to develop Indiana's water resource.

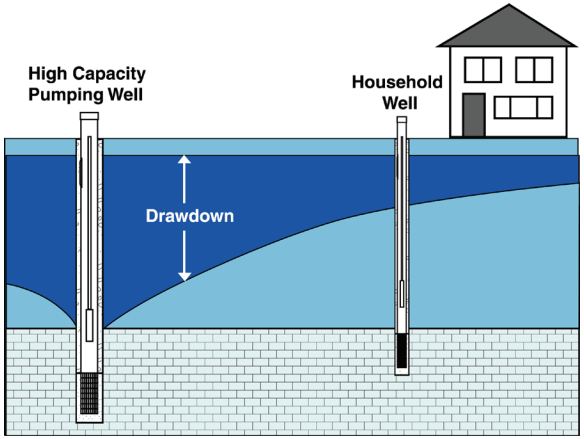
Supplemental well construction standards

Indiana Code 14-25-4 protects all properly functioning water wells with a pumping capacity of less than 70 gallons-per-minute that were installed before January 1, 1986. Wells installed after this date must be constructed in accordance with standards set forth in Information Bulletin #26 or Rule 312 IAC 12 in order to have protection under law. Both standards set minimum requirements for the depth of pump settings in small-capacity wells, and specify how much of the source aquifer should be penetrated by the well. These supplemental construction standards are in addition to the minimum construction requirements set forth in Indiana Code 25-39 and Rule 312 IAC 13 for all water wells installed in Indiana.



If your well is affected by high-capacity pumping

If a small-capacity well no longer furnishes its normal supply of water, and the well owner suspects that it may be affected by nearby high-capacity groundwater pumping, the owner can contact the DNR Division of Water and request an on-site investigation of the problem. If it is determined that high-capacity pumping has caused substantial lowering of the water level in the small-capacity well, and the well is protected under IC 14-25-4, the law specifies that the owner of the affecting high-capacity well can be liable, and could be required to provide an alternate



supply of water to the domestic well owner. A request for investigation should be directed to the Water Rights & Use Section of the Division of Water at:

Phone: (317) 232-4160 (Ext. 4) or
1-877-928-3755 (toll free);
Email: water_inquiry@dnr.IN.gov; or
Mail: DNR, Division of Water
402 W. Washington St., Room W264
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Minimum well construction standards and licensing

Indiana Code 25-39 requires that all water well drillers and water well pump installers hold a valid Indiana water well driller/pump installer license. Drillers and pump installers also must comply with Rule 312 IAC 13, which establishes minimum well construction standards for all water wells drilled in the state. IC 25-39 also requires well drillers to keep accurate drilling records for each well and to submit the records to the DNR Division of Water within 30 days after well installation. The Division of Water currently maintains a searchable online database of over 400,000 water well records. These records are extremely important to drillers, pump installers, homeowners, industries, irrigators and geologists for the assessment of Indiana's groundwater resource.