

Well Search Guidance

Available On-Line Tools for Receptor Evaluations & Biennial Certifications for Groundwater

A new Dataminer tool called "XY Well Search" is now available and can be found at http://datamine2.state.nj.us/DEP_OPRA/OpraMain/categories?category=WS+Well+Permits. It takes the place of previously offered reports called "Well Search for CEA Biennial Certification By Atlas Grids" and "Well Search for CEA Biennial Certification By Municipality". It enables interested parties to perform a portion of the well search process on-line. GIS instructions for this on-line tool can be found at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/srp/gis>.

Under the Technical Requirements for Site Remediation Rule (N.J.A.C. 7:26E), responsible entities are required when contaminated groundwater is present to perform and update well searches to identify ground water receptors. Specifically:

- A well search is first required within 90 days from discovery of ground water contamination,
- Well searches are updated in conjunction with key phases in the remediation of the site, and
- Well search updates are also required biennially for sites with classification exception areas.

To identify wells within ½ mile of points of ground water contamination and any industrial or irrigation wells within 1 mile, the above noted dataminer report should be run first. Next the list of wells returned by this report are reduced by distance and type. Specifically, certain GIS procedures are carried out as described in the [GIS Well Search Instructions](#) and all remedial type well permit numbers such as monitor wells, borings, piezometers are removed from initial evaluation.

Next, a limited list of well permits are identified for which actual permits and well construction records must be obtained. A request for these specific well permits and construction records and a 1 mile radius Water Allocation Diversion search is then submitted to the Bureau of Water Systems and Well Permitting via email as

per the [GIS Well Search Instructions](#). By limiting this initial list of wells in this way, users are enabled to complete the receptor evaluations in a timely manner.

For Biennial Certifications and sites that have previously conducted full well searches, the dataminer report may show that there have been no additional wells installed in the time frame in question that are considered potential receptors. This situation may occur in areas that have been relying entirely on public water for years. The report may indicate no changes in well use since the previous well search. If the ½ mile dataminer well search indicates no additional wells, run the report a second time for a 1 mile radius in order to ascertain if any wells with new Irrigation, Industrial, Non-community or Public Community supply wells have been installed. If there are no new potential receptors in either radius search, no additional investigation of well receptors would be necessary to complete that receptor evaluation. Each future receptor evaluation for groundwater or biennial certification still needs to include a reevaluation for new ground water usage.

Note that for users interested only in wells installed after July 1, 2008, accurate XY coordinates for the wells and PDFs of the well completion records are posted, allowing users to update their receptor evaluation without delay and without the need to request well permit records from the DEP.

For sites that previously conducted a full well search, the dataminer report may show that there are additional potential receptor wells. Location information for most well permits obtained prior to July 1, 2008 is not as accurate as newer permits, and the well records are currently not available on the dataminer report. Well completion records for these older well permits must be obtained from the Bureau of Water Systems and Well Permitting. However, there are some on-line tools available that can assist the user in fine-tuning the true locations of many of the well permits. For more detailed instructions on steps you can perform to refine your well search see [GIS Well Search Instructions](#). These steps will enable you to potentially expedite the process by reducing the number of well permits that need additional consideration, and reduce the resulting list of well permits that require well permit and completion record acquisition and detailed examination.