



INSTRUCTIONS FOR GEOTHERMAL EXPLORATION PERMIT APPLICANTS

All geothermal resource and core-hole drilling, re-drilling, or deepening operations in the state require a drilling permit. If drilling is to be on state-owned land, the agency that owns or manages the land will be the lead agency and will start the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process.

The Geothermal Exploration Permit Application (Geothermal Form 1) and related forms may be obtained online at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/MiningEnergyResourceRegulation/Pages/energy_regulation.aspx or from the Geothermal Supervisor, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Geology and Earth Resources (DGER), MS 47007, Olympia, WA 98504-7007.

PERMIT APPLICATION

The applicant for a drilling, re-drilling, or deepening permit shall:

1. Obtain a copy of the Geothermal Resources Act (Chapter 78.60 RCW), the Rules and Regulations (Chapter 332-17 WAC), the Geothermal Exploration Permit Application (Geothermal Form 1), the Geothermal Blanket Drilling Bond, and the SEPA environmental checklist.
2. Submit to the Geothermal Supervisor the completed Geothermal Form 1, SEPA environmental checklist, approved Geothermal Blanket Drilling Bond, and fee (cash or a check drawn upon or issued by a Washington State qualified public depository and payable to the Department of Natural Resources).

- a. Fees:

To drill, re-drill, or deepen	\$200
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- b. Bonds (Geothermal Supervisor sets amount):

One exploration well	\$15,000 minimum
Blanket bond (two or more exploration wells)	\$50,000 minimum
One core hole (temperature-gradient hole)	\$5,000 minimum
Blanket bond (two or more core holes)	\$25,000 minimum

Note: In lieu of a bond, the applicant may submit a cash deposit, assignment of a savings account, or a certificate of deposit in a Washington bank.

- c. Required Information:

The applicant shall provide with the application the following information (see WAC 332-17):

- Drill site layout, blowout prevention equipment details, mud program, casing and cementing program, and mud pit details.
- Map of the well location by a licensed surveyor showing location and source of water supply, and topographic features of well site area, including drainage patterns and associated surface waters and wetlands.
- Narrative statement describing proposed measures to be used for protection of the environment, including, but not limited to: fires, soil erosion, pollution of surface and ground waters, damage to fish and wildlife or other natural resources, air and noise pollution, hazards to public health and safety, site restoration, and methods and site for disposal of waste materials.

PERMIT ISSUANCE

1. Upon receipt of the above material, the Geothermal Supervisor will notify other agencies with jurisdiction and cause an inspection to be made of the proposed site.
Note: The applicant or designated representative should plan to be present during the inspection or provide adequate instructions as to the location of the proposed site.
2. Upon completion of the application and site evaluation, the Geothermal Supervisor will make a determination of significance or non-significance (SEPA process) for sites on Department of Natural Resources land. For sites on state-owned land under other jurisdiction or where local government has jurisdiction, the owning agency will be the lead representative for the SEPA process. A determination of non-significance will be posted for 15 days. A drilling permit will be issued at the conclusion of the posting period if no significant adverse impacts to the environment are noted during the posting period. If a determination of non-significance cannot be made, the applicant will be so advised. The applicant may be required to submit additional information or be notified that an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

1. The permittee shall give adequate notice to the Geothermal Supervisor to permit witnessing of all tests, including drill stem, water shutoff, and production tests, running of casing, plugging operations, and final site reclamation.
2. Within 30 days of the completion or abandonment of the well (see WAC 332-17), the permittee shall file with the Geothermal Supervisor a record and log of the well on the Well Record or History (Geothermal Form 2). A detailed description of lithology shall be furnished within 30 days after completion or abandonment of any exploratory or wildcat well.
3. The owner or operator of any well or core hole shall keep or cause to be kept careful and accurate logs, including but not restricted to heat-flow, temperature-gradient, and rock-conductivity logs, records, descriptions, and histories of the drilling, re-drilling, or deepening of the well.

All logs, including but not restricted to heat-flow, temperature-gradient, and rock-conductivity logs, records, histories, and descriptions referred to in subsection (1) of Chapter 78.60.200 RCW shall be kept in the local office of the owner or operator, and together with other reports of the owner or operator, shall be subject to inspection by DNR-DGER during business hours. Upon written request from DNR-DGER, each owner or operator shall file with the Geothermal Supervisor one paper and one electronic copy of the logs, including but not restricted to heat-flow, temperature-gradient, and rock-conductivity logs, records, histories, descriptions, or other records or portions thereof pertaining to the geothermal drilling or operation underway or suspended.
4. Within 30 days of completion or plugging and abandonment of any well or core hole or upon suspension of operations on any well or core hole for a period of at least 6 months, the permittee shall file with the Geothermal Supervisor one paper and one electronic copy of logs, including but not restricted to heat-flow, temperature-gradient, and rock-conductivity logs, core, cuttings, electric log, history, and all other logs and surveys that may have been run on the well.
5. The permittee shall give notice to the Geothermal Supervisor on a Notice of Intention to Abandon and Plug Well (Geothermal Form 3) prior to initiating abandoning and plugging procedures (see WAC 332-17).
6. Within 15 days after plugging the well, the applicant shall file a Report on Results of Plugging Well (Geothermal Form 4) with the Geothermal Supervisor, giving the results of the plugging procedure (see WAC 332-17).
7. Release of the bond requires approval by the Geothermal Supervisor of the plugging of the well or wells and reclamation of the well site or sites (see WAC 332-17).