



**Central Platte
Natural Resources District**

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June 24, 2004

To: Landowners, Operators, and Water Well Contractors
From: Central Platte Natural Resources District
Subject: District Policy Concerning Late Well Permits

Recently Central Platte Natural Resources District has found that there have been new irrigation wells drilled prior to having a well permit approved by the District. As you are aware, well permits are required prior to drilling any well pumping 50 gpm or more. **The NRD is not required to approve late permits inside the well drilling suspension area.** These violations have caused the District to re-evaluate its policies regarding well permits.

Any well permit that is received by the District will not be approved until a staff member conducts a site inspection. If the field inspector finds that the well has been drilled, the landowner and driller will be notified that the District will hold a public hearing. The Board of Directors will then evaluate each permit and decide whether to allow a late permit or require that the illegal well be filled.

The landowner is responsible for obtaining a permit prior to drilling a well. However, the law states "Any person who commences or causes construction of or installation of a pump in a water well for which the required permit has not been obtained or who knowingly furnishes false information regarding such permit" **shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor and each day of a violation may be considered a separate offense. The Board of Directors for the District, can request that the Director of the Department of Natural Resources turn the above violations over to the Attorney General and county attorneys for prosecution.** A Class IV misdemeanor is subject to a \$500.00 fine. **As of June 24th, 2004, it will be Central Platte NRD's policy to submit the violation of drilling a well without a permit to the Department of Natural Resources for prosecution.**

The District would prefer not to require a well to be filled or take legal action. We are therefore asking that you please make sure a well permit has been obtained before you drill a well.