

TGRGCD DRAFT
GENERAL REGISTRATION AND PERMITTING PROCEDURES

A brief summary of the general procedures for the District's regulation of water wells is listed below, with references to the rules that provide more detail. All applicants and permittees shall comply with all of the District's Rules, including but not limited to those listed below.

- (1) Well Registrations (Chapter 4).
 - (a) **All existing wells in the District shall be registered with the District.**
An authorization to drill, modify, or plug a well qualifies as a registration.
- (2) **No new water well shall be drilled in the District, without first receiving a well registration or well permit from the District.**
All well drillers and well owners intending to drill a new well(s) shall contact the District prior to drilling the well and submit an Authorization to Drill, Modify, or Plug a Well (Rule 4.2). The District will then assist the applicant to determine if:
 - (a) the well will be an exempt well (under Rule 5.1) and a registration application must be submitted to the District (see Chapter 4) or
 - (b) the well is a non-exempt well and a permit application must be submitted to the District (Chapter 5).Administratively complete well registration and permit applications shall be submitted to and approved by the District, prior to drilling any well within the District's boundaries.
- (2) All wells shall be drilled by a licensed well driller who submits the appropriate well driller's report and other appropriate documentation to the District under Rules 5.7 and 7.9.
- (3) All wells must be drilled to the required specifications of the District and the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation under Chapter 7.
- (4) No well owner/driller/operator shall waste groundwater under Section 3.
- (5) All new wells permitted and registered after rule adoption 12/14/23 (except mining wells under Chapter 134, Natural Resources Code) must comply with well spacing rules under Chapter 6.
- (6) All wells permitted after the rule adoption on 12/14/23 must comply with the production acreage rules under Chapter 36.
- (7) All registered and permitted well and exempt mining and rig supply wells that are capable of producing more than 25,000 gallons per day are required to have a meter installed and the owner/operator shall submit well production reports under Chapter 8.
- (8) Export permit applications for groundwater to be transported out of the District will be processed under Chapter 12.
- (9) District orders requiring well capping or plugging will be processed under Chapter 7.
- (10) District inspections and enforcement will be processed under Chapter 10.
- (11) District hearings will comply with Section 14.
- (12) The District will enforce the Groundwater Management Areas' adopted Desired Future Conditions under Section 16, as it is able under its limited authority granted in its Enabling Act.

TGRGCD New Rules Highlights

Metering

- All Non-Exempt Wells capable of producing 25,000 gpd shall be metered, report and pay fees. With exception of domestic and livestock wells.
- Existing Non-Exempt Wells to install a meter by 12/31/2025 - (Currently 1 or 2 Users)
- Eliminates use of alternative measuring.

Fees

- Removed from rules allowing fee changes without requiring public hearing on rule change. (Separate Fee Schedule)
- No more annual rate based on non-metered wells.
- Change to application fees, late fees, export fee.

Operating Permits

- Establishes correlative quantity of 1 acre foot of water production = 1 acre of land serving as well site for all non-exempt wells as of January 1, 2024.
- Existing non-exempt producers may be addressed in the future.

Well Setbacks

- Hydro-geologic assessment performed to establish new well to well setbacks.
- Waiver process developed to replace variance process for deviating from setbacks on wells.
- Application Process: TGRGCD to take over the processing of well applications December 15, 2023. SAWS to continue well inspection process. *proposed and is not final*

General

- Rules track better with managing groundwater resource based on Desired Future Conditions Process.
- New well construction requirements align with TDLR specifications.
- Definition of Terms have been updated.
- Bylaws developed and adopted to facilitate ease of change without public hearing process.