

Drywell Decommissioning Guidelines

(Revised June 2005)



HOW TO DECOMMISSION YOUR DRYWELL

The following general procedures are recommended for closure of “typical” drywells that do not require an Aquifer Protection Permit (APP). A typical drywell has a settling chamber and injection pipe. Different decommissioning procedures should be followed for drywells with a seepage pit design. Drywells that qualify for clean closure (those that need an APP or are currently covered by an APP have special decommissioning requirements. In these cases, the applicable permit or clean closure decommissioning procedures shall be followed.

Unregistered Drywells

Please fill out the drywell registration form if the drywell is not registered in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes § 49-332. Drywell registration forms can be obtained on our website at <http://www.azdeq.gov/envIRON/water/permits/drywell.html>, or by calling the Industrial and Drywell Unit at (602) 771-4686.

Registered Drywells

Within 30 days of decommissioning, the drywell owner should submit written verification of the decommissioning procedures (detailed below) to Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Permits Section, 1110 West Washington St, 5th Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85007, Mail Code: 5415B-3.

Decommissioning Procedures (Registered and Unregistered Drywells)

An experienced drywell drilling contractor should be obtained to perform the following decommissioning activities:

- Remove sediments and any drainage compounds such as standpipes and screens from the drywell’s settling chamber and backfill the injection pipe with cement grout;
- Remove the settling chamber;
- Backfill the settling chamber excavation to the land surface with clean silt, clay, or engineered material. Materials containing hazardous substances are prohibited from use in backfilling the drywell; and
- Mechanically compact the backfill.

If procedures other than these are used in decommissioning, the drywell owner should demonstrate that the procedures used are equivalent and will prevent any fluid migration from the surface to an aquifer.

In addition, the drywell owner should submit a letter to ADEQ with the following:

- Drywell registration number (or drywell registration form, if not registered);
- The reason for the closure;
- The materials used to abandon the drywell;
- The name of the contractor who performed the closure;
- The completion date;
- Sump construction details (if a sump is constructed to replace the drywell).