

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Private Water Advisory Council

Clean Water Testing, Appleton, WI

May 14, 2025 | DNR.WI.GOV



Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome (5 min)
2. Skilled Trades School (30 min) (Matt Kouba)
3. DNR Updates (90 min)
 - a. ARPA Well Compensation Updates (5 min) (Nessman)
 - b. Licensing Updates (30 min) (Gundrum)
 - i. Welding Training Requirements
 - ii. Exam Pass/Fail Data by License Type
 - c. Field and Enforcement Updates (10 min) (Niewoehner)
 - d. Annual Report Update (15 min) (Fry)
 - e. Mobile Well Driller Viewer Update (15 min) (Fry)
 - f. Rule Revisions (5 min) (Nessman/ Gundrum)
4. New Business
 - a. Newly Published (03/24/2025) WGNHS Surficial Geology Map
5. Old Business
6. January Meeting Minutes
7. Future Meeting Dates



Skilled Trades School

- Update by Matt Kouba

ARPA Well Compensation

- 130 New applications
- 55 New grant awards
- 11 Non-comm awards
- \$2.3 mil in applications



Total ARPA Awards

- \$10 million awarded
- \$8 million paid out



**Private Water
Advisory
Council
Wisconsin
DNR Updates**

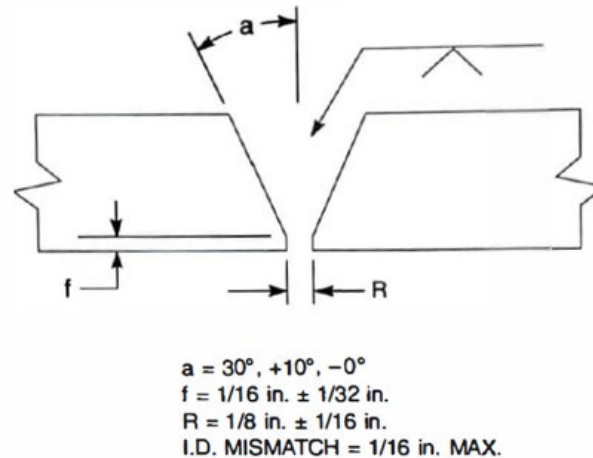
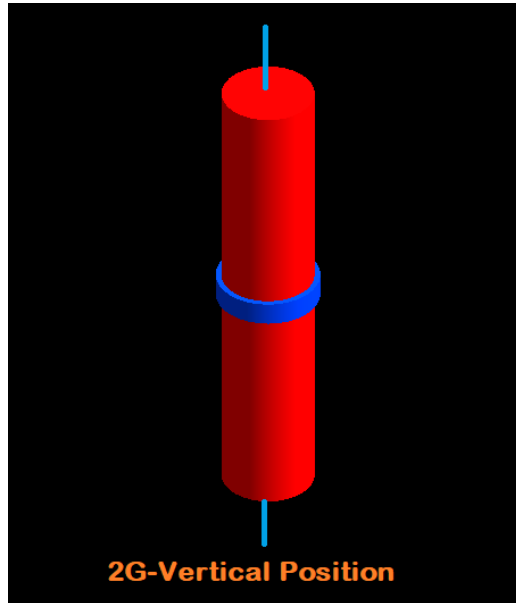
LICENSING

Welding Training Requirement

NR 146.04(2)(h)7

- Applies to Well Driller license applicants (Registered Rig Operators)
- Prerequisite to license exam eligibility
- Six hours of training is currently required
- Revision from 6 hours to 3 hours of training under consideration

Training Overview



Steel well casing joint:

- Position – 2G vertical fixed pipe
- Plain end 6" dia. steel casing
- ASTM 53 – 0.280" wall
- DCEP or AC power source
- Electrodes: E6010, E6011 or E7018
- Joint type – Single "V" Groove

Training Overview

- Provides:
 - knowledge of Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) process
 - technical skills needed to weld various materials using SMAW process
- One hour is dedicated to process theory
- Five hours are dedicated to hands-on training activity
- Welder's skills are assessed throughout hands-on training
- Hands-on training includes:
 - Applying SMAW process to well casing position and joint type.
 - Electrical theory and electrode selection (E6010, E6011, E7018)
 - Power source amperage and polarity - settings and adjustments needed to produce a quality weld given electrode selection and casing material
 - Material preparation, preheating and alignment
 - Identifying and understanding causes of discontinuities
 - Care, handling and storage of electrodes
 - Environmental factors that affect weld quality

License/Registration Exception

NR 146.03(2)(c)(6) / NR 146.03(2)(d)(7)

A pump installer license or business registration
is not
required for a **welder** installing a welded pitless adapter or
pitless unit under contract with or employed by a licensed
individual pump installer or registered pump installing
business.

PIP License Exception – Qualified Welder

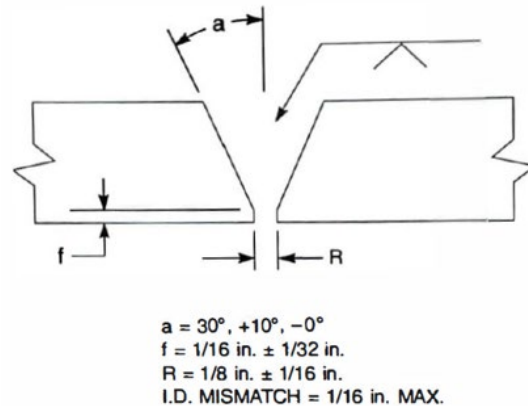
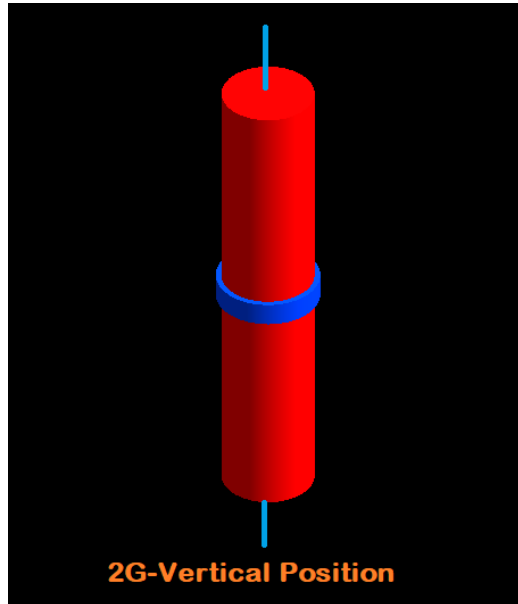
“**Qualified welder**” means an individual who holds a welding certification or who has passed a 2G vertical fixed pipe welding **performance qualification test** administered by a certified welding instructor.

Performance Qualification Test

Intent is to verify competency in welding steel well casing, weld on pitless adapters, and weld on pitless units.

- Casing material per NR 812.11(6) meeting ASTM or API standards
 - Dimensions and weights as per Table B
 - Casing shall have beveled ends
- Welding procedures – NR 812.18
 - Steel casing joints welded in accordance with AWS D10.12, “Guide for Welding Mild Steel Pipe”
 - Weld-on pitless adapter shall be welded watertight in accordance with AWS D1.1, “Structural Welding Code-Steel.”

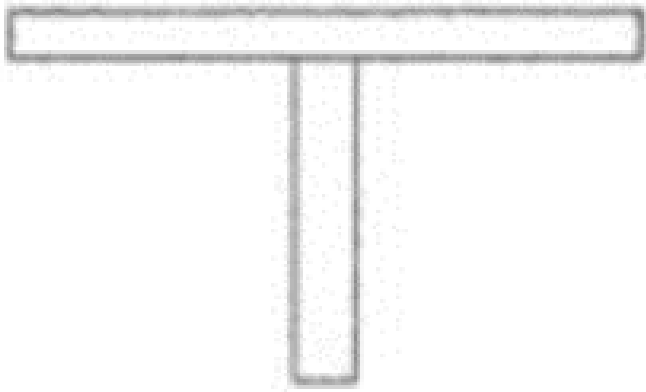
Welding Performance Qualification Test



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Welding Performance Qualification Test



Weld on pitless adapter:

- Joint type – Fillet
- Position – Vertical up
- Flat plate steel at right angle
- 0.5” thick by 4” wide by 6” long
- DCEP or AC power source
- Electrodes: E6010, E6011 or E7018

Welding Performance Qualification Test

Test criteria - demonstrate knowledge of:

- Material and procedure requirements (ASTM/API/AWS)
- Shielded metal arc welding process (SMAW)
 - Preparation and alignment of materials
 - Preheat requirements
 - E6010, E6011 or E7018 electrode selection
 - power source considerations
 - material, position, and pass considerations
 - Power source amperage and polarity - set and adjust as needed to produce a quality welds.
 - Care, handling, and storage of electrodes
 - Environmental factors that affect weld quality

Welding Performance Qualification Test

Final test inspection criteria:

- Visual inspection for discontinuities:
 - porosity, cracks, undercut, overlap, weld size, and profile
- Mechanical / destructive tests
 - per AWS D1.1-2025 Structural Steel Welding Code
 - cross section etches, fillet weld break and bend tests

LICENSING EXAMS UPDATE

EXAM RESULTS

OCTOBER, 2020 THROUGH APRIL, 2025

ATTEMPTS	2	3	4	5	
Pump Installer	29	15	2	1	47
268	10.8%	5.6%	0.7%	0.4%	17.5%

Water Well Driller	3	2	2	7
26	12%	8%	8%	27%

LICENSING EXAMS UPDATE

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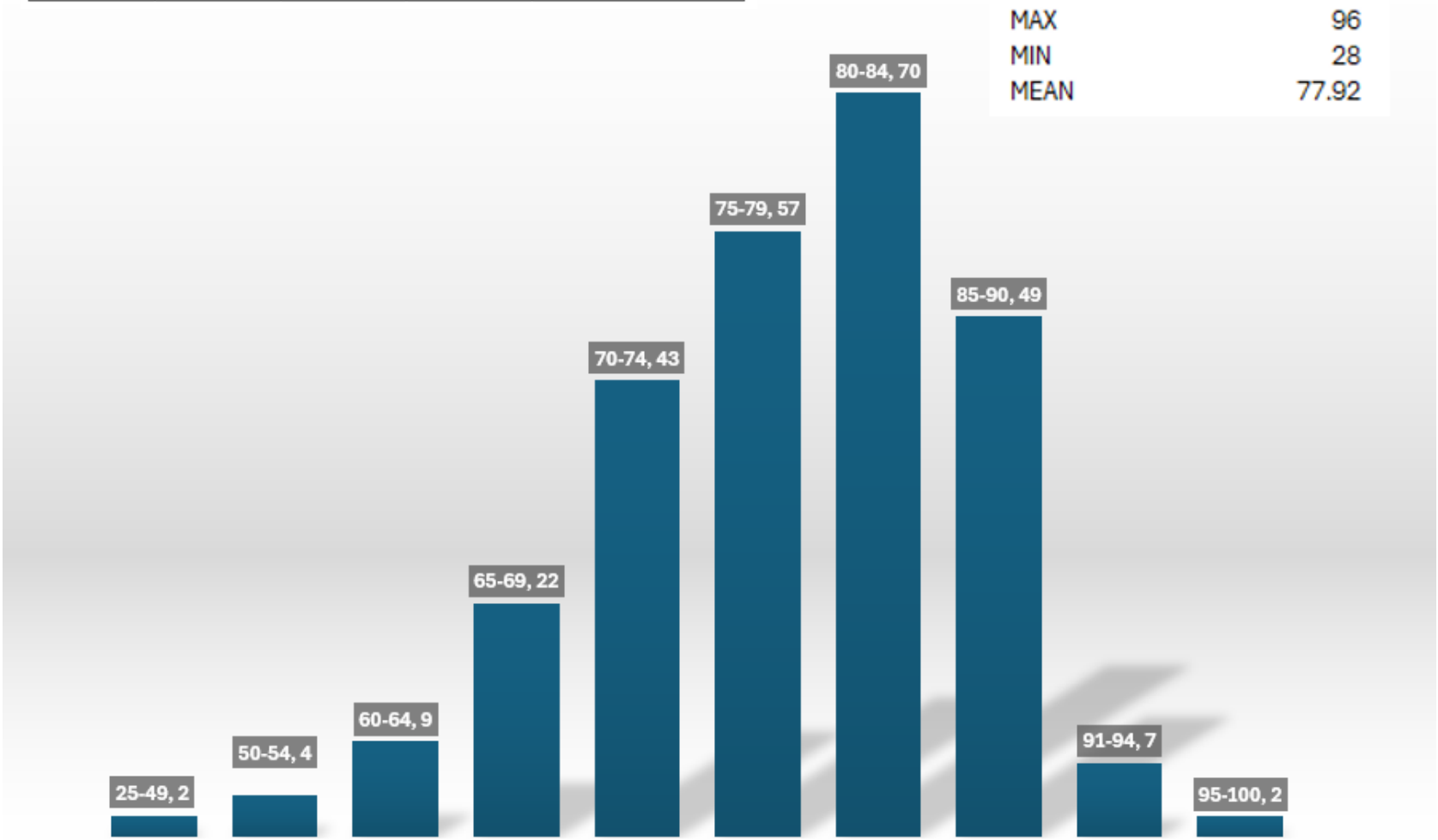
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PUMP INSTALLER LICENSE EXAM

Pump Installer 1st Attempt Results

TOTAL	PASS	FAIL	PASS %	Average Score
268	185	83	69%	77.9%

PIP	
COUNT	268
MAX	96
MIN	28
MEAN	77.92

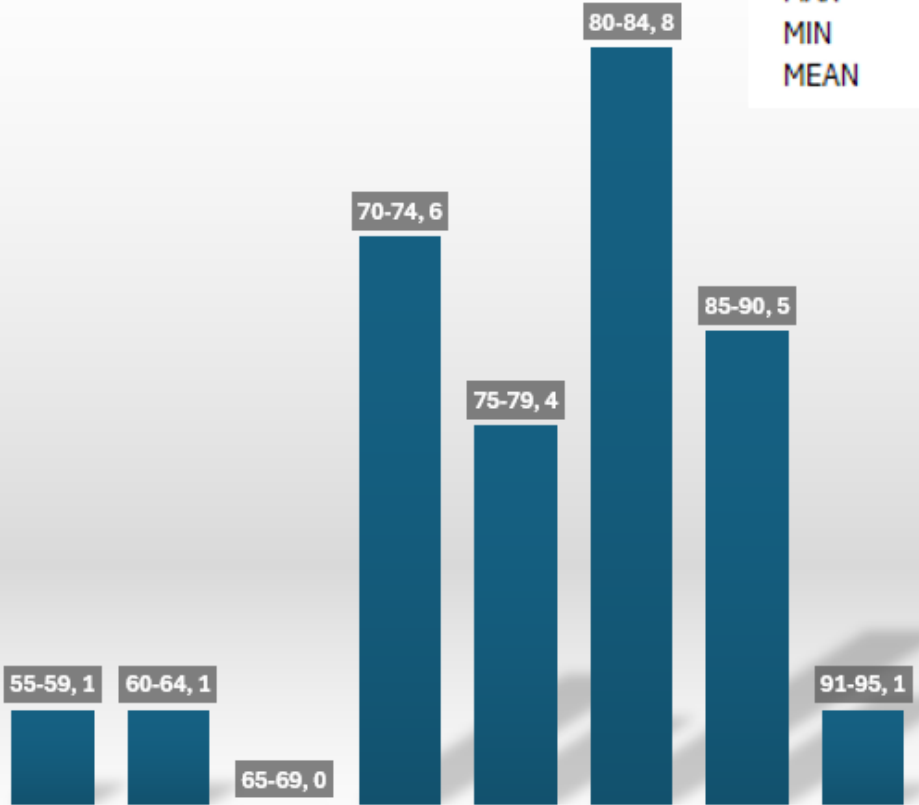


WATER WELL DRILLER LICENSE EXAM

Water Well Driller 1st Attempt Results

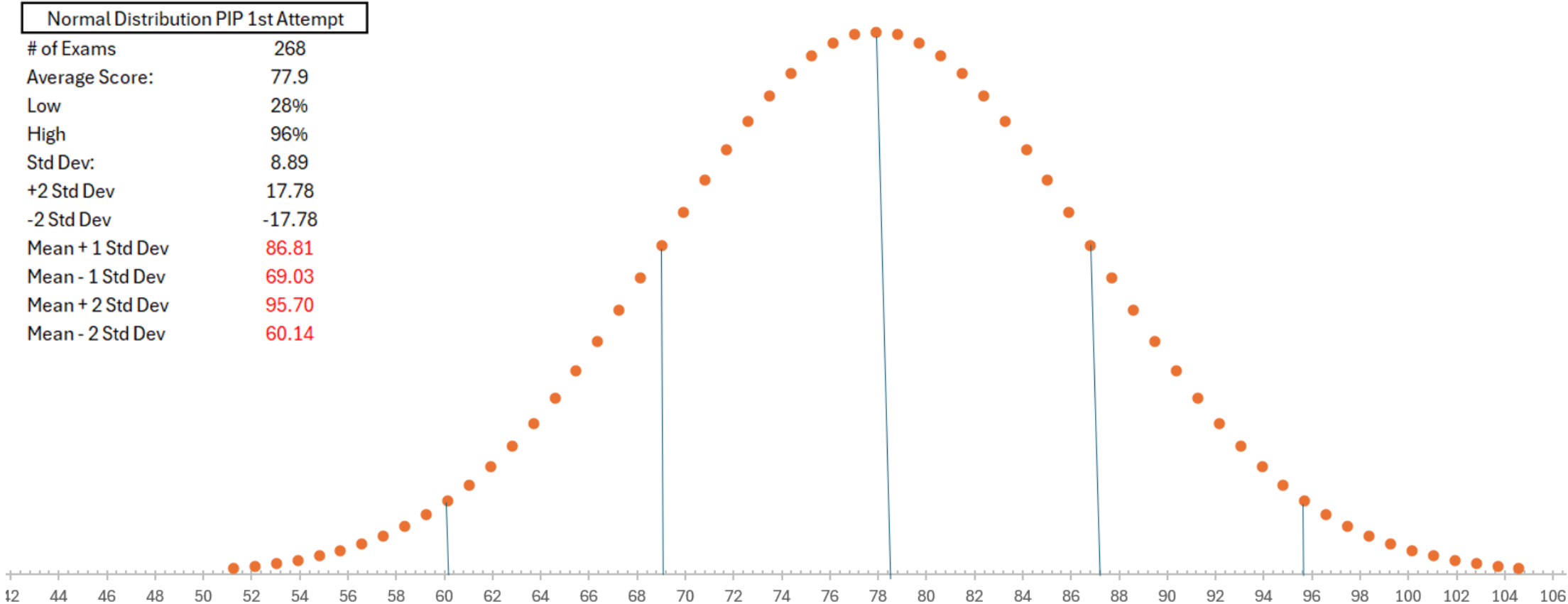
TOTAL	PASS	FAIL	PASS %	Average Score
26	18	8	69%	78%

WDP	
COUNT	26
MAX	92
MIN	58
MEAN	78.30



PUMP INSTALLER DATA – NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

within +/-1 standard deviation of the mean, you would expect 68% of the scores
within +/-2 standard deviations of the mean, you would expect 95% of the scores
within +/-3 standard deviations of the mean, you would expect 99.7% of the scores

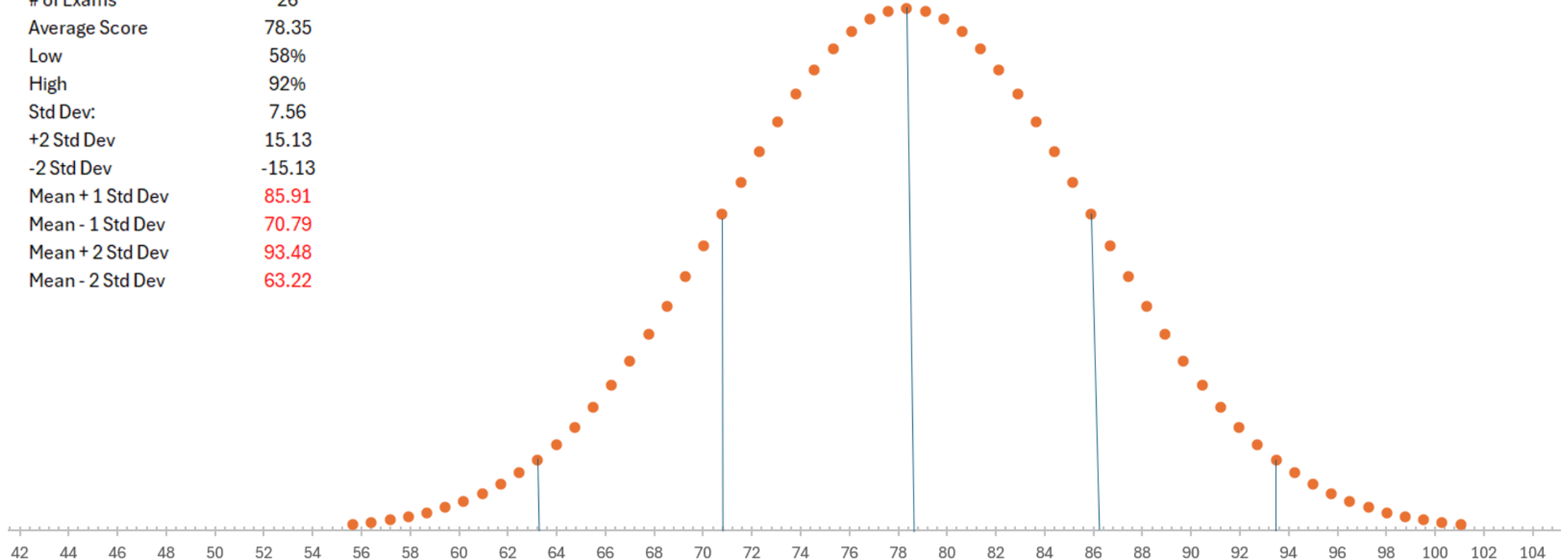


WELL DRILLER DATA – NORMAL DISTRIBUTION

Normal Distribution WDP 1st Attempt

# of Exams	26
Average Score	78.35
Low	58%
High	92%
Std Dev:	7.56
+2 Std Dev	15.13
-2 Std Dev	-15.13
Mean + 1 Std Dev	85.91
Mean - 1 Std Dev	70.79
Mean + 2 Std Dev	93.48
Mean - 2 Std Dev	63.22

within +/-1 standard deviation of the mean, you would expect 68% of the scores
within +/-2 standard deviations of the mean, you would expect 95% of the scores
within +/-3 standard deviations of the mean, you would expect 99.7% of the scores



Field and Enforcement Updates

Field Updates:

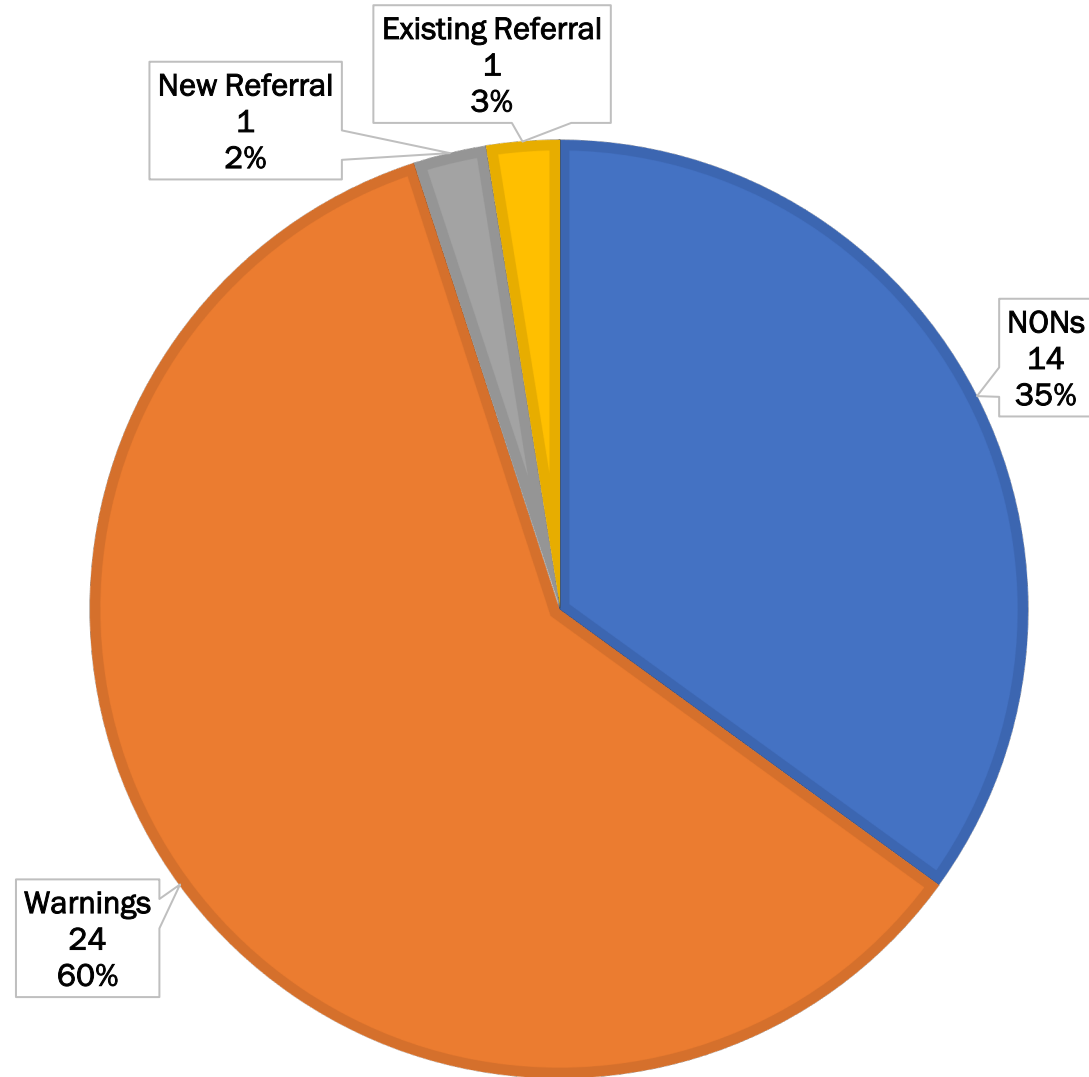
- Tom Puchalski retiring February 2026 after ~13 years with DNR.
- Central Wisconsin County assignments- Steve and Adam switched around a few counties.
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/sites/default/files/topic/Wells/PRCountyMap.pdf>
- John Bowen and Ben Degner attended GEFCO training 2 weeks ago along with Rachel Greve and Joe Nadolski with Water Use.
- New Pump Installation and High Capacity well notification system in the works for High Cap Wells/Pump Installing notice/High Cap pressure testing/New license notifications, etc.
- Pump Installing notice program expansion: looking to expand our PI notice program to get more pump installer contacts in the field.

Enforcement Updates

- 5 active cases in secondary enforcement- mainly sampling, reporting, and high capacity well notification issues.
- 1 NON sent in 2025 and 7 informal contacts (phone/email).

Annual Reporting:

2023 ANNUAL REPORT LETTERS



Primary issues: >30 days for WCR or sample submittal

1 licensee with 82% late samples

2 licensees with approx. 90% missing samples

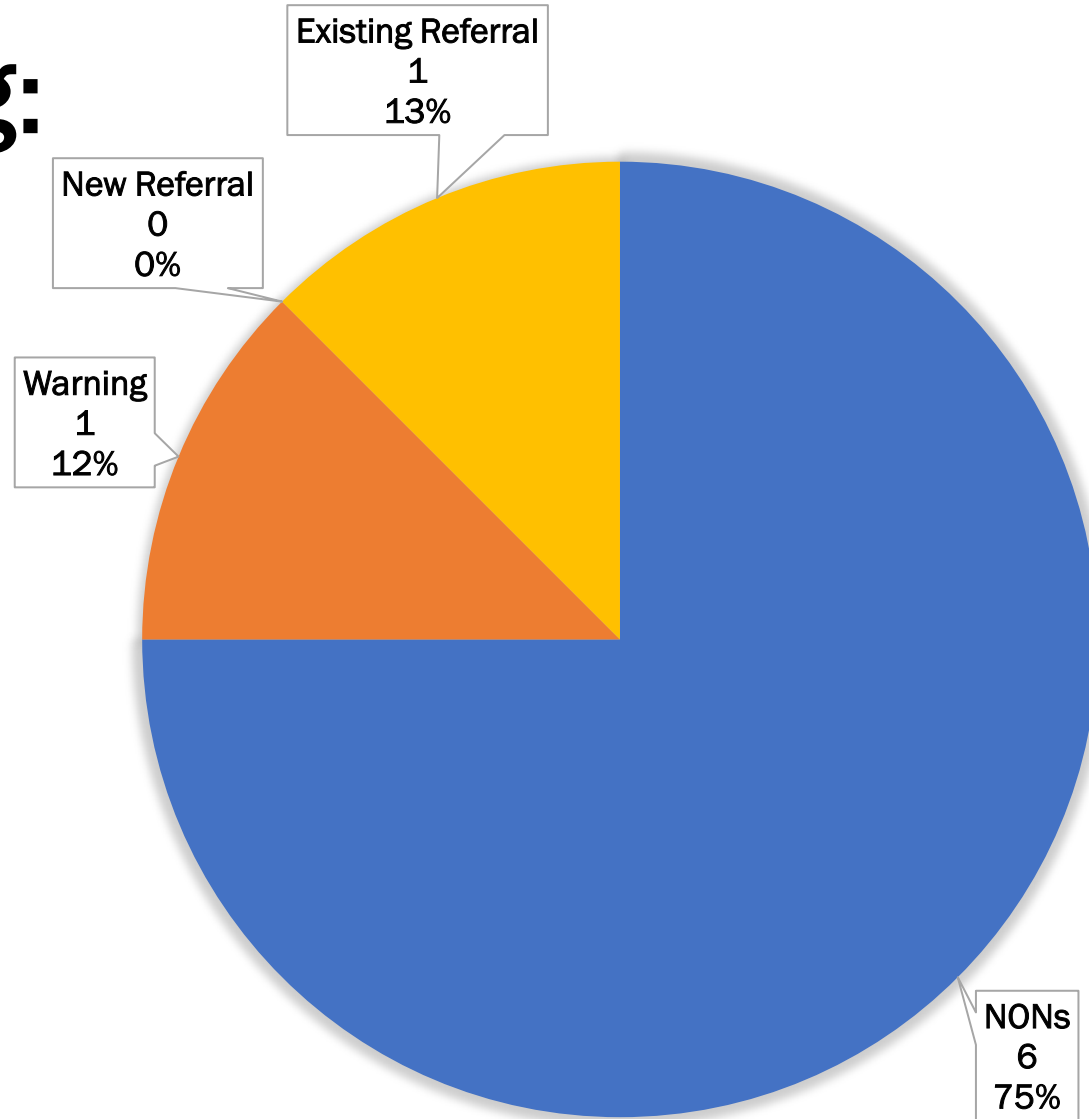
38 Letters went out

Annual Reporting:

To be mailed in next 2 weeks
(by end of month).

1 already referred

7 Letters will go out



Annual Reporting: Why the Change?



- Accountability
- Licensees are planning ahead
 - Requesting reporting variance in advance

147 Reporting Variances in 2023

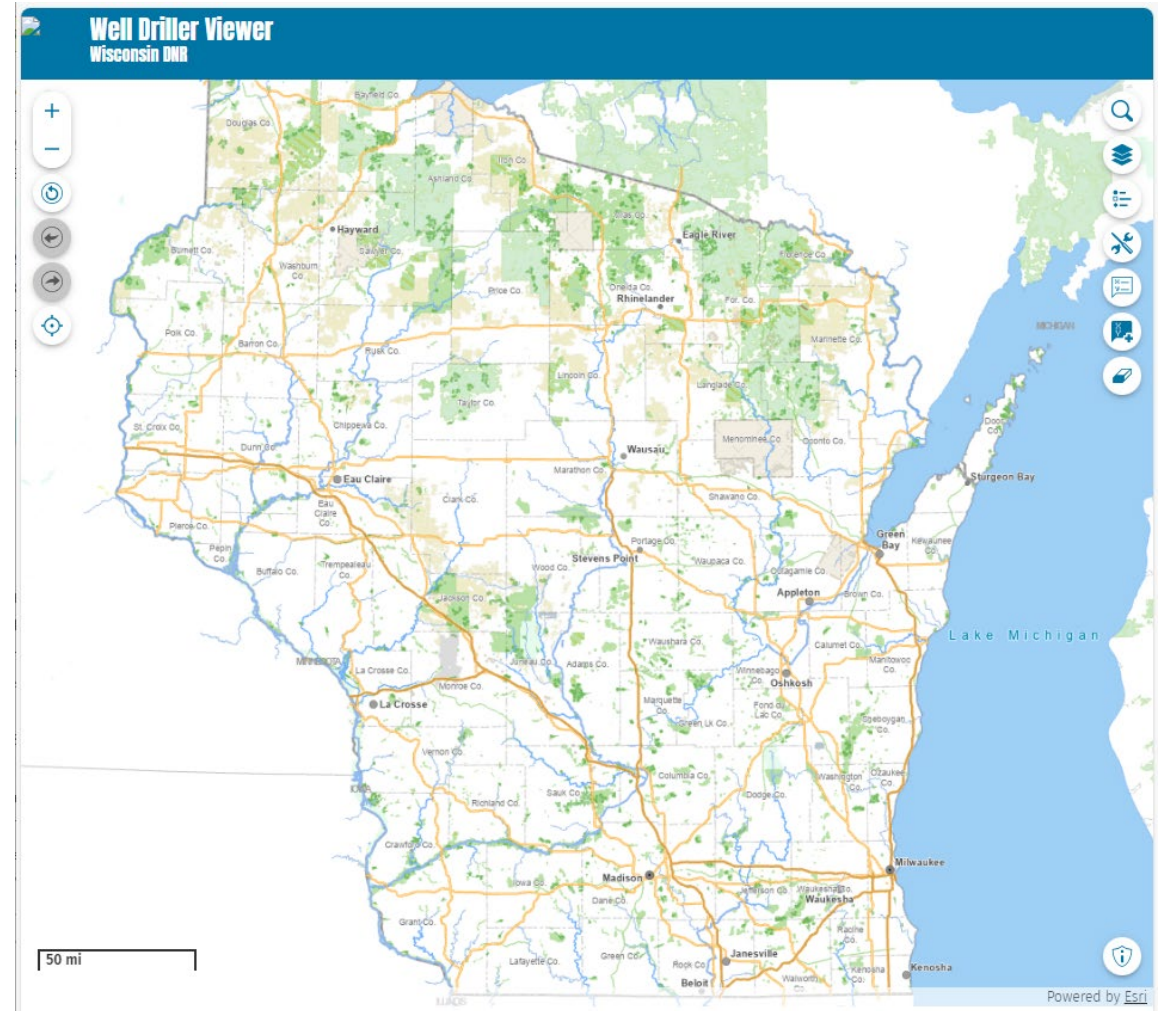
781 Reporting Variances in 2024

Well Driller Viewer – New Platform (Mobile)

*Browser-based mobile application.

https://dnrmaps.wi.gov/H5/?viewer=Well_Driller_View

*Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Safari, FireFox, etc.



Well Driller Viewer – New Platform (Mobile)

Device Compatibility:

Apple Devices (IOS 16 or higher)

Android Devices (Android 8 or higher)

Screen size and resolution will determine if you see full version or mobile version.

No need to download an additional application to access.

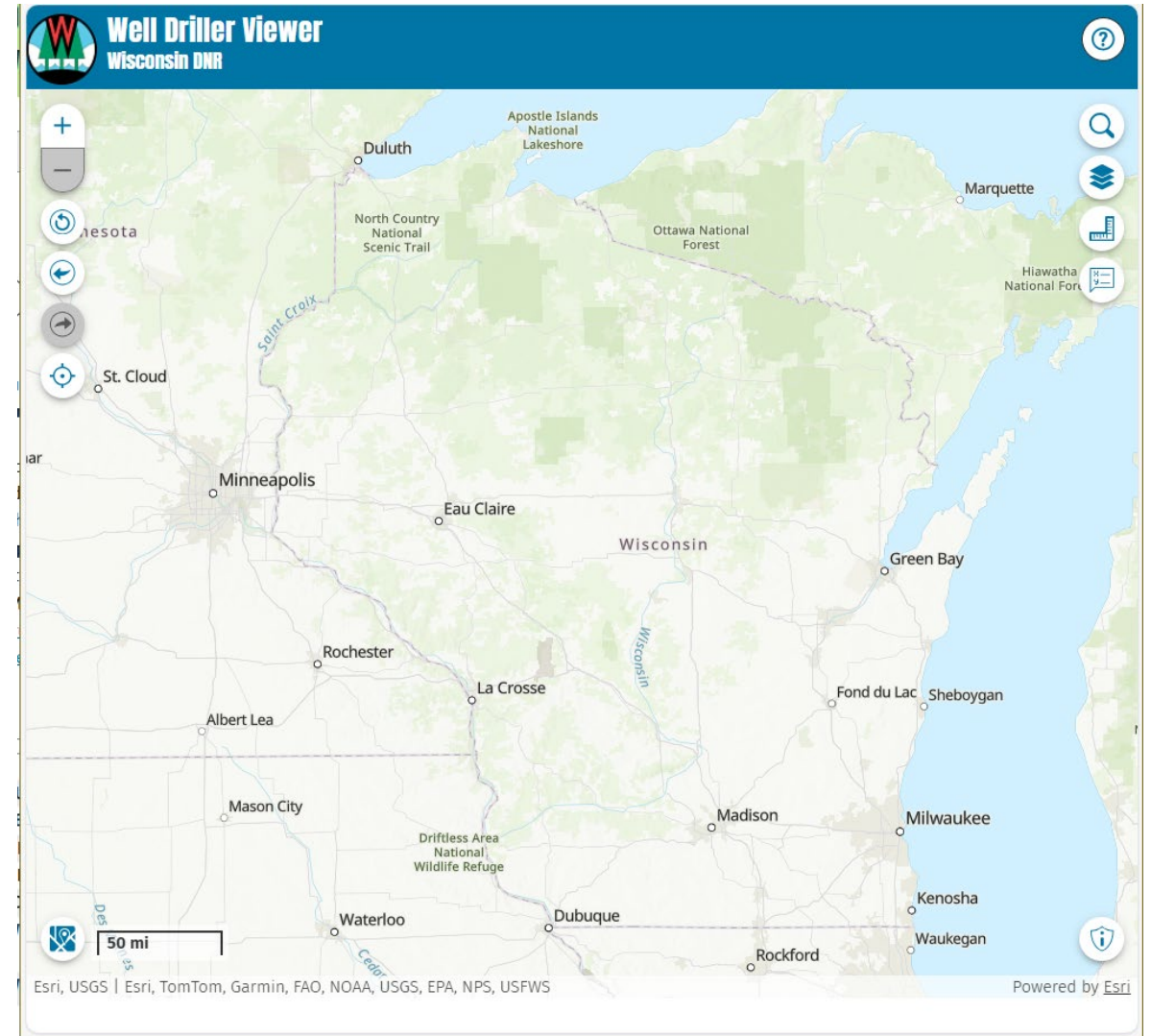
	Mobile Version	Desktop (Full) Version
Tools	Measure, Search	Draw, Search, Measure, Share, Buffer, Filter, Query, Export Markup,
Tabs	None	Tools, Data, Reset, Share, Additional Resources
Layers	Parcel & Niagara/Maquoketa defaulted off Absent: Nitrate Penetration, Groundwater Protection Features, LiDAR, Administrative Boundaries.	All Layers Present
How to Access	URL/Link	URL/Link

Well Driller Viewer – New Platform (Mobile)

Saving Link to Homepage on mobile device will allow users to access similar to the Field Maps application.

If saved to Homepage or saved as favorite within browser, no need to remember URL to access.

Field Maps (AGOL) version will be retired May 30, 2025.



MyWisconsin ID

To learn more about the upcoming changes to DNR Sign In and accounts, email DNRPrivateWaterWebSupport@Wisconsin.gov

WAMS ID will be replaced with MyWisconsin ID in Summer 2025.



User ID:
Password:

[Forgot your password? Is your account locked?](#)
[Request a Wisconsin User ID and Password.](#)

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[WAMS Home](#) [Wisconsin Portal Home](#)
Please don't bookmark this page.

Will change to

A screenshot of the MyWisconsin ID Sign In page. At the top is the Wisconsin state seal and the word "WISCONSIN". Below that is the title "MyWisconsin ID Sign In". There is a label "Email address" followed by the text "example - user@domain.com" and a text input field containing a single vertical bar "|". Below the input field is a large blue button labeled "Next". At the bottom of the form area are two links: "Unlock account?" and "Help". Below the form area is a footer that says "Don't have an account? [Sign up](#)". The entire page is framed by a yellow border.

NR 146/812 Rule Revision Next Steps

- Compile and respond to comments
- Revise board order
- Ask for NRB approval (9/24/25)



NR 146 COMMENTS RECEIVED

1. Request to provide a definition of “General Supervision”.
2. NR 146.04(2)(h)7 - Request to reduce welding training requirement from six-hour duration to three hours.
3. Regarding 146.08(2): Required upgrades to any noncomplying water well, heat exchange drillhole or pump installation feature. The upgrade shall comply with the laws and rules and with any plans, specifications, variances and approvals approved by the department in effect at the time the upgrade is performed.
 - There are some instances where this just isn’t practical. Is the variance process used in these cases?
4. NR 146.105 - Regarding requirement for heat exchange drillholes to be filled and sealed by a licensed heat exchange driller – request to allow filling and sealing by licensed water well driller.
5. Request to reduce the proposed one-year grace period for continuing education attendance completion to 6 months from date of expiration.
6. Request to discontinue allowance for rig operator re-registration rather than renewal.
7. Suggested change to online renewal waiver request submittal deadline and deadline for completion of continuing education when renewing by mail rather than online.

NR 812 Comments

- Definitions
- Well product requirements
- Clarification of plumbing requirements
- Variance language
- Use of bentonite chips in fractured formations

New Business

- New WGNHS [Statewide Surficial Geology Map](#)
- 50 years in the making – the new map updates and improves the map that was originally published in 1976.
- Modern data from laser-based elevation surveys, new county scale geologic maps and well drilling records have been integrated into the new map.
- The map contains a comprehensive and more accurate set of sedimentary units and landforms across the state.
- Classifies landforms and provides a history of Wisconsin landscapes.

Old Business

January Meeting Minutes

Future Meetings

- October 2025 –
- January 2026 – Lake Delton



STAY SAFE!



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"WILD WISCONSIN:
OFF THE RECORD"