

Repeal of the Galveston County Health District's Policy/Order allowing for the permitting of Private Water Wells

The Galveston County Health District (Health District) began the private water well pre-construction permitting and inspection program in the early eighties to assure the proper placement of water wells and to assure compliance with local water well construction standards. Approximately one hundred water well applications were reviewed and approved annually by the District. A review of other local public health districts and regulatory agencies including state agencies in the area around Galveston County revealed that no other agencies were reviewing and approving private water well pre-construction applications. In addition, the Galveston County Legal Department provided a legal opinion suggesting that the Galveston County Health District does not have the specific authority to issue private water well permits and does not have the authority to charge a fee. Based upon the facts that other agencies in the area do not permit private water wells and the legal opinion provided by County Legal, the Galveston County United Board of Health at its May 31, 2006 Board meeting passed a motion to repeal the private water well permitting policy/order within the jurisdiction of the Health District. On June 1, 2006, private water well applications were no longer received at the offices of the Health District for review and approval.