

APPLICATION FOR WELL DRILLING

Before the establishment of any new well, an application for a permit to drill is required and must be submitted. A permit is also required in order to alter an existing well (e.g. deepen or widen). This process requires the submission of the following:

- ✚ Form C completed in duplicate
- ✚ Two copies of site map at a scale not less than 1:25,000
- ✚ For all new wells, Form E completed (all information required on this form must be attained at the cost of the applicant)

APPLICATION TO ABSTRACT AND USE WATER

A license is required for the abstraction and use of water from all groundwater sources. If there are any changes to the pump of any existing works, the Hydrometeorological Services should also be notified prior to these changes. It should be noted that an application for a new license is required if this results in a change in abstraction volume. This requires the submission of:

- ✚ Form B completed in duplicate
- ✚ Two copies of site map at a scale not less than 1:25,000

All forms can be obtained from the office of Hydrometeorological Services or can be downloaded from its website at <http://hydromet.gov.gy/>.

PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS

Applications are processed, and approved or refused within 60 days by the Hydrometeorological Services. Applications are evaluated based on the following:

- ✚ Water for domestic purposes shall take precedence over all other uses;
- ✚ existing water users who have paid their fair

share of operation and maintenance costs or administration fees shall have the right to available resources;

- ✚ new users shall be approved up to a limit of the water resource for sustainable use; and
- ✚ Where there is a shortage in water, abstraction for domestic consumption shall be safeguarded and all remaining water users shall receive an equal portion of their normal entitlement.

Official response

The response of the Hydrometeorological Services shall be communicated in writing to the applicant. There are two possible outcomes:

1) Refusal of Permit/License

The application is refused by Hydrometeorological Services with the applicant having the opportunity to make representation on any aspect of the permit/license application.

2) Grant of Permit/License

Permit granted:

1. The grant of a permit for well drilling is valid for one (1) year from the date of issue.
2. Hydromet must be notified once drilling starts to monitor and ensure work is in keeping with permit

License granted:

1. The grant of a license to abstract and use water is valid for two (2) years from the date of issue. However if no water is abstracted within 1 year of grant the license becomes null and void.
2. Renewal of abstraction permit is required every two (2) years.
3. Hydrometeorological Services must be notified of the installation of flow meters for inspection.

In relation for application of a new well, granting of a permit/license shall be pending an advertisement of intention in a daily newspaper or any other social media.

The format of the advertisement shall be set out by the Hydrometeorological Services and must be posted at the applicant's expense. Any objections should be lodged at a stipulated date, which must be before 60 days of last publication of the notices.

If no objections are received the applicant is advised of the grant of the permit/license. A formal permit/license document is prepared and sent to the applicant. It is advised that well construction not be preceded before grant of the permit/license.

Drilling and Testing

Officers of the Hydrometeorological Services under the law have access to all works related to the drilling and testing of the licensed well. The well construction, yield and water quality test data must be submitted to the Hydrometeorological Services for review in support of the application to abstract and use water.

Exploratory Boreholes

Where a small diameter corehole is required to ascertain lithology or to explore for groundwater, no permit to drill is required. The Hydrometeorological Services however requires formal notification of the intent to drill and reserves the right to refuse permission to drill an exploratory borehole and exchange of data.

Replacement Abstraction

A replacement license to abstract groundwater has rights to the previous licensed or abstracted volume unless so prescribed by the Hydrometeorological Services. In the case of additional abstraction above previous volume licensed, this will be regarded a new application.

MANDATORY CONDITIONS OF THE PERMIT OR LICENSE

A permit/license issued under Part V of the Water and Sewerage Act (2002) shall contain the following conditions:

- a) The licensee has the following duties:
 - (i) Rights should not be exercised to jeopardize or threaten the water supply for existing or potential water users;
 - (ii) Measure and record the daily and annual rates of abstraction. The results of this data shall be submitted to the Hydrometeorological Services at least on an annual basis;
 - (iii) to measure and record static level, pumping level and quality at monthly intervals and to notify the Hydrometeorological Services of the results at least on an annual basis;
 - (iv) Hydrometeorological Services upon request, shall be permitted to inspect and audit the measurements and records made in compliance with paragraph (ii);
 - (v) Hydrometeorological Services upon request, shall be permitted to inspect the proposed location and to take measurements, samples and otherwise obtain data;
- b) The applicant is responsible for determining the methods and measuring or recording devices to be used, as well as the frequency of measurement and the criteria for assessing the quality of water. It should be noted that the methods and devices should be approved by our department.
- c) the maximum quantities of water which may be abstracted on a daily and an annual basis and the method;

- d) in the event where there is a return flow and where the quality of water is not significantly altered, the applicant is required to:
 - (i) specify a water resource and location to which it must be returned or other manner in which it must be disposed of;
 - (ii) specify the volume and the rate of the return flow;

PERSONS WHOM LICENSE MAY BE GRANTED WATER AND SEWERAGE ACT (2002)

- (1) No license may be granted to an individual unless he is a citizen of Guyana.
- (2) No license shall be granted to a body of persons unless it is:
 - (i) a company registered under the Companies Act or registered or continued under the Companies Act 1991, control of which is held by citizens of Guyana;
 - (ii) a co-operative society registered under the Co-operative Societies Act;
 - (iii) a public corporation;
 - (iv) a local democratic organization or an Amerindian village, district or area established under the Amerindian Act;
 - (v) a company other than a company mentioned in paragraph (i) which has the permission of the Minister to hold such a license.

It should be noted that a license may be granted to more than one person where there is justification, provided that each such person is qualified to hold a license under this section.



CONTACT
18 Brickdam, Stabroek,
Georgetown, Guyana
(592) 225-9303
Email: hydromet.nwwc@gmail.com
Website: <http://hydromet.gov.gy>

PROCEDURES FOR OBTAINING PERMITS AND LICENCES FOR WELL DRILLING AND THE ABSTRACTION AND USE OF WATER



*Contributing to Guyana's social, economic,
cultural and environmental goals*