Policy on Installation of Wells for Use in Closed-Loop Geothermal Heating Systems

Prior to consideration by the Board of Health, applicants (site owner and/or representative) for a Board of Health Closed Loop Geothermal Heating System Well Registration must attach the following information to their application:

1. The completed Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Registration of Discharges to Underground Injection Wells Form – BRP WS 06 a,b,c (contact MADEP for more information 617-348-4014);
2. The Registration ID number formally issued by the MADEP Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program;
3. If not a water-only system, the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for the recirculating fluid to be used in the system must be submitted which indicates that the fluid is non-toxic and non-hazardous food grade propylene glycol;
4. Confirmation that the system is not located within the Zone I of a public water supply well;
5. A plan depicting that closed-loop system has a minimum setback distance of 50-feet from any private water supply well or suction line or any on-site sewage disposal system (as defined by 310 CMR 15.002);
6. Specifications on the system which indicate the presence of a switch or gauge that will shut down the system in the event that it is malfunctioning due to a change in pressure which could result in a release from the system to the environment or residence; and,
7. Confirmation that the well driller will fully grout the well following piping installation and comply with all other State requirements and the Bedford Private Well Regulations.

The fee for registration of wells installed for use in a Closed-Loop Geothermal Heating System is $100.

Following system installation the applicant shall send a letter to Board of Health indicating that the system was installed as designed and shall submit a copy of the well completion report. The Board of Health shall also be provided a copy of the MADEP, UIC Program’s a final approval letter for the UIC registration.

Note: At this time, the Board of Health does not allow installation of wells for use in Open-Loop Geothermal Heating Systems.

Adopted July 23, 2012