



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 150
[2011 Senate Bill 156]

**Regulation of Geothermal Well
Drillers**

2011 Wisconsin Act 150 amends current law regulating well drillers so that it also applies to businesses and individuals that engage in heat exchange drilling for the purpose of installing a geothermal closed loop heat exchange system.

The Act provides that when the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues a driller license, the DNR may specify that the license is limited to either engaging only in well drilling to obtain groundwater or engaging only in heat exchange drilling. The Act specifies that the DNR may not issue a driller license authorizing heat exchange drilling unless the applicant passes an examination administered by the DNR and has been a registered drilling rig operator for at least two out of the five years before applying for the license, has complied with the applicable training and continuing education requirements, and has heat exchange drilling experience as required by DNR rule. (The Act directs the DNR to create alternative requirements for experienced drillers.) The Act also authorizes the DNR to enter and inspect, at reasonable hours, heat exchange drillholes and equipment relating to the construction of heat exchange drillholes on private or public property and order necessary corrections and repairs or discontinuances of contaminated drillholes.

Effective date: May 1, 2015.

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LAK:jb;ksm

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.