



Orphan Well Plugging Grant Frequently Asked Questions

“Who is eligible?”

“Qualified Well Pluggers,” defined as “a person who demonstrates access to the equipment, materials, resources, and services to plug wells in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements.”

“What wells are eligible?”

All wells identified as “orphan” by the Department (DEP Orphan).

“How will applications be prioritized?”

Grant applications will be reviewed and approved on a first-come, first served basis until all available funds for the application period are exhausted.

“How long do we have to plug the well after approval?”

Funds shall only be available for 12 months following the date of Department execution of the grant agreement. Any extension to this time requirement must be requested in writing by the Qualified Well Plugger and agreed to by the Department.

“Will grant funds be issued before or after plugging?”

The Orphan Well Plugging Grant is a reimbursement grant. Reimbursement will take place after plugging and associated paperwork is completed.

“How long will the grant application be open?”

The grant application will remain open until all funds available for the program are exhausted.

“How will I know if the application is open?”

Any updates related to the Orphan Well Plugging Grant, including opening dates and closing will be announced on DEP’s [Orphan Well Webpage](#).

“Can one office manager submit for multiple entities?”

Each application must be unique to an entity. The application is for the entity, not the individual submitting the application.

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“Is an expense for a third-party consultant help for permit applications that might be required for accessing the orphan well reimbursable?”

Yes, if it fits in the line items on the reimbursement sheet posted on the DEP Orphan Well website.

“What if a well is “DEP abandoned” and not “DEP Orphan”—are “DEP abandoned” wells eligible?”

No. Only “DEP Orphan” wells are eligible for this program.