

Well Operator Written Examination Study Guide

The Department of Ecology licenses well operators in Washington State. All new applicants are required to take the written examination. If you are interested in becoming licensed you need to apply for a drilling license before you can schedule a written examination. When your application has been approved you will receive instructions on how to schedule it. This study guide will help you prepare for the examination. Some applicants will need to also complete an onsite examination after passing the written examination. Refer to “A Guide to Washington’s Well Operator Licensing Program” to determine if you will need to take the onsite examination.

Important links and materials

[Washington Well Construction Act, Chapter 18.104 RCW](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=18.104)

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=18.104>

[Minimum Standards for the Construction and Maintenance of Wells, Chapter 173-160 WAC](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-160&full=true)

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-160&full=true>

[Regulation and Licensing of Well Contractors and Operators, Chapter 173-162 WAC](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-162&full=true)

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=173-162&full=true>

[A Guide to Washington’s Well Operator Licensing Program](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/981809WR.html)

This brochure describes the different ways to become a licensed operator from entering our training program, to obtaining a Washington license when you are already licensed out of state.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/981809WR.html>

[Continuing Education for Well Operators](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/wr98153.html)

This brochure provides questions and answers regarding our continuing education program and how to have a class approved.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/wr98153.html>

[Consolidated Rock Table](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/wrdocs/WaterRights/wrwebpdf/consolidatedrocks.pdf)

This chart separates the categories of rock type based on igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/wrdocs/WaterRights/wrwebpdf/consolidatedrocks.pdf>

Passing the Written Exam

All questions are based on the statutes and regulations, on the job experience and drilling knowledge. You will need to know:

- How to accurately complete a well report for constructing and decommissioning a well.
- How to describe the location of a well using township, range, section, quarter and quarter-quarter (TRS). The ability to correctly demonstrate locating wells using TRS on a well report is required prior to issuing a drilling license.
- Knowledge of different classifications of common rocks and their origin: whether igneous, metamorphic, or sedimentary.

Resource protection drillers may need to be familiar with [Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Protection of Environment](https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title40/40tab_02.tpl). 40 CFR is considered reference material you may need as you work on projects. Parts of these regulations may be included in the written exam.

https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title40/40tab_02.tpl

Questions?

Contact the Well Construction and Licensing Office by email wclo@ecy.wa.gov or phone 360-407-6650.