



Frequently Asked Questions about Renewing a Washington State Well Operator's License

For Well Operators

Water Resources Program

For more information:

Online information and downloadable forms for well drillers:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/driller.html>

Scroll down for information on Driller Licensing, Continuing Education, Preferred Providers.

Dept of Ecology
Headquarters
Water Resources
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 407-6000

Bellingham
Field Office
1440 – 10th Street,
Suite 102
Bellingham, WA 98225

Bellevue
Northwest Region Office
3190 – 160th Ave. SE
Bellevue WA 98008
(425) 649-7000

Olympia
Southwest Region Office
PO Box 47775
Olympia WA 98504
(360) 407-6300

Vancouver
Field Office
2108 Grand Blvd.
Vancouver WA 98661
(360) 690-7171

Yakima
Central Region Office
1250 W Alder St.
Union Gap WA 98903
(360) 575-2490

Spokane
Eastern Region Office
N. 4601 Monroe, #202
Spokane WA 99205
(509) 329-3400

Introduction

To renew a Well Operator's License in Washington State, well drillers must show proof of 14 Continuing Education Units (CEUs). At least two of those CEUs must be an Ecology sponsored class pertaining to well construction regulations (commonly called a Rules and Regulations class). Well operator licenses are good for two years from the date of issuance or the last renewal date.

The Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) sends each driller a courtesy renewal packet six weeks before the license expires. The packet contains a cover letter, renewal application, and CEU Tracking Sheet. Please be sure we have your current address to make sure you receive your renewal packet.

We track well drillers' continuing education units in a database. When a well operator sends in proof of a class taken, Ecology enters this into the CEU tracking system. The CEU Tracking Sheet (contained in your renewal packet) will show how many CEUs you have on file with Ecology.

NOTE: It is your responsibility to make sure you renew your license before it expires. You have a 30-day extension period to turn in any paperwork and pay your fee after the license expiration date, as long as you have all the CEUs you need **before** your license expires. You may not drill during this 30-day period. You may only drill after Ecology has received your Renewal Application, proof of CEUs, and fee.

These are answers to the most commonly asked questions:

Q. My license has expired. What can I do?

A. If more than 30 days have passed since your license expired, you may apply for a new license. You must pass the written exam and gain 7 continuing education units for each year or portion of a year your license has expired. You may also need to pass an on-site exam.

Q. Where do I find out about upcoming classes?

A. We have a list on our website (see sidebar) of all future and ongoing classes. Past and ongoing classes will show their CEU values. We will show an estimated CEU value for future classes if the exact CEU value has not yet been determined.

Q. Can I take classes anywhere?

A. No. You may only take classes from a "preferred provider." However, anyone may become a preferred provider if they meet eligibility requirements. To become a preferred provider, you must fill out an application and syllabus form.

Eligibility requirements, forms, and a list of preferred providers are all available on our website.



Q. Can I take multiple classes in the same season?

A. You will not be credited for repeating the same classes. For instance, if the WSGWA Fall Convention has different classes than their fall seminar, you would receive credit for those classes that are not repeated. You would not be credited for taking two Rules and Regulation classes from Ecology in the fall of the same year.

Q. May I take a class and then have it approved for CEUs?

A. Yes, if the instructor is willing to become a preferred provider. This can be a time-consuming process. During this time you will not know how many CEUs your class is worth.

And although the class may have CEU value, it may not be enough to renew your license.

It is always best to have an instructor become a preferred provider and have the class evaluated before taking it.

Q. I have 16 CEUs and I'm supposed to renew my license this month. I will have two CEUs left. Can I use the two extra CEUS for the next renewal period?

A. Unfortunately, you cannot carry CEUs over to the next licensing period. After you renew your license, the CEU count starts over at zero.

Q. If I have a water well license AND a resource protection license, do I need 28 CEUs?

A. No, it doesn't matter how many licenses you have. You need a minimum of 14 CEUs to renew your licenses.

Q. Does Ecology track my CEUs?

A. We have a database to track CEUs. Send in your proof (make sure your driller license number is on it) and it will be entered into our database. We do not track CEU proof for unlicensed people (this would include a driller helper). It is ultimately your responsibility to track your CEUs.

Q. If I take classes on subjects in other states, will these classes count towards my CEU requirements?

A. Yes, provided the class instructor is a preferred provider and the subject is other than drilling regulations. See our list of approved providers:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/wells/cont_edu_provider.html