

HGCD POLICY 2009-1
(Effective June 10, 2009)

**POLICY FOR THE DRILLING OF BORE HOLES TO INSTALL VERTICAL
CLOSED LOOP GEOTHERMAL HEAT PUMP SYSTEMS IN KERR COUNTY**

*This policy is intended to comply with the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District
Rule 7.4 Construction Standards and the TDLR Chapter 76.1000 Technical Requirements –
Locations and Standards of Completion for Wells.*

- A. **Definition:** Closed Loop Geothermal Well, TDLR Chapter 76.10 (10), “A vertical closed system well used to circulate water, and other fluids or gases through the earth as a heat source or heat sink”.
- B. Application and fee must be submitted to the Headwaters Groundwater Conservation District (HGCD) office before drilling may begin. The District will charge a one time administrative fee of \$200 for the drilling application for the borehole and/or a series of boreholes. A drilling log shall be filed with the State of Texas and HGCD. A file will be maintained in the HGCD district offices of the drilling and equipping.
- C. The closed loop geothermal system shall be designed and installed by an accredited installer. The design shall be submitted to HGCD prior to approving the application. The installer shall notify the district prior to installation.
- D. A licensed water well driller registered with HGCD shall drill the boreholes. The driller shall notify the district prior to drilling.
- E. An HGCD representative shall be allowed on the property to inspect the drilling of the borehole, installation and sealing of the closed loop piping.
- F. **TDLR Construction Standard:** “Technical Standards Chapter 76.1000 (b) (5) “The annular space of a closed loop geothermal well used to circulate water or other fluids shall be backfilled to the total depth with impervious bentonite or similar material, closed loop injection well where there is no water or only one zone of water is encountered you may use sand, gravel or drill cuttings to back fill up to thirty (30) feet from the surface. The top thirty (30) feet shall be filled with impervious bentonite or similar materials and meets the standards pursuant to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality 30, TAC, Chapter 331.”
HGCD Construction Standards 7.4 (C) (3) applies when drilling through karst formations or similar voids.
- G. **Spacing:** Any borehole shall be located a minimum horizontal distance of fifty (50) feet from any watertight sewage and liquid-waste collection facility, and a minimum horizontal distance of five (5) feet from the nearest property line.