

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2022

TO: Licensed Well Contractors, Limited Well and Boring Contractors,
Elevator Boring Contractors, Environmental Well Contractors, and Explorers

FROM: Corrie Floyd, P.G.
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Well Management Section
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SUBJECT: Type IL Portland-Limestone Cement

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has reviewed Minnesota Rules requirements for Portland cement in response to production changes from Type I Portland cement to Type IL Portland-limestone cement.

Background

Minnesota Rules, chapters 4725 and 4727 currently require Portland cement conform to ASTM Standard C150, "Standard Specification for Portland Cement." ASTM Standard C150 allows for up to 5% ground limestone in the cement. MDH recently learned that the cement industry is replacing traditional Type I Portland cement with a "low carbon" Type IL Portland-limestone cement. Type IL conforms to ASTM Standard C595, allowing for up to 15% limestone. This change is meant to reduce the carbon footprint of production.

MDH has reviewed the situation with information from cement producers, industry, and partner agencies.

Determination

While MDH is undergoing rulemaking to account for industry changes in the production of Type I Portland cement, we will accept the use of Type IL Portland-limestone cement meeting ASTM Standard C595 where its C150-conforming counterpart would otherwise be allowed in well and boring construction and sealing. MDH will not require a variance to use Type IL Portland-limestone cement, and we will not pursue enforcement when Type IL Portland-limestone cement is used to properly construct or seal wells or borings.

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Other types of Portland cement that meet ASTM Standard C150 (Types II-V, and IA, IIA, IIIA) and are compliant with Minnesota Rules, may be on the market and are encouraged when available. These products may vary in availability and applicability statewide.

If you have questions about this determination, please contact me at corrie.floyd@state.mn.us or 651-201-4586.

CF:AG:JW:JS:kad

cc: Delegated Well Programs
Well Management Section Staff
Minnesota Water Well Association