

Well interference reimbursement fund

The Minnesota DNR received legislative funding in 2022 for relief related to well interferences during the 2021 drought. A well interference happens when a pump draws water from a well and causes the water level in the surrounding aquifer to go down, out of reach of other pumps or wells. If a domestic well owner, public or private water supplier or high-capacity water appropriator paid for costs to restore a water supply for a domestic well or public or private water supply due to well interference **between May 1, 2021 and December 30, 2021**, they may be eligible for reimbursement.

After an initial round of reimbursements in 2022, just under \$90,000 remains to reimburse people and businesses that paid for costs to restore a water supply during the drought in 2021.

What types of expenses are eligible?

Expenses incurred for restoring a water supply for a domestic well owner or public or private water supplier are eligible for reimbursement. If a high capacity water appropriator interfered with a domestic well owner or public or private water supplier during the 2021 eligibility period, then costs paid to a well contractor for parts or labor to restore a water supply would be accepted. This includes, dropping a pump deeper in the well, adding drop pipe to the well, and constructing a new well to replace the well that lost access to water. Itemize the list of activities with the costs charged by a well contractor or similar contractor that helped restore your water supply.

Ineligible costs include:

- Costs incurred for improving or replacing a domestic well that were not related to a well interference between May 1 and December 31, 2021.
- Costs already paid by MDA through their 2021 Agricultural Drought Relief Program.
- Costs incurred by a high capacity water appropriator who did not have authorization to appropriate water through an active DNR permit at the time of the eligibility period (unpermitted pumping).

How do I apply?

The application is available [on the DNR Well Interference website](#). Complete and sign the application, including:

- A brief description of what happened to your well/water supply in 2021,
- The date the well interference occurred and the work to remedy it,
- Well information (i.e., well log or well and boring report),
- Itemized receipts of costs incurred to repair, improve, or construct a new well due to interference, and
- A signed IRS Form W-9.

If your application was deemed ineligible in the first round, please do not apply again.

Submit your application via email at droughtwellfund.dnr@state.mn.us or through USPS mail to the DNR Well Interference Reimbursement Fund, Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, MN 55155.

Contact

Well Interference Coordinator: Claudia Hochstein, claudia.hochstein@state.mn.us or 651-259-5034

Water Appropriations Consultant: Dan Miller, dan.w.miller@state.mn.us or 651-259-5731