

What is the Well Interference Reimbursement Fund?

The Minnesota DNR received legislative funding at the end of the 2022 session to reimburse domestic well owners, public or private water suppliers and high capacity water appropriators, for costs associated with restoring a water supply due to a well interference. A well interference is described as 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. When that happens it is called a well interference. 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 then they may be eligible for reimbursement. A total of \$300,000 is available to reimburse people and businesses that paid for costs to restore a water supply during the drought in 2021. Applicants will need to provide well information (i.e., well log or well and boring report) and receipts of costs incurred to repair, improve or construct a new well due to a well interference that occurred during the eligibility time period.

Who may apply?

Domestic well owners, public or private water suppliers and high capacity water appropriators who paid for costs to restore a domestic water supply due to a well interference during the time period in 2021 are eligible. People and businesses assisting domestic well owners, public or private water suppliers and high capacity water appropriators may also apply on their behalf. A domestic well owner or public or private water supplier may have paid all or part of the costs to restore the water supply for their home or community. High capacity water appropriators may have paid all or part of the costs to restore a water supply for a domestic well owner or public or private water supply due to their high capacity groundwater pumping that interfered with the domestic well or public or private water supply.



How do you apply?

Complete the application, include a well log or well and boring report and the IRS Form W-9 and submit it to the DNR. The application must include an itemized list of costs incurred, including receipts and may be submitted via email at droughtwellfund.dnr@state.mn.us or through USPS mail at DNR Well Interference Reimbursement Fund – Box 25, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155. For any questions on completing the application requirements, please contact Dan Miller at 651-259-5731 or dan.w.miller@state.mn.us.

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:

- Those incurred for improving or replacing a domestic well that was not related to a well interference during the eligible time period in 2021.
- Those already paid by MDA through their 2021 Agricultural Drought Relief Program.
- Those 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.

Additional questions?

Review the reimbursement application form or Contact Dan Miller with the DNR at 651-259-5731 or dan.w.miller@state.mn.us.