Cost-Share Assistance
Contact your local county conservation district and/or Local Environmental Protection Program (LEPP)/County Sanitarian about possible cost-share assistance available through the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Conservation. These funds are available to assist with plugging abandoned wells and installing new or replacement livestock water supply wells. Specific program rules do apply.

Helpful Contacts & Websites
Kansas Association of Conservation Districts
(785) 479-1369
https://kacdnet.org/districts/

Local Environmental Protection Programs
County Sanitarians
http://www.kdheks.gov/nps/lepp/lepp.htm

Kansas Department of Agriculture/ Division of Conservation
(785) 564-6778

Plugging Abandoned Wells

Ulysses Satellite Office
313 W. Oklahoma Terrace
Ulysses, KS 67880
(620) 356-2210

South Central
Allison Herring, DEA
300 W. Douglas, Suite 700
Wichita, KS 67202-2921
(316) 337-6020
KDHE.SCDOAdmin@ks.gov

Southeast
Doug Cole, DEA
308 W. 14th St.
Chanute, KS 66720
(620) 431-2390
KDHE.SEDOAdmin@ks.gov

Surface Mining Section
Marlene Spence, Section Chief
4033 Parkview Dr.
Frontenac, KS 66763
(620) 231-8540
Marlene.Spence@ks.gov

Northwest
Dan Wells, DEA
2301 E. 13th
Hays, KS 67601-2651
(785) 261-6100
KDHE.NWDOAdmin@ks.gov

North Central
Jennifer Nichols, DEA
2501 Market Place, Suite D
Salina, KS 67401-7699
(785) 827-9639
KDHE.NCDOAdmin@ks.gov

Northeast
Tom Winn, DEA
800 W. 24th St.
Lawrence, KS 66046-4417
(785) 842-4600
KDHE.NEDOAdmin@ks.gov

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What is an abandoned water well?

Regulations define an abandoned water well as a well determined by KDHE to meet at least one of the following (KAR 28-30-2 (a)):

1. Use has been permanently discontinued;
2. Pumping equipment has been permanently removed;
3. Is either in such disrepair that it cannot be used to supply water or has the potential for transmitting surface contaminants to the aquifer, or both;
4. Poses potential health and safety hazards; or
5. Is in such a condition that it is not an active well or cannot be placed into inactive status.

There are more than an estimated 250,000 abandoned wells and test holes in Kansas that should be plugged.

Which Wells Should Be Plugged?

All water wells abandoned by the landowner on/after 1 July 1979, and all wells abandoned prior to that date which pose a threat to groundwater supplies, shall be plugged or caused to be plugged by the landowner (KAR 28-30-7(a)).

Why Plug An Abandoned Well?

- Prevent contamination of water source;
- Remove the hazard of small children or animals falling into a hole;
- Prevent sinkholes by restoring stability of the land;
- Prevent loss of head pressure for artesian aquifers, which could affect other wells;
- Avoid potential liability for wells that could allow groundwater contamination.

How to identify abandoned wells?

- Licensed water well contractors, local government staff, and citizen organizations can help protect groundwater by identifying and mapping abandoned well locations.
- Community involvement through meetings or newspaper articles may help raise public awareness and initiate well plugging action.

How Can I Plug a Well Properly?

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment encourages the use of a licensed water well contractor to plug an abandoned well. Lists of licensed contractors are available at the Water Well Program website at: http://www.kdheks.gov/waterwell/index.html.

It may be practical for some wells to be properly plugged by the landowner. Proper plugging procedures must be followed and a water well plugging record (WWC-5P Form) must be submitted to KDHE within 30-days after plugging the well. Both the plugging regulations in Article 30 (KAR 28-30-7) and the WWC-5P Form are available at the above website link or call KDHE at (785) 296-3565 or (785) 296-5524. Please leave a message.