

Development Specialist

History, Purpose and Accomplishments:

The position of Development Specialist first began approximately seven years ago, with the Rural Water Association of Utah obtaining a one year contract for about two years with the Division of Drinking Water, followed by a five year contract. This five year contract expires at the end of February 2018. The purpose of the contract and position is to meet with and convince County officials of their role in water issues. Education of Source Protection, proper source development, construction standards, septic tank placement, and overall development standards are part of what the Specialist trains the county and health department officials on. Much of the focus is on very small developments, sub-divisions, etc. that are not large enough to qualify as Public Systems.

With the assistance of District Engineers, I have developed what we are calling a “Non-Public System Rule.” I have also developed a “shared well agreement” and “right-of-way agreement.” These have been adopted, with some small variations, by the Southwest Utah Health Department, Tri County Health Department, Utah County Health Department. I am almost sure that the Central Utah Health Department will also adopt it within the next month or two. This will make it so there are 15 counties covered by this Non-Public System Rule.

Additionally, I have been working closely with the Health Departments of Wasatch, Summit, Davis, Weber and Morgan counties. All of these express to me that they are very interested in getting the rule adopted. I have been working with District Engineer, Scott Hacking, and we plan to get the rule adopted in the Southeast Utah Health Department shortly after they have a new Director in place.

The Health Departments of Utah County and Southwest are working on making some amendments to their rule. This increases the need for ongoing training and assistance. I have been quite busy working with the Southwest Health Department and the County Planners within that area to stress the need to enforce the rule. There has been a fair amount of development take place where the rule has not been followed. Even after we get this adopted in all of the counties and health departments, there will be an ongoing need for training and assistance.