



The State of New Hampshire **69 - 10/21/26**
Department of Environmental Services



Robert R. Scott, Commissioner

September 18, 2026

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and the Honorable Council
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

REQUESTED ACTIONS

1. Pursuant to RSA 14:30-a VI, authorize the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) to accept and expend \$40,391 in Water Well Board funds, as authorized under RSA 482-B:4-a to implement the Water Well program and support the Water Well Board, effective January 1, 2027, upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2027. 100% Water Well Board funds. Funding to be appropriated as follows:

Water Well Board Fund
03-44-44-442010-66170000

Class	Budget Category	Current Budget	Requested Action	Revised Budget
Income				
009-407392-12	Water Well Board Funds	\$0	\$40,391	\$40,391
Expenditures				
040-500800	Indirect Costs	\$0	\$3,367	\$3,367
042-500620	Additional Fringe Benefits	\$0	\$778	\$778
059-500117	Personnel Full-Time Temp	\$0	\$23,732	\$23,732
060-500601	Benefits	\$0	\$12,514	\$12,514
TOTAL		\$0	\$40,391	\$40,391

2. Contingent upon approval of Requested Action #1, and pursuant to the provisions of RSA 124:15, I, authorize NHDES to establish one full time temporary position, for the purpose of providing support to the Water Well Board, effective January 1, 2027, upon Fiscal Committee and Governor and Council approval through June 30, 2027. The position was approved by the Division of Personnel on April 9, 2026. A copy of the approval documentation is attached. 100% Water Well Board Funds.

Classification Title	Position #	Pay Band	Salary Range
19-4040 Env Science Techs-5	9T3410	SOC 19, Pay Band 5	\$43,875 - \$66,573

EXPLANATION

An increase in staffing is necessary to fully implement the NHDES Water Well program and support the Water Well Board (WWB), which protects groundwater resources and oversees the collection of drilled well information submitted through well completion reports. In 2026, the legislature passed House Bill 1088, establishing the WWB fund and transferring the financial support for the Water Well program and the WWB from the general fund to this dedicated account. The bill authorized fees collected by the WWB to be deposited into the fund, and in 2025, the WWB amended its administrative rules to authorize collection of a \$100 fee for each drilled well completion report that is submitted. These combined actions now provide a sustainable revenue structure to support the programs' public health responsibilities and to steward records of groundwater and geologic resources in the state.

As the WWB transitions to this self-supporting framework, NHDES and the WWB determined that a full-time position is needed to manage well completion data, perform timely quality assurance reviews, and provide technical support to well drillers as electronic well completion report submittal becomes mandatory. Historically, these tasks were handled by a part-time position in the New Hampshire Geological Survey (NHGS), but delays in reviewing submitted reports, given the number of hours per week a part-time position can work, created significant issues with the lack of timely and accurate data. A full-time Environmental Science Technician 5 position is required to ensure timely processing, identification of discrepancies, coordination of corrective actions with drillers, and consistent technical assistance as electronic reporting and fee collection commence on January 1, 2027. This position will not be filled until after January 1, 2027.

The requested position will be the primary NHDES staff person implementing electronic well completion reporting and associated fee collection. This role will ensure that submitted information is complete, verified, and accessible to drillers, stakeholders, and the public.

The following is intended to address the seven questions required by the Fiscal Committee with respect to the acceptance of federal and other funds in which new positions are established or extended:

1. **List All Personnel by Classification, Labor Grade, and Salary:** One (1) full-time, temporary position (19-4040 Environmental Science Technician 5, SOC 19 Pay Band 5, \$43,875 - \$66,573)
2. **Explain the Nature, Need, and Duration of the Program:** Water well drillers in New Hampshire are required under RSA 482-B to consummate a well completion report for each new well drilled in the state. Upon submittal of a report to NHDES, the information is quality control reviewed for proper geolocation and technical information to ensure its usability by homeowners, businesses, and drillers in understanding the condition of groundwater resources and attendant subsurface geology in areas near wells. NHDES has a responsibility to work with well drillers upon submittal of completed information to ensure and achieve accuracy and compliance to maximize the usability of the information and verify conformity with the statute and rules governing well completion reports.
3. **What is the Relationship to Existing Programs?** Forty (40) percent of New Hampshire residents rely on private wells, making accurate, timely well completion report data essential for NHDES programs that monitor groundwater conditions and support statewide resource management. As electronic reporting and fee collection begin, rapid quality assurance and review of submitted data will be critical to maintaining the integrity of the Water Well Program and its groundwater protection efforts.

The Honorable Ken Weyler, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court

Her Excellency, Governor Kelly A. Ayotte
and The Honorable Council

Page 3 of 3

4. ***Has a Substantially Similar Program Been Requested of the Legislature and Denied?*** No.
5. ***Why was this program and its funding not included in the operating budget?*** The program and its funding were not included in the FY 2026-2027 operating budget because the authority to collect well completion fees and the need for a full-time position to support electronic reporting had not yet been established at the time the budget was prepared.
6. ***Can any portion of the funds be utilized if either, none, or only part of the positions are authorized?*** No. Current staffing levels are insufficient to properly and promptly manage fee collection, data quality assurance, compliance review, and maintenance of the water well inventory database.
7. ***What is the estimate of the amount of funding required to continue the position in future years?*** The estimated cost of this position for the FY 2028-2029 biennium is \$167,986.

Funds in class expenditures itemized by class included in this request are budgeted and described as follows:

Classes 040, 042, 060 *Indirect Costs, Additional Fringe, and Benefits* – Funding in each of these classes is based on a percentage of personnel costs.

Class 059 *Full-Time Temporary Employee Salaries* – The funds in Class 059 will be used to fund the position described in the Requested Action.

We respectfully request your approval of this item.


Robert R. Scott, Commissioner



State Of New Hampshire
DIVISION OF PERSONNEL
Department of Administrative Services
54 Regional Drive, Suite 5
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

CHARLES M. ARLINGHAUS
Commissioner
(603) 271-3201

MATTHEW G. MAVROGEORGE
Director of Personnel
(603) 271-2824

April 9, 2026

Raymond Wilson, Human Resources Director
Department of Environmental Services
29 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03301

Regarding: Request to establish a full-time temporary 19-4040 Environmental Science and Geoscience Technicians-5, Pay Schedule SOC19, Pay Band 5, Position #9T3410

Dear Mr. Wilson:

The Division of Personnel approves the Department of Environmental Services' request to establish position #9T3410 as a full-time, temporary position classified as 19-4040 Environmental Science and Geoscience Technicians-5. This position is effective upon approval by the Fiscal Committee.

The position will function as the agency's Water Well Inventory Technician with responsibility for the development and updating of standard operating procedures to maintain data quality and completeness. It will ensure compliance with the requirements for submitted Water Well Inventory reports under RSA 482-B and the Water Well Program Administrative Rules. Also, it will provide recommendations for workflows and database structure, to include collaboration with the Department of Information Technology, to support and enhance a technically and administratively valid Water Well Inventory management system in New Hampshire.

The proposed duties are like those of other positions within the same Occupational Group and level currently operating at the agency and throughout the state classified system. The role is appropriate within the agency's proposed organizational structure.

Your agency will be responsible for bringing the request for funding before the Fiscal Committee. You may use this letter as confirmation of our decision. Once you have obtained Fiscal Committee approval, please submit a work unit to the Division of Personnel Operations Section to authorize the position.

Sincerely,

Marianne Rechy
Classification & Compensation Administrator

Cc: Matthew Mavrogeorge, Director of Personnel