

January
February
March
2004

Kent Wilkins, OWRB
Drillers Program Coordinator



Coordinator's Corner

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Spring is finally here, and I hope the improved weather increases everyone's business. From the Board's perspective, the demand for water resources appears to increase almost daily. Along with the need for water has been increased awareness of the importance of our water resources, which is especially great for the water well drilling industry.

If you did not attend the 2nd Annual Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) Conference and Trade Show in March, you missed an excellent opportunity to attend a variety of informative seminars on topics related to the water well industry. OGWA is to be commended for a job well done.

This issue of the *Driller's Log* will highlight some important issues currently in focus in the Well Driller and Pump Installers' program. The proposed rule changes are awaiting approval from the Legislature and the Governor, and our Continuing Education Requirement goes into effect this July. So please be

aware of these changes, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Theda or me. Good luck to everyone throughout 2004!

OGWA Holds Second Annual Conference and Trade Show

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) held another successful annual conference in Oklahoma City on March 11-12. Over 200 participants were treated to outstanding exhibits introducing the latest in drilling and pump technology. Continuing education seminars included topics such as online computer entry of well logs, filter pack design, pump installation, and aquifer basin studies. At the awards ceremony, Kari Sever was presented an "Award of Appreciation" for her dedication and service as an initial Board of Director for the OGWA. Danny Ewbank was presented with the "Presidential Award" for his service as the first Chairman of the Association.



Pump installation seminar with speaker Darrell Hayse of Franklin Electric

The Association would like to thank the Board of Directors and Committee members, who worked extremely hard to produce another quality conference and trade show. Thanks also goes to all the vendors and manufacturers for their continued support. For further information on the OGWA, please contact Robert Keyes at P.O. Box 5306, Norman, OK 73070, (405) 360-1434 or visit the OGWA website at www.ogwa.biz.

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Proposed Rule Changes Await Approval

Proposed rule changes for 2004 have been approved by the OWRB's nine-member Board and are currently in the hands of the Legislature for final approval. The rule changes have been proposed in an effort to improve quality of well construction and to increase professionalism within the industry. Highlights of the proposed changes are listed below:

- New distance requirements for water wells located close to potential sources of pollution.
- An alternative method for sealing groundwater wells; clarification of sealing requirements when surface casing and production casing are installed.
- Recommendations for a higher top-of-casing height for water wells.
- Construction requirements for sand point wells.
- Permanent rules relating to construction of geothermal/heat exchange wells.
- Over-drilling requirements for plugging contaminated monitoring wells.

The proposed rules may be reviewed online at www.owrb.state.ok.us or by requesting a copy of the proposed rule changes by contacting Theda Adkisson at (405) 530-8800. Rule changes should become effective in July 2004.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REMINDER

Beginning July 1, 2004, all licensed operators will be required to complete a minimum of four units of approved continuing education during each year (from July 1 through June 30) or a total of eight units for each two-year period of renewal. Information concerning the completed continuing education must be submitted with the application for renewal during the first full year that the license or operator certification is active and during each year the license or operator certification is renewed. Licensees may carry over a maximum of four units of credit per year. One unit of continuing education shall equal 50 minutes of approved instruction.

Renewal Period Approaching

Drilling pump/contractor's license renewal for the year 2004 is fast approaching and renewal forms will be mailed out the last week of April. If the renewal forms are returned prior to May 31, 2004, the licensee may deduct \$50 from the renewal fee. A late fee of \$150 will be added for any renewal received after the license fee expiration date of June 30, 2004.*

If an operator leaves, or you need to drop a category, this changes the total renewal fee. Please review your renewal form carefully, and if there are changes, contact our office for recalculation of the fees. The following examples demonstrate how license fees are calculated:

Additional License Fees

One additional category = \$40
 Two additional categories = \$80 (\$40 each)
 Three additional categories = \$120 (\$40 each) Maximum
 One additional indemnity = \$40
 One additional operator = \$40
 Two additional operators = \$80 (\$40 each), etc.
 Unlimited @ \$40 each

<i>Before May 31, 2004</i>		<i>After May 31, 2004</i>		<i>After June 30, 2004*</i>	
Renewal	\$250	Renewal	\$250	Renewal	\$250
Indemnity	+40	Indemnity	40	Indemnity	40
Minus reduced fee	-50	Total	\$290	Additional Late Fee	150
Total	\$240			Total	\$440

*Completed renewal application and appropriate fee must be submitted by July 31, 2004, or you cannot drill wells or install pumps in Oklahoma. Your license will have expired.

Workshop Offered in Lawton

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board wishes to invite you to an informal training workshop for the new online well log filing and well log search programs. Also, staff will be available to discuss the current use of latitude and longitude for legal descriptions and the proposed rule changes that will go into effect in July 2004.

The workshop will be held in the Lawton Field Office at 601 "C" Avenue, Suite 101 on April 27, 2004 at 1:00 p.m. The new online filing system is extremely user friendly and has been well received, so don't miss out on a chance to learn more about a program that will save you time and money.

If you have any questions, please contact Kim Sullivan at (580) 248-7762 or Kent Wilkins at (918) 429-3605.