

January  
February  
March  
**2002**

*Kent Wilkins, Director  
Oklahoma Well Driller Program*



Spring looks like it's here for a while, but you never know with this Oklahoma weather, as evidenced by last winter's ice storm. Theda Adkisson and I have been busy trying to stay up with the many activities associated with your Well Drillers Program. Just this year, we have certified 16 new operators and

licensed eight new firms. While those figures may indicate increased competition among the state's well drillers, it may also indicate that the demand for water wells and monitoring wells is increasing.

The Advisory Council has also been extremely busy with members meeting at least once a month since the group's inception. Council members have recom-

mended a number of positive suggestions concerning program improvements. Currently, the Council is attempting to reestablish the Oklahoma Groundwater Association while preparing rule and regulation changes for next year--quite a chore for these individuals who are so busy running their own businesses.

We are expecting some big changes in the program in the near future. The Council has approved expenditures from the regulation (indemnity) account to fund development of an on-line filing system for well logs and an on-line well search program available through the Water Board's Web site. Both programs should alleviate the paperwork burden of Oklahoma's well drillers as well as greatly assist citizens desiring specific water well information.

I hope everyone has a safe and profitable spring. As always, if I can be of any assistance, please contact me.

## From the Eyes of the Field Inspector

*Kelly Self*

*OWRB Field Inspector, McAlester*



*Kelly Self*

In the recent past, few people worried about their water resources, that they had finite limits, that they could be lost to contamination or outright removal, or that the pressures of

a growing population would create physical and chemical stresses on these resources never dreamed of a generation ago. Today, however, a keen awareness of the fragility of these resources has arisen throughout the world.

As a field inspector for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, I am acutely aware of the many challenges faced by our well drillers to ensure the quality and quantity of our precious groundwaters. Our state has some of the finest well drillers in the country and as I work with an increasing number of these people, I

become more and more impressed with the responsible and positive nature with which they approach their profession, especially as it relates to groundwater protection.

As with any profession, there are those who do everything possible to meet or even exceed existing standards. But as we all know, it only takes one "bad apple" to ruin the reputation of us all. To all involved in the drilling process: please take pride in the work you do to protect our precious water resources and don't be afraid to speak up if you witness someone who is shortchanging the protection process.

When field inspectors show up for a visit, that is your opportunity to share any concerns you might have as a driller. That is also an opportunity for Water Board staff to share concerns and ideas that we think might help make your job easier.

A consistent problem faced by

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405-530-8800  
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*From the Eyes of the Field Inspector . . . continued*

program field inspectors is the reading and interpretation of submitted well logs and the submittal of incorrect legal descriptions. If we are forced to spend a large amount of our time looking for a well, that cuts into the number of wells that can actually get inspected. As a field office worker, I ask for your help in these areas.

I want to emphasize that for those of you who do things right, your efforts do not go unnoticed. We also take note of those who try to take shortcuts, and believe me, these mistakes will catch up with you. Implementation of the principles governing the wise use of groundwater will ensure that society will be able to enjoy an undiminished supply of high-quality groundwater now and in the future.

I look forward to seeing you in the field.



*Casing installation, Gilbert Hardrock Drilling*

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## Well Driller and Pump Installer Seminars Well-Attended



*Kent Wilkins and Dr. Marvin Smith answer questions on heat exchange well installation in Broken Arrow*

December was a great month for gathering and exchanging the latest information on well drilling and pump installation. More than 100 licensed operators participated in three workshops conducted across the state in Woodward, Oklahoma City, and Broken Arrow.

Topics of discussion included installation of geothermal wells, rig safety, pump technology, sealing properties, environmental concerns, and rules and regulations. If you missed our sessions this time, we plan on holding future workshops in March 2003. So watch for upcoming events.

Education is a way for each of us to learn new industry techniques and provide better service to our customers.

Thanks go to Phil Polak, Baroid; Dick Greenley, Pumps of Oklahoma; GEFCO staff; Duane Winegardner, Cardinal Environmental; and Dr. Marvin Smith, IGSHPA; for providing educational presentations. And a special thanks goes out to Pumps of Oklahoma for providing lunch at each workshop.

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Oklahoma City, OK 73118  
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