

October
November
December
2002

Kent Wilkins, OWRB
Drillers Program Coordinator



Looking Back at an Eventful Year

*Kent Wilkins, OWRB
Drillers Program Coordinator*

The year 2002 has come and gone, but not without some very positive changes. Most importantly, 2002 can be remembered as the year the Oklahoma Ground Water Association was resurrected. Oklahoma was only one of three states without a state affiliation, but not any longer. We expect the Association to grow into an organization in which everyone in the industry can be proud.

Theda Adkisson and I have been busy trying to stay up with the many activities associated with the drillers and pump installers program. During 2002, Theda renewed 149 firms and 228 operators. We have also licensed 22 new firms and 37 new operators in the state since the first of the year. That figure indicates that the demand for water well and monitoring well drillers has continued to increase.

The Advisory Council has also been extremely busy. We have met at least once a month during 2002. The members are continuously recommending positive suggestions on how to improve the program. Currently the Council and the OWRB have proposed several rule changes for the 2003 legislative session. But the OWRB and the Advisory Council will need everyone's help in getting the

proposed rules approved, so please get involved. I would like to commend the Council on their dedication and hard work, which takes away from their own busy lives and businesses.

We are looking forward to major improvements in the area of online well searches and online filing of well logs within the next six months. The funding has been approved and work has begun on the development of both of those programs. The upgrades should reduce the paperwork burden for the drillers and also help assist citizens and drillers search online for well information.

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

March 13-14 Conference & Trade Show

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association has announced their first annual spring Drilling Conference and Exhibition. The conference will be held March 13th and 14th, 2003 in the Coca-Cola Bricktown Event Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. on March 13. The welcome and introductions will commence at 8:30 a.m. Concurrent educational sessions will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Exhibition hall will be open at noon. An Awards Banquet and Dinner will be held that evening at 7:00. Additional educational sessions will be held and another opportunity will present itself to meet with your exhibitors on Friday, March 14.

Member registration is \$50 before February 15 and is \$65 for late

registrants. Non-member registration costs before and after the deadlines are \$85 and \$100, respectively.

The Board of Directors and Committee members have worked hard to help produce a quality conference and exhibition. Please come out and support the Association. For further information, contact Robert Keyes at P.O. Box 5306, Norman, OK 73070 or at (405) 360-1434.

REMEMBER:

- 60 days to file well logs from date of completion
- Renewal of odd DPC license numbers by June 30
- Conference and Trade Show, March 13-14

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Ground Water Association Selects Board Directors

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association selected the initial members of the Board of Directors at its inaugural meeting held in Oklahoma City on October 11, 2002.

The by-laws for the Association were also approved at the meeting. The by-laws establish a 15-member Board with one representative being the Past President as a member-at-large, eight representatives coming from the Contractors Division, three from the Manufacturers and Suppliers Division and three from the Technical Division.

The mission of the Association is to assist, promote, encourage, and support the interest and welfare of the groundwater industry. The Association hopes to accomplish this by lobbying for laws to maintain the



Pictured with State Representative Thad Balkman (second from right), who assisted in developing the by-laws of the Oklahoma Ground Water Association, are the Board of Directors: (from left) Lee Brock, Gary Lehl, Dick Geib, Joe Foster, Donald Hughes, Kari Sever, Danny Ewbank, Cheryl Cohenour, Mike Ritter, Robert Keyes, Larry Hudgens, Jerry Black, and Pete Gaskin.

integrity and quality among members, by fostering and promoting continuing education and by promoting harmony and cooperation between contractors and scientific and regulatory agencies. Duties of the Board of Directors include the government, management and control of the Association and its affairs. The Board of Directors shall have the power to make rules for carrying on the work and government of the Association consistent with the by-laws.

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association and Water Board extend congratulations to each new director and wish them successful and productive terms.

Board of Directors Oklahoma Ground Water Association

Contractors Division

Lee Brock – Ace Drilling

Cheryl Cohenour – Cherokee America Drilling

Danny Ewbank – Ewbank, Inc.

Larry Hudgens – F & H Drilling

Robert Keyes – AEI Corp

Gary Lehl – Lehl and Sons

Mike Ritter – Ritter Water Well Drilling

Kari Sever – Horizon Drilling

Manufacturers and Suppliers Division

Donald Hughes – North American Equipment

Dick Geib – G-2

David Hurt – Preferred Pump and Engineering

Technical Division

Jerry Black – Black and Associates

Pete Gaskin – GMR and Associates

Joe Foster – Enercon

Rule Changes Proposed for the 2003 Legislative Session

The Well Drillers and Pump Installers Advisory Council and the OWRB have proposed several rule changes in Chapter 35 for this upcoming legislative session. 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 include the following:

- Provide a more specific definition of Direct Push (Geo-Probe) Geotechnical Borings and provide specific plugging requirements for these types of borings.
- Clarify conditions and penalty associated with failure of a licensee to submit a completion report within the required 60 days.
- Create a new continuing education requirement of 4 hours per year or 8 hours per 2 year renewal period for each licensed operator.

- Eliminate the requirement to affix a rig sticker on well drilling rigs.
- Provide separate and more specific standards relating to construction of geothermal/heat exchange wells.
- Amend the requirement that the Board may require a licensed professional engineer to certify variances for well construction unless specifically requested by the Board and clarify that the landowner will be required to assume all liability resulting from the variance if issued by the Board.

The Board wishes to receive any and all comments regarding the proposed changes. Public meetings will be held in Guymon on January 15, Tahlequah on January 16, and Oklahoma City on January 21. A complete description of all proposed rule changes can be viewed on the OWRB's web site at www.owrb.state.ok.us or can be requested by contacting Theda Adkisson at (405) 530-8800.