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Drillers Program Coordinator



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Coordinator's Corner

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Summer at the OWRB is typically busy. Peak water usage and lack of rainfall during this time of the year can cause tremendous conflicts between users of both surface and groundwater. According to statewide precipitation data, state-averaged rainfall since March 1 is somewhat sparse, ranging from a slight surplus in west central Oklahoma to more than a 12-inch deficit in the southeast. This situation only heightens the importance of stored groundwater during dry periods.

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association's fourth annual conference and exhibition will be held February 23-24, 2006 at the Clarion Hotel in Oklahoma City. I encourage all OGWA members and others in the drilling industry to attend and gain a lot of useful information for your business.

The renewal period for odd-numbered licensed firms concluded in June. If you are one of the few firms that have not yet renewed, please call Theda or me for assistance. Also, the Board is now formulating proposed rule changes for next year. The Well Drillers Council will meet each month beginning in August until the next legislative session to assist in that process. Please contact a Council member or me if you have a suggested rule change.

Remember, if you have any questions regarding the well drillers and pump installers program or other Board programs, please feel free to give me a call or check out our website at www.owrb.state.ok.us.

THE EVER IMPORTANT CEMENT GROUT SURFACE SEAL

OWRB field inspectors across the state have recently identified a number of water wells constructed without proper cement grout surface seals. The surface seal is the frontline defense against surface contamination reaching the valuable groundwater resources below. An unsealed well provides a direct conduit for pollution to contaminate a drinking water supply well. OWRB Chapter 35 Rules and Regulations provide that:

- (1) All new groundwater wells and fresh water observation wells shall be made water-tight around the outside of the production casing by cement grouting to such depths as may be necessary to exclude pollution, but in no case shall the cement grout seals be less than ten (10) continuous feet in depth, provided that five (5) feet of bentonite may be installed immediately below five (5) feet of cement grout for the total 10 feet continuous seal.
- (2) The cement or cement/bentonite seal shall originate at a minimum ten (10) foot depth and terminate no deeper than four feet (4') from the natural land surface after all settling of the cement or bentonite/cement has occurred, unless a written waiver is first obtained from the Board.
- (3) The cement grout shall consist of a mix ratio of one (1) 94-pound sack of cement to a maximum of six (6) U.S. gallons of water. A maximum



Figure 1. Photograph of water well with an open, unsealed annular space.

(continued)

Cement Grout Surface Seal . . . continued

of fifty percent (50%) aggregate by dry weight may be added to the portland cement to form the cement grout, provided the aggregate is a size that will not create a potential to cause bridging in the annular space.

Don't create a negative impression of your company business and run the risk of fines and penalties. Please take the time to install cement surface seals properly. Your customers rely on you to provide them with safe drinking water and Oklahoma needs your assistance in protecting our groundwater resources.

RULE CHANGES FOR 2006

The OWRB and the Well Drillers and Pump Installers Council will begin proposing Chapter 35 rule changes during the month of August for the 2006 legislative session. Please feel free to contact a council member or Kent Wilkins if you have any proposed changes. The council will review all suggested changes and make recommendations to the Board.

Council Members include:

- Lee Brock, Ace Drilling & Service (Hollis)
- Cheryl Cohenour, Cherokee America Drilling (Tulsa)
- Danny Ewbank, Ewbank, Inc. (Fairview)
- Larry Hudgens, F & H Drilling (Elk City)
- Robert Keyes, AEI, Inc. (Norman)
- Mike Ritter, Ritter Water Well Service (Guymon)
- Steve Vannoy, Vannoy & Son Drilling (Nicoma Park)
- Duane Smith, OWRB (Oklahoma City)

END OF RENEWAL GRACE PERIOD

The Well Drillers and Pump Installers renewal period ended June 30 and the grace period ended July 31 for odd-numbered licensed firms. If you or your firm have not renewed, the company and any certified operators working under the authority of the company are no longer authorized to drill wells and/or install pumps in the State of Oklahoma until the license has been renewed. Also, documentation of four credit hours of continuing education will be required before processing of your renewal application can begin. If you have any questions, please contact Theda Adkisson, DPC Licensing, at (405) 530-8800.

OGWA to Host 4th Annual Drilling Conference & Exhibition

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) will host the 4th Annual Drilling Conference and Exhibition on February 23-24, 2006, at the Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center, 737 S. Meridian, in Oklahoma City.

Registration includes admission to the exhibit hall, all educational sessions, and lunch for both days. Educational sessions may count toward Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas CEU requirements. Registration costs are \$50 for members, \$85 for nonmembers, and \$25 for students.

For further information, contact:

Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 58130, Oklahoma City, OK 73157
(888) 884-6492
www.ogwa.biz



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