

October
November
December
2005

Kent Wilkins, OWRB
Drillers Program Coordinator



Coordinator's Corner

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Drillers Program Coordinator

2006 is already here. I hope each of you had a successful year in 2005 and accomplished at least your most important goals. Last year was extremely productive for the OWRB. Our licensed firm list added 22 new firms and 45 new operators, bringing the grand total to 357 licensed firms and 650 operators. And we now have about 99,000 well log records entered in our database. We provided several educational opportunities for our licensed community, introduced a new water well and resource mapping application on our Web site for use by both drillers and the public, and passed some important rule changes. We also prevailed in some important enforcement actions that helped in protecting Oklahoma's Groundwater and in keeping the competitive nature of our business on a fair footing.

But we now look forward to new challenges in 2006. We will be faced with difficult enforcement decisions, new technology issues, additional state laws, and the task of providing additional educational opportunities. The Board is trying to meet these challenges by building partnerships with our customers, including the licensed drillers and pump installers, the well drillers advisory council, the Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA), other state agencies and the public. We hope these partnerships can provide a valuable service and benefit to all involved.

I encourage all of you to attend the OGWA trade show and conference that will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Oklahoma City on February 23-24. There will be an excellent schedule of presenters and topics. Everyone can surely gain some useful information to improve his or her business, while acquiring needed education credits..

Renewal period for the even numbered licensed firms will be mailed out in April, and 8 hours of continuing education credits will be required before your application for renewal can be processed. Remember, if you have any questions regarding the well drillers and pump installers program or other Board programs, please give me a call or check out our Web site at www.owrb.state.ok.us.

OGWA TRADE SHOW AND CONFERENCE

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) has scheduled an excellent opportunity for drillers and pump installers to obtain either four or eight continuing education credit hours during its annual two-day conference and trade show. The conference will be held February 23-24, 2006, in Oklahoma City at the Clarion Meridian Hotel and Convention Center, 737 South Meridian.

The conference schedule will include such topics as OWRB Rules and Regulations, Trouble Shooting Single Phase Pumps, Safety Issues for Well Drillers, DOT Rules and Regulations, Water Well Rehabilitation with Chemicals, Ground Source Heat Pump Opportunities, Air Drilling Techniques for Water Wells, and the Texas Rules Review.

Registration includes admission to the exhibit hall, all educational sessions, and lunch both days. Educational sessions may count towards the Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas CEU requirements. Registration costs are as follows: Members \$50,



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OGWA Conference . . . continued

nonmembers \$85, and students \$25. State and governmental employees can attend at no charge. No fee will be charged for continuing education credits for certified operators. However you will need to be sure to sign in for each class attended for proper crediting.

For further information, contact Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary, at P.O. Box 58130, Oklahoma City, OK 73157 (888) 884-6492 or visit the OGWA website at www.ogwa.biz.

DPC SUMMARY FOR 2005

The following table illustrates the activity associated with the DPC licensing and well log program. A total of 22 new firms were licensed in 2005, bringing the total number of licensed firms to 357. A total of 45 new operators were certified for all firms, bringing the total number of certified operators to 650. Licensing the new firms and operators included administering 73 tests for various activities. During this timeframe, both the OWRB staff and licensed firms entered 7,225 well records bringing the total well log database to 98,700 well records.

2005	Current	Total
Firms	22	357
Operators	45	650
Well Logs	7,225	98,700
DPC Tests	73	N/A

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board would like to remind all licensed firms and operators that the 2006 renewal period for even numbered firms is fast approaching. Please be aware that to renew in 2006, eight hours of continuing education credit will be required for each operator prior to your renewal being processed. The credit may be obtained either four hours per year or eight hours per renewal period. The Board may also accept approved credit from other state training classes and various outside pump, sealing, or drilling training classes.

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) is also assisting the Board by providing approved training on February 23-24, 2006, at the OGWA Annual Trade Show and Conference in Oklahoma City.

If you have any questions about approved training courses or meeting the requirements, please contact Theda or Kent at (405) 530-8800.

DRILLERS ENCOURAGED TO USE WELL LOG APPLICATION

Prior to the OWRB's launch of its web-based application for online submission of well logs, OWRB staff were required to verify, image, and index all incoming logs from Oklahoma water well drillers. To date, 63 licensed firms have taken advantage of the opportunity to file well logs electronically, remotely logging in over 8,000 wells during the past two years.

Kent Wilkins, Oklahoma Well Drillers Program Coordinator, says the willingness of these firms to switch over to the new system has greatly benefited the Oklahoma Well Drillers Program by cutting costs and staff hours. And since the electronic filing system ensures that logs are accurate and complete, the mistakes commonly seen on hand written logs have been virtually eliminated.

Wilkins urges any licensed well driller who hasn't yet taken advantage of the electronic filing system to set up a user account by contacting the OWRB at 405-530-8800 or go to www.owrb.state.ok.us/supply/wd/drillers.php.

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OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Oklahoma Driller's Log

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