

April
May
June
2008

Kent Wilkins, OWRB
Drillers Program Coordinator



Coordinator's Corner

Kent Wilkins, OWRB Drillers Program Coordinator

I hope everyone is having a productive and prosperous summer. The OWRB and Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) summer education program was a big success. This year's workshops were held at new locations in Wilburton, Altus, and Enid, as well as the usual Tulsa and OKC locations. I would like to thank the OGWA for their efforts to present both educational and informative sessions that were well received by the licensed operators. If you have any suggestions for next year, please let me know.

The OGWA was also successful in assisting in the passage of House Bill 3135 this last legislative session. HB 3135 increases the amount that can be expended from the Indemnity Fund from \$5000.00 to \$15,000.00 to correct or properly abandon a problem well. The bill also provides more enforcement capability for the Board regarding unlicensed drillers and pump installers.

The grace period for renewals ended July 31, 2008. Any firm attempting to renew after the grace period will have to reapply and retest. Next year, please take advantage of our new online renewal system and renew, update information, and delete operators right from your own computer.

The well drillers and pump installers advisory council will begin proposing rules in August, so if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know. The new rules were effective May 27, 2008, and are available online or as requested. And as always, if you have any questions, please give me a call at (405) 530-8800 or visit our website at www.owrb.ok.gov.

Continuing Education Classes Presented By OGWA

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association presented five continuing education courses for licensed operators during June of 2008. Classes were held at Franklin Electric in Wilburton, GEFCO in Enid, and other training sites in Altus, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City. Attendees obtained four hours of classroom credit towards their license renewal requirements.



Instructors included Keith Hall from Franklin Motors, Lyndon Pence from Baroid Industrial Services, John L'Espoir from Enid Drill Systems, Cheryl Cohenour from Cherokee America Drilling, and Kent Wilkins/Kim Sullivan from the OWRB. Presentations included information regarding constant pressure pumping systems, drill rig safety, grouting materials, construction standards, and drilling fluids.

If an attendee would like a certificate or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary at (888) 884-6492 or www.ogwa.biz.

Also, the OGWA is always looking for new topics of interest to the drillers and pump installers, so if you have any suggestions please notify Beth. The next OGWA continuing education classes will be presented in Oklahoma City on February 19 and February 20, 2009.

Published Quarterly
by the
Oklahoma Water
Resources Board
3800 N. Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

405-530-8800
FAX 405-530-8900

www.owrb.ok.gov

- Coordinator's Corner
- Continuing Education Classes Presented By OGWA
- Chapter 35 Changes Now Effective
- Bill Seeks Technology to Augment State Groundwater Supplies

Chapter 35 Rule Changes Now Effective

Rule changes for Chapter 35 became effective May 27, 2008. Several significant changes occurred regarding test wells, monitoring well plugging, legal location reporting as well as other pertinent changes. So please download a copy from our website or request a copy through the mail.

Also, August is the time for all licensed operators to review Chapter 35 for possible rule changes for 2009. The

Well Drillers and Pump Installers Council will meet from August through December to formulate proposed rule changes for the upcoming year. Those proposed changes must be approved by the Board and then submitted to the legislature during the upcoming legislative session. Please feel free to contact one of the Council members or Kent Wilkins, if you have any suggested rule changes.

Bill Seeks Technology to Augment State Groundwater Supplies

A bill passed recently by the State Legislature aims to replenish selected underground water supplies throughout Oklahoma. SB 1410, which received unanimous bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, authorizes the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) to oversee aquifer recharge pilot projects that will channel surface runoff into subsurface cavities and pores for storage and later use. The OWRB will collect and analyze data from the projects and submit the findings to the Legislature, other governmental entities, and the public. The agency is also directed to form a technical workgroup to review findings of the pilot projects as well as assist in selecting potential aquifers and locations for the most feasible recharge demonstration projects.

According to Sen. Susan Paddock, D-Ada, who authored the bill with Rep. Wes Hilliard, D-Sulphur, SB 1410 addresses just one of many future water supply challenges facing Oklahoma. "It's imperative that we aggressively pursue all measures to grow Oklahoma's

water supply. In light of population growth, we must maximize our ability to provide water to our citizens as well as increase our resistance to future drought episodes." The bill was signed by Gov. Henry on April 21 and went into effect immediately.

"Both the spirit of the legislation and the implementation of this technology are entirely consistent with the current update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan, which seeks to establish safe and reliable water supplies for the future of the state and its citizens," says Duane Smith, Executive Director of the OWRB.

"While we strongly advocate additional studies of our aquifers and groundwater basins, especially concerning determinations of their reliability in providing water supply to Oklahomans, we must also investigate technologies, such as artificial recharge, that show promise in augmenting this supply," he points out. Smith adds that the projects will seek to increase aquifer yields for both public water supply and agricultural use. Work should begin soon, he says.