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Kent Wilkins, OWRB
Drillers Program Coordinator



Coordinator's Corner

Kent Wilkins, OWRB Drillers Program Coordinator

2011 brought to Oklahoma one of the worst droughts of record, and many parts of the State are still enduring a severe drought. Weather patterns are extremely unpredictable; we now have to prepare for the occurrence of significant earthquakes. I recently turned 50 years old and experienced the coldest and hottest temperatures of my life, all in the same year!

Most licensed drilling/pump contractor firms have reported that business this past summer was great. Reports of firms having a waiting list from six weeks to three months for drilling a well is a good sign. One firm reported drilling seven stock wells and installing seven solar pumps in seven days.

Please be aware that a number of rule changes were approved during 2011. The primary rule change will hopefully streamline our enforcement capability by allowing field citations to be issued by field inspectors to unlicensed individuals. Other changes include the use of bentonite chips for a filter pack seal and the requirement for monitoring/geotechnical boring firms to file all well reports online. Feel free to give me a call for a copy of the current rules or download Chapter 35 from our website at www.owrb.ok.gov.

The 10th annual Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) Drilling Conference and Exhibition will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman on February 15-16, 2012. The Embassy Suites is a wonderful facility, plan on traveling to Norman this year for an excellent schedule of presenters, exhibits, and topics. This year the OGWA/NGWA are pleased to announce that Marvin Glotfelty, Registered Geologist from Arizona, is the McElhiney Lecturer. Mr. Glotfelty will discuss the economics related to construction of water wells. Check out more conference and association information on the OGWA website at www.okgroundwater.org. Everyone can gain useful information to improve his or her business while obtaining required continuing education credit.

As always, if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at (405) 530-8852.

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2012 OGWA Trade Show and Conference

February 15-16, 2012

Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center, Norman, OK

To register, please contact Sam Wilder or Sunjha Hattin

P.O. Box 75003
Oklahoma City, OK 73147

706 N. Broadway
Oklahoma City, OK 73102,

Phone: (405) 604-0343 Fax: (405) 605-0491 Email: info@okgroundwater.org.

For more information go to <http://www.ogwa.biz>.

2012 Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) Trade Show and Conference

Please join us for the 10th annual Oklahoma Ground Water Association Drilling Conference & Exhibition to be held February 15 & 16, 2012 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Norman, Oklahoma. Don't miss this great opportunity to obtain up to 10 hours of continuing education credit!

On February 15, 2012, all attendees will have an opportunity to attend the 2012 McElhiney Lecture: "Life-Cycle Economic Analysis of Water Wells—Considerations for Design and Construction," presented by Marvin F. Glotfelty, RG. Mr. Glotfelty will show how seemingly more expensive initial water well costs may actually pay for themselves in the early life of the well, in addition to providing ongoing dividends in value and economics for many subsequent years.

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Oklahoma Driller's Log Winter, 2011

J. D. Strong, Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Julie Cunningham, Division Chief
Planning & Management Division

Kent Wilkins
Field Services Section Head

To ensure the integrity of water well construction, and thus prevent potential pollution of state groundwaters, the OWRB supervises the state licensing program of pump installers and drillers of water supply, geothermal, observation, and monitoring wells. The OWRB has published the Oklahoma Driller's Log since 2001 as a source of information for the state's licensed water well drillers and pump contractors. Please e-mail your comments and article ideas to pubinfo@owrb.ok.gov. Visit the OWRB website at www.owrb.ok.gov to access the online well log filing program or the water well record search program, or click on "well drilling" for more information.

2012 Conference . . . (continued)

Special presentations by staff from the US Geological Survey, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, Oklahoma Corporation Commission, and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board covering numerous technical and industry related topics will be available to you. OWRB Rule and Regulations will also be presented both days of the conference.

Registration costs are as follows:

Member with CEUs	\$100
Nonmember with CEUs	\$225
Member without CEUs	\$40
Nonmember without CEUs	\$120

Membership fees: Contractor/Technical - \$100. Manufacturer/Supplier -\$300.

Educational sessions may count towards the Kansas and Arkansas CEU requirements.

To register for the conference, please contact Sam Wilder or Sunjha Hattin at (405) 604-0343 or email to info@okgroundwater.org.

Enforcement of Rules Regarding Well Driller Licensing and Multi-purpose Completion Report Submittal

As part of a recent update of Oklahoma's 50-year Comprehensive Water Plan, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is stepping up measures to ensure water well drilling activities are conducted in compliance with groundwater protection laws at the lowest cost to the industry.

During 2011, new measures were added to state regulations including an administrative fine schedule for unlawful activities and an automated fining process; an online well log reporting requirement; a new 25-foot separation distance between water wells and septic system aerobic spray area; allowance of bentonite chips in monitoring well filter pack seals; and removal of a notary requirement for variance requests.

Regarding state enforcement activities, the OWRB regularly receives complaints from the public regarding unauthorized activities. We ask that if you observe or receive a call from a citizen regarding suspicious drilling activities please contact our office so that we may take action. All reports will be kept anonymous.

Also of great importance, please note that each licensee or certified operator shall file a multi-purpose completion report (with latitude and longitude data) for all drilling activities within 60 days of completion (Please review OAC 785:35-5-3). Fines will be enforced according to the schedule, \$50 to \$250 per offense and acceptable reports must be filed within 30 days of notice.

Lastly, citations will be issued, according to the fine schedule, \$1,000 for the first offense and \$5,000 for subsequent offenses, for unlicensed/uncertified drilling activities, no licensed driller onsite, improper drilling rig identification, and minimum construction and plugging standard violations.

We appreciate your compliance and assistance in keeping licensee standards high and in submitting important groundwater data.

For more information, contact Kent Wilkins or Theda Adkisson at (405) 530-8800.

2012 Update of the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

Download the *OCWP Executive Report* and
13 Watershed Planning Region Reports at www.owrb.ok.gov.

Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan

