From the Eyes of the Field Inspector

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In the recent past, few people worried about their water resources, that they had finite limits, that they could be lost to contamination or outright removal, or that the pressures of a growing population would create physical and chemical stresses on these resources never dreamed of a generation ago. Today, however, a keen awareness of the fragility of these resources has arisen throughout the world.

As a field inspector for the Oklahoma Water Resources Board, I am acutely aware of the many challenges faced by our well drillers to ensure the quality and quantity of our precious groundwaters. Our state has some of the finest well drillers in the country and as I work with an increasing number of these people, I become more and more impressed with the responsible and positive nature with which they approach their profession, especially as it relates to groundwater protection.

As with any profession, there are those who do everything possible to meet or even exceed existing standards. But as we all know, it only takes one “bad apple” to ruin the reputation of us all. To all involved in the drilling process: please take pride in the work you do to protect our precious water resources and don’t be afraid to speak up if you witness someone who is shortchanging the protection process.

When field inspectors show up for a visit, that is your opportunity to share any concerns you might have as a driller. That is also an opportunity for Water Board staff to share concerns and ideas that we think might help make your job easier. A consistent problem faced by...
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program field inspectors is the reading and interpretation of submitted well logs and the submittal of incorrect legal descriptions. If we are forced to spend a large amount of our time looking for a well, that cuts into the number of wells that can actually get inspected. As a field office worker, I ask for your help in these areas.

I want to emphasize that for those of you who do things right, your efforts do not go unnoticed. We also take note of those who try to take shortcuts, and believe me, these mistakes will catch up with you. Implementation of the principles governing the wise use of groundwater will ensure that society will be able to enjoy an undiminished supply of high-quality groundwater now and in the future.

I look forward to seeing you in the field.

Well Driller and Pump Installer Seminars Well-Attended

December was a great month for gathering and exchanging the latest information on well drilling and pump installation. More than 100 licensed operators participated in three workshops conducted across the state in Woodward, Oklahoma City, and Broken Arrow.

Topics of discussion included installation of geothermal wells, rig safety, pump technology, sealing properties, environmental concerns, and rules and regulations. If you missed our sessions this time, we plan on holding future workshops in March 2003. So watch for upcoming events.

Education is a way for each of us to learn new industry techniques and provide better service to our customers.

Thanks go to Phil Polak, Baroid; Dick Greenley, Pumps of Oklahoma; GEFCO staff; Duane Winegardner, Cardinal Environmental; and Dr. Marvin Smith, IGSHPA; for providing educational presentations. And a special thanks goes out to Pumps of Oklahoma for providing lunch at each workshop.