

# OKLAHOMA DRILLER'S LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WELL DRILLER PROGRAM

July  
August  
September  
2002

Danny Ewbank, Chairman  
Water Well Drillers and Pump  
Installers Advisory Council



Published Quarterly  
by the  
Oklahoma Water  
Resources Board  
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Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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## A Call to Oklahoma's Groundwater Industry

*Danny Ewbank, Chairman*

*Water Well Drillers and Pump Installers Advisory Council*

On behalf of the Oklahoma Ground Water Association it is a pleasure to send greetings to our many friends and associates across this state and beyond, whom are so actively involved in the groundwater industry of Oklahoma.

The Association is back! The first informational meeting was held on August 9, 2002. We had a small but supportive group in attendance as some of the goals, purpose and structure of the Association were discussed. I'm not certain whether this

is new birth or resurrection. Either way, the wheels are turning and momentum is gaining, as the new Oklahoma Ground Water Association becomes a reality. As promised in an earlier letter from the Oklahoma Well Driller's and Pump Installer's Advisory Committee, it is our desire to keep you up to speed on the developments and opportunities for service and participation as a member of the Association.

Mark your calendar for October 11, 2002, 2:00 PM, for the next organizational meeting scheduled at the Oklahoma Water Resource Board Conference Room. We are looking for individuals willing to serve on the Board of Directors and would like to have these individuals in place prior to the October meeting. If you or someone you know is interested in submitting your name for voluntary service **please contact us as soon as possible**. This is our most pressing need at the moment. Once the Board of Directors is in place, we will be electing officers at the meeting.

A tentative early March date is being pursued for our first Annual meeting and plans are being formed for educational seminars, displays, and other events. We need people willing to serve on steering

committees for these functions.

We hope that you will take a minute to fill out an application for membership and join us as we unify for the promotion of our industry.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Join Us at the Next Meeting  
of the Oklahoma  
Ground Water Association**  
October 11, 2002 at 2:00 pm  
OWRB Conference Room  
3800 N. Classen Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK

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## Driller Program Survey Results

The OWRB recently completed a survey of the 50 licensed firms that submitted 90 percent of well logs last year. The firms were asked specific questions regarding computer access, Internet access, Global Positioning System (GPS) usage, and which future computer services would be preferred.

The OWRB is currently in the planning phase of providing on-line services that could include (1) summary search for well logs, (2) search and printout of actual well log, (3) on-line filing of well logs, and (4) on-line renewal. Funds from the Well Driller's and Pump Installer's Indemnity Fund would be used to develop the services. The purpose of the survey was to prioritize which services licensed firms would like to initially see in place.

Results indicated that 84 percent of firms surveyed had computers and every firm with computer access also had Internet access. Of the 16 percent without computers, all

stated that they would purchase computers if well searches could be conducted and well logs could be filed on-line; 50 percent of the surveyed firms have and currently use GPS instruments.

In reference to preferred services, survey results indicated that 45 percent of the firms preferred the development of on-line filing of well logs; 32 percent of the firms requested that an on-line summary search program be developed for use by the drillers and the public. Services that received honorable mention were well search with an actual well log (13 percent) and on-line renewal (10 percent).

Based on these results, the OWRB plans to proceed with the development of services that allow the filing of well logs on-line and the capability of searching for well records on-line and obtaining a summary. The OWRB wishes to thank all the firms that took part in the survey by giving of their time and comments.

### PERCENTAGES OF AVAILABLE COMPUTER EQUIPMENT USED BY LICENSED FIRMS\*

Firms With Computer Access	=	84%
Firms With Internet Service	=	84%
Firms With DSL/Cable	=	45%
Firms With Dial-Up	=	55%
Firms With GPS	=	50%

### SERVICES MOST PREFERRED BY LICENSED FIRMS\*

Online Filing	=	45%
Summary Search	=	32%
Search/Electronic Log	=	13%
Renewal	=	10%

\*Results reflect survey comments from top 50 submitters of well logs from January through December 2001; surveyed as of September 9, 2002.

## OWRB Staff Direct Tillman County Well Plugging Demonstration

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board, in conjunction with the Tillman County Conservation District, conducted an abandoned well plugging demonstration on August 21. Mary Stoll, of the Conservation District, identified two abandoned stock wells south and west of Tipton on the property of Herman Jameson for the demonstration. Kim Sullivan and Kent Wilkins, of the Board, provided technical assistance during the demonstration to illustrate the proper plugging procedure for a typical abandoned water well.

According to Wilkins, abandoned, uncapped wells can potentially provide an ideal conduit for contamination to reach groundwater supplies. "While contamination at the surface may require years to leach through the soils to underlying groundwater formations, contamination transported through an unplugged well bore can reach the groundwater in a matter of seconds," he said.



Kim Sullivan (OWRB, center), Steve Rose (Blair Drilling, far right), members of the Tillman County Conservation District, and others were on hand to demonstrate proper plugging of an abandoned water well, southwest of Tipton.

Abandoned wells can also be a physical hazard. "Animals or humans can accidentally fall into unplugged wells, even through bore holes of moderate size, as evidenced by the documented story of the Texas child a few years ago," Wilkins pointed out. The well, like many throughout Oklahoma, was constructed with a relatively small diameter well bore.

In general, proper plugging procedure for an abandoned, uncontaminated well consists of filling the well bore with clay, shale, or bentonite to within 14 feet of the surface. Sand can be used if the well is completed in an alluvial and terrace type deposit, such as the Tillman Terrace groundwater basin. Cement grout shall then be installed from 14 feet to 4 feet. The casing can then be cut off 4 feet below ground and soil can then be placed from 4 feet to the surface.

Wilkins wanted to thank everyone who participated in and attended the demonstration--especially Steve Rose, with Blair Drilling, for donating time, manpower, and equipment.