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- Coordinator's Corner
- Online Well Filing and Well Search Programs Launched
- Oklahoma Ground Water Association 2004 Conference and Trade Show
- Amnesty Period to End for Well Log Submittal

## Coordinator's Corner

*Kent Wilkins, OWRB  
Drillers Program Coordinator*

The rains have finally returned and cooler weather is upon us. I hope everyone has had a productive and safe summer.

I am excited to report that our new online filing system is now available for use by our licensed drillers. Also, the well log search program is available for anyone who has access to the Internet. Thanks to all who participated in the development of the system and especially the licensed firms that contributed monetarily to the Indemnity Fund. I hope the new system is a beneficial and helpful tool for all business owners.

Theda Adkisson licensed approximately 17 new firms and 32 new operators for the first nine months of the year. We are now up to 334 firms and 619 operators licensed in Oklahoma. My hat goes off to Theda for all of her hard work on renewals and maintaining the drillers database.

Fall is also the time for reviewing Chapter 35, Well Drillers Rules and Regulations. The council has developed a list of proposed rule changes for the 2004 session. I have always

maintained that the OWRB will not have a rule just to have a rule. If a rule is unnecessary or in need of revision, we will eliminate or revise it. If anyone has suggestions or comments, please contact me or a council member.

Please remember that the well log amnesty period is still in effect. After December 31, 2003, we will be fining firms that have not turned in logs on wells drilled since January 1, 2000. So take advantage of the new online filing system and submit those logs.

## Online Well Filing and Well Search Programs Launched

On October 1, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board launched two new programs: the Online Well Filing Program and Online Well Search Program. These programs, funded through the Oklahoma Well Drillers Indemnity Fund, will allow drillers to submit information and the public to access information online.

The Online Well Log Filing Program is available only to licensed drillers who have requested a user account. Drillers must submit a signature form with a valid e-mail address and a username. A pin number will then be e-mailed to the e-mail address. The form may be downloaded from the OWRB Web site or requested by mail or telephone. A firm representative will be responsible for all well logs entered under the assigned username and pin. The program contains many built-in features that check the data supplied by drillers, and in many instances, it will 'flag' wells that fail to meet state well construction standards, which could lead to potential pollution of our groundwater resources.

The Online Well Search Program is available for use by any citizen who has access to the Internet. The Program will allow the public to search the agency's extensive database of Oklahoma water wells by well ID number, county, or legal

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*Theda Adkisson and Bob Fabian, with the OWRB Planning and Management Division, test the new online well log filing system.*

**Online Programs . . . continued**

description. The OWRB's database of well logs contains more than 60,000 records of historical and existing wells. Also included is current and historical water well level information gathered through the Board's statewide groundwater level measurement program, which measures the depth to water for more than 1,000 wells each year. Search results can be printed out or downloaded directly into many spreadsheet or database programs.

Prior to implementation of the new online programs, OWRB staff verified, imaged and indexed all incoming well logs, and searched and copied well records requested by the public. (The agency charges a nominal fee for that service.) Savings to the OWRB and state will amount to many thousands of dollars and hundreds of staff hours each year.

To access the OWRB's water well search feature, visit the OWRB's Web site at [www.owrb.state.ok.us](http://www.owrb.state.ok.us).

**Oklahoma Ground Water Association  
2004 Conference and Trade Show**

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association will hold their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Drilling Conference and Trade Show on March 11-12, 2004, at the Francis Tuttle Technology Center, 12777 North Rockwell Avenue, Oklahoma City.

The conference will have numerous workshops with topics ranging from pump installation and water well completion to basic procedures for developing monitoring wells. Drilling demonstrations will also be conducted at the site during the conference.

The workshops can be used to meet requirements for continuing education as required by Oklahoma (beginning July 2004) and the surrounding states. Please come out and support the Association and gain knowledge about the groundwater industry. For further information, contact Danny Ewbank at (580) 227-3205 or P.O. Box 309, Fairview, OK 73737.

**Amnesty Period to End For Well Log Submittal**

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board wishes to remind all water well and monitoring well drillers that the amnesty period for submittal of past due well logs will expire December 31, 2003. The amnesty period began July 1, 2003, and applies to all wells drilled since January 1, 2000.

Beginning January 1, 2004, any licensed firm identified as drilling and completing a water well or monitoring well without properly submitting a well log can be fined \$50 per well and will be required to submit an acceptable report within 30 days. For the second and additional times the penalties are assessed against a licensee, the fine can be increased to \$250 per well.

This new penalty will not impact licensed firms that comply with the current requirement of submitting well logs within 60 days following the completion, plugging, and/or reconditioning of a well. The OWRB appreciates your compliance with submitting this important groundwater data.

