

October  
November  
December  
2003

Kent Wilkins, OWRB  
Drillers Program Coordinator



## Coordinator's Corner

*Kent Wilkins, OWRB  
Drillers Program Coordinator*

I hope all of you had happy holidays. We have much to be thankful for in this great country, and I am really looking forward to the new year and new challenges. Last year was very productive for the Drillers and Pump Installers program. The Well Drillers Advisory Council was successful in proposing and having approved new heat exchange regulations for the geothermal industry. This took a combined effort by industry leaders and the Council, and we can be proud of the new changes implemented.

We can also be proud of our new online well log entry and search programs. Development on the new programs was made possible by use of the Indemnity Fund, which is funded by well drillers and pump installers. We have received enthusiastic reviews for both programs, and if you haven't tried them yet, you should. We finally have a system in Oklahoma where anyone with Internet access can search and download well data.

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association also conducted a very successful trade show and conference last March.

The conference was very educational with attendees receiving information on the latest technology in our industry. This

year's conference in March is expected to be even bigger and better.

We also just concluded our well log amnesty period and I want to thank all the drillers who took the time to review their files and get those older well logs submitted. We now have a good backlog of well logs to enter. This information is very important to everyone in Oklahoma.

We now look forward to 2004 as we prepare for even more positive rule changes, another great trade show and conference, and more upgrades to the online system.

## OGWA Elects New Officers

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) has elected a new President, Robert Keyes. Keyes has been involved with the Association since inception, and previously served as vice-president and chairman of numerous committees. He is currently the President of the Associated Environmental Industries Corporation, headquartered in Norman. He and his family have resided in Oklahoma since the early 1980s.

Other newly elected officers include Donald Hughes (Vice-President), Cheryl Cohenour (Treasurer), and Jerry Black (Secretary).



*Newly elected  
OGWA President,  
Robert Keyes*

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

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- Coordinator's Corner
- OGWA Elects New Officers
- Upcoming OGWA Events
- Proposed Rule Changes for 2004
- Public Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Rule Changes
- Well Log Amnesty Period Ends

### UPCOMING OGWA EVENTS

**March 11-12, 2004**

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Spring Drilling Conference and Trade Show**

Francis Tuttle Technology Center, 12777 North Rockwell Avenue, Oklahoma City. For further information, contact Robert Keyes at P.O. Box 5306, Norman, OK 73070 or at (405) 360-1434.

**February 6, 2004, 1:00 p.m.**

#### **OGWA Regular Board Meeting**

Oklahoma Water Resources Board offices, 3800 N. Classen Blvd., Oklahoma City. The meeting is open to the public. President Robert Keyes extends a special invitation to anyone interested in serving on an Association committee.

## Proposed Rule Changes for 2004

The Well Drillers and Pump Installers Advisory Council and OWRB have proposed several rule changes in Chapter 35 for this upcoming legislative session. The rule changes have been proposed in an effort to improve quality of well construction and to increase professionalism within the industry. Highlights of the proposed changes are listed below:

- Reference by rule National Ground Water Association documents regarding pump installation standards;
- Provide for new distance requirements for water wells being located close to potential sources of pollution;
- Provide for an alternative method for sealing groundwater wells and to clarify sealing requirements when surface casing and production casing are installed;
- Provide construction requirements for sand point wells;
- Provide for permanent rules relating to construction of geothermal/heat exchange wells; and
- Provide for over-drilling requirements for contaminated monitoring wells.

### Public Meeting Scheduled to Discuss Rule Changes

A public meeting will be held in Oklahoma City at OWRB offices on February 3, 2004, to accept public input on the proposed rule changes. Written comments may also be submitted. A complete description of each proposed rule change can be requested by contacting Theda Adkisson at (405) 530-8800.

### Well Log Amnesty Period Ends

The Well Drillers and Pump Installers Advisory Council and OWRB announce that the "well log amnesty period" has ended. The Board wishes to thank all the firms that have taken the time to review their records and provide the Board with well logs not previously submitted. The amnesty period allowed the Board to obtain records on numerous older wells throughout the state.

The Board established the amnesty period from July 1 through December 31, 2003. After that date, any firm identified as drilling a well since January 1, 2000, and not submitting a well log can be fined \$50 for the first infraction and up to \$250 for each additional violation.

Information from well logs is an important resource to the State of Oklahoma, and data is requested daily by consultants, state agencies, drilling firms, and land owners. The OWRB and the state's drilling industry thank the firms who cooperated.

