

OKLAHOMA DRILLER'S LOG

NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WELL DRILLER PROGRAM

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Kent Wilkins, OWRB
Drillers Program Coordinator



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3800 N. Classen Blvd.
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405-530-8800
FAX 405-530-8900

www.owrb.state.ok.us

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Coordinator's Corner

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With a hot dry summer in full swing, representatives from most drilling firms have indicated that business is going well so far this year. If you need assistance with locating groundwater or surface water information, please check out the OWRB's new search/mapping program, appropriately named Water Information Mapping System (WIMS). All

available information such as well records, lakes, streams, or water quality data can be found by using this search program. The WIMS Web site address is www.owrb.state.ok.us/maps/server/wims.php.

All 2006 rules and regulations for Chapter 35 are now effective, so be sure to review them on our web site at www.owrb.state.ok.us/util/rules/rules.php.

Among other highlights, please note that the minimum construction standards for water wells and monitoring wells now direct that cement and water must be mixed before installing in a well for a seal, which means that installing dry cement then adding water is not acceptable. Another change for monitoring wells is that flush mounting of casing is prohibited for monitoring wells installed after July 1, 2006, at concentrated animal feeding operations.

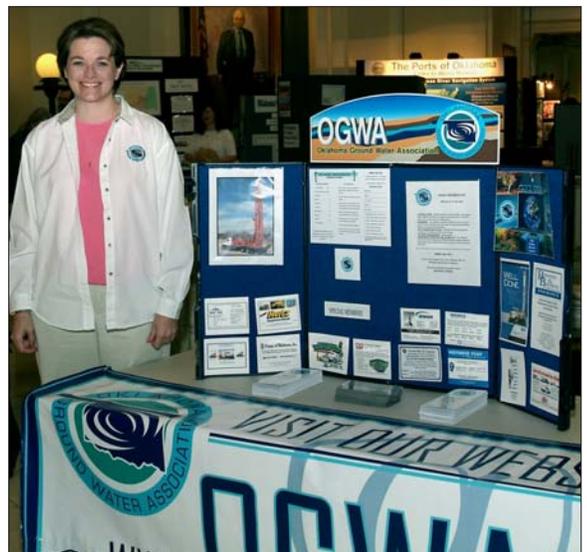
Please feel free to contact me at (405) 530-8800 if you have any questions regarding these rule changes, any other Chapter 35 rules, or the rulemaking process.

Water Appreciation Day Held at the State Capitol

The inaugural Water Appreciation Day, hosted by the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB), was held in the Capitol's 4th floor rotunda in Oklahoma City on April 19, 2006.

This event presented a unique opportunity for groups to demonstrate the importance of Oklahoma's water resources and provide information on water management, conservation, and educational programs for state legislators and other government officials.

The OWRB and the Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) joined numerous agencies and organizations, including individuals representing well drillers, environmental engineers, and other occupations, in showcasing how they protect the state's surface and groundwaters. Visitors to the exhibits included numerous legislators, citizens, school groups, and agency officials.



Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary, at the capitol on Water Appreciation Day

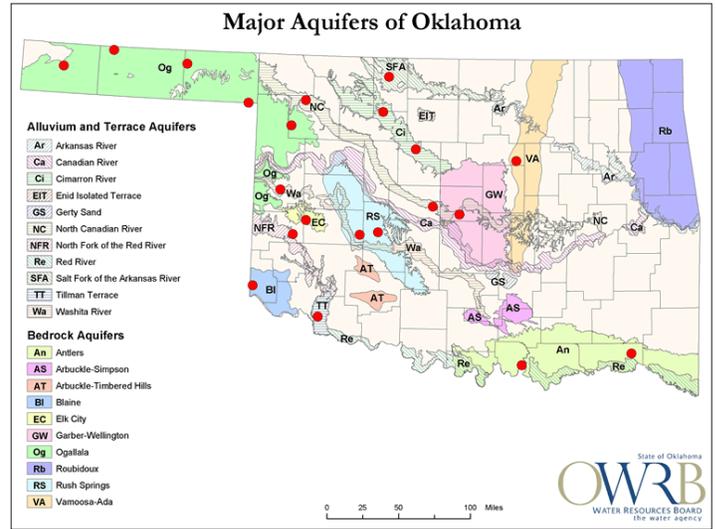
OWRB Responds to Statewide Drought

In response to the ongoing, devastating drought impacting virtually every region in the state, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board is working with citizens and the state's water use community to alleviate water supply problems. The agency is receiving an average of 40 to 50 inquiries each day either reporting drought-related water problems or requesting some type of technical or financial assistance.

The statewide drought has caused severe impacts to domestic and municipal water supplies and has significantly reduced the amount of water available for other purposes. The Palmer Drought Severity Index indicates that eight of Oklahoma's nine climate regions are currently experiencing "extreme" drought, the most severe category of drought. More than 14 inches of rain is required to bring most regions up to normal. Phone calls, e-mails, and personal visits by impacted citizens generally involve dwindling groundwater levels and reduced yields from domestic wells.

Declines in groundwater levels are common during times of drought. They often impact domestic well users first, because their wells are typically not drilled to the total saturated thickness depth of the aquifer. As the density of domestic wells increases in a particular area, and those wells become stressed trying to meet peak demands, declining aquifer levels become more prevalent. Rectifying those situations often requires deepening the well or constructing an entirely new well, although the Water Board encourages individuals to tie onto public water supply systems wherever available.

A wealth of drought, climate and water information is available on the agency's Drought and Water Resources Monitoring Web page. (Go to www.owrb.state.ok.us and click on "Drought Conditions.")



One way the OWRB provides drought monitoring information for the public is by furnishing water level data on the Web site for 21 representative wells (red dots above) from the agency's annual mass measurement program. The program includes a network of 750 water wells statewide that are measured each year for depth to water. Go to www.owrb.state.ok.us/supply/drought/dr8_groundwater.php and click on a site to view data and a hydrograph for each of the representative wells. Additional information on mass measurement program wells is available online through the agency's water well record search application.

This page also includes the Oklahoma Water Resources Bulletin, a regular publication that monitors drought and moisture conditions in Oklahoma. Utilizing data collected from numerous state and federal agencies and organizations, the report contains current information on reservoir storage, stream flow conditions, crop conditions, weather conditions, and related factors.

Citizens with water supply questions or concerns may contact the OWRB by phone at (405) 530-8800 or by e-mail at pubinfo@owrb.state.ok.us.

