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Coordinator's Corner

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Summer is upon us again, but the outlook is quite different from last year! Instead of drought conditions, we are currently experiencing flooding problems. Several areas of the state, including Ottawa, Washington, Comanche, and Bryan Counties, have experienced severe flooding. A positive aspect of the rainfall is that many of the state's groundwater basins are receiving some much needed recharge.

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) provided continuing education classes this summer for all well drillers and pump installers. I would like to thank the OGWA for their efforts to present both educational and informative sessions that were well received by the licensed operators.

Renewal period ended June 30, 2007, for the odd numbered licensed firms. A grace period is extended until July 31, 2007, but after that, firms will not be renewed. Any firm attempting to renew after the grace period will have to reapply and retest, so please renew on time to prevent the assessment of a late fee or requirement of retesting.

The well drillers and pump installers advisory council will begin proposing rules in August, so if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know. And as always, if you have any questions regarding new rules or current rules, please give me a call at (405) 530-8800 or visit our website at www.owrb.ok.gov.

OGWA Presents Continuing Education Classes

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association presented five continuing education courses for licensed operators during the month of June. Classes were held in Woodward, Lawton, Tulsa, McAlester, and Oklahoma City. Attendees were able to obtain either four or five hours of classroom credit depending on the specific class attended.

Instructors included Francis Weedon from Frontier Logging Services, Keith Hall from Franklin Motors, Brad Amen from Pumps of Oklahoma, Lyndon Pence from Baroid Industrial Services, John L'Espoir from Enid Drill Systems, Cheryl Cohenour from Cherokee America Drilling, and Kent Wilkins from the OWRB. Presentations included information regarding electric well log interpretation, constant pressure pumping systems, drill rig safety, construction standards, and drilling fluids.

If an attendee would like a certificate or if you have any questions or comments, please contact Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary at 888-884-6492 or www.ogwa.biz. Also, if you have any suggestions on future educational topics, the OGWA will work hard to present the information beneficial to the drillers and installers in the state of Oklahoma.



Tulsa workshop attendees listen intently while obtaining continuing education credits.

Renewal Period Ends

The Oklahoma Water Resources Board has mailed renewal application forms to all licensed well drilling and/or pump installer firms and operators required to renew in 2007. Please be aware that the odd number DPC licenses expired on June 30, 2007 and a \$200 late fee will be added to the renewal fee. The company and any certified operators working under the authority of the company are no longer authorized to drill wells and/or install pumps in the State of Oklahoma until the license has been renewed.

In accordance with OWRB rules, a 30-day grace period is granted (which began July 1). However, after July 31, 2007, the license becomes invalid and it will then be necessary for the individuals to submit a new application for new license, take the appropriate examination, pay applicable fees and obtain approval for the new license from the Board. Also, documentation of 8-credit hours of continuing education will be required before processing of your renewal application can begin.

If you have any questions, please contact Theda Adkisson, DPC Licensing at (405) 530-8800.

OCWP Local Meetings Give Voice to Public

In April, the first of 42 Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP) local input meetings took place in Beaver, facilitated by the Oklahoma Water Resources Research Institute (OWRRI), with 14 additional meetings held throughout April, May, and June in Goodwell, Woodward, Alva, Sayre, Lawton, Hobart, Weatherford, Altus, Tonkawa, Chickasha, Duncan, Enid, El Reno, and Kingfisher. The meetings, which have been well-attended in every city, will continue through the end of the year, providing citizens across the state with the opportunity to identify issues they believe should be considered in the OCWP update. As was envisioned, citizens are utilizing this forum to voice concerns about existing and potential water problems and contribute possible solutions. Already, the comments of these citizens have helped state water planners better understand what issues are important to the public.

Citizens have raised a variety of issues, some general and others specific to their respective regions. Some of the more common topics for western Oklahomans have included water conservation and education, support for building more reservoirs and flood control structures, and sediment removal from existing structures to increase storage. Current water law and the protection of water rights have frequently been the focus of discussion as citizens consider whether or not Oklahoma's groundwater and surface water laws require review.

Comments can be made in person at the meetings or online at www.okwaterplan.info, where the OWRRI has provided reports



from each meeting and a searchable database of all the issues that have been raised. The Web site also includes information on meeting dates and locations.

After the local meetings are completed, there will be a series of regional meetings to provide area citizens the opportunity to consolidate and prioritize the comments in each region. For more information, contact the OWRRI at (405) 744-9994 or by e-mail at waterplan@okstate.edu. Information packets, comment cards, and nomination forms are also available at Oklahoma County Extension Offices.

UPCOMING OCWP LOCAL INPUT MEETINGS

July 30--Stillwater Payne County Expo Center Community Building	August 7--Shawnee Gordon Cooper Vo Tech Seminar Center	August 23--Kellyville Banquet Hall Creek County Fairgrounds	September 18--Okmulgee Okmulgee County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall	October 11--Eufaula McIntosh County Fairgrounds Show Barn
July 31--Ardmore Ardmore Convention Center Salon D, E	August 14--Chandler Lincoln County Fairgrounds Agri-Civic Center	September 11--Bartlesville Auditorium Tri County Technology Center	September 27--Grove Grove Community Center Room #6	November 1--McAlester Eastern Oklahoma State College Conference Center
August 2--Ada Pontotoc Technology Center Seminar Center	August 21--Pawhuska Osage County Fairgrounds Agriculture Building	September 13--Broken Arrow Meeting Space Nienhuis Center	October 2--Sallisaw Sequoyah County Fairgrounds Community Building	