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## Coordinator's Corner

*Kent Wilkins, OWRB Drillers Program Coordinator*

I hope 2008 was a good year for all involved in the groundwater industry. The downturn of the economy has impacted our industry somewhat, but I look for good things to happen in the near future. The Water Board was again busy this year, licensing 14 new firms and 71 new operators. We also received reports for approximately 10,980 well and boring records for 2008.

Please plan on attending the Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) trade show and conference that will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Oklahoma City, February 19-20, 2009. The Association members have again prepared an excellent schedule of presenters and topics. You can expect to gain useful information to improve your business while obtaining required continuing education credit.

This year the OGWA is pleased to announce that Dr. W. Richard Laton from the National Ground Water Association (NGWA) will be present at our conference. We appreciate the support and assistance from the NGWA. Please check out more conference and association information on the website at [www.ogwa.biz](http://www.ogwa.biz).

Please be aware that a number of rule changes have been proposed for 2009. Feel free to call for a copy or download it from our website at [www.owrb.ok.gov](http://www.owrb.ok.gov). If I can be of any assistance, please contact me at (405) 530-8800 or (918) 429-3605 (cell).

## 2009 OGWA Trade Show and Conference

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) invites you to attend the 7th annual Conference and Trade Show. The conference will be held February 19-20, 2009, in Oklahoma City at the Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center, 737 S. Meridian. Don't miss the opportunity to obtain up to 10 hours of continuing education credit!!

On February 19, 2009, all attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Dr. W. Richard Laton from the National Ground Water Association (NGWA). Dr. Laton will present his discussion on "Boring Logs—What's Important and What's Not—A Scientific Viewpoint". Pump Installers will obtain information from Franklin Electric and Gould Pumps. Drilling operators can gain knowledge by attending sessions on inspection and compliance issues, ODOT record keeping, rig safety, and the sealing properties of bentonite. Geothermal drillers can learn more about ground source heating/cooling systems, grouting procedures and tax credits.

On February 20, Alan Eades with the NGWA will present information regarding the groundwater industry from the national level. OWRB Rules and Regulations will also be presented both days of the conference this year. Participants may attend a number of excellent technical courses for continuing education credit as well.

Registration includes admission to the exhibit hall, all educational sessions, and lunch both days. Educational sessions may count towards the Kansas and Arkansas CEU requirements. Registration costs are as follows: Member with CEUs--\$75, nonmember with CEUs--\$225, Member without CEUs--\$40, nonmember without CEUs--\$120. Membership for a contractor is \$100.00.

For further information contact Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary at P.O. Box 58130, Oklahoma City, OK 73157, (888) 884-6492, or visit the OGWA website at [www.ogwa.biz](http://www.ogwa.biz).

Ground water protection  
is the key focus of

**National Ground Water  
Awareness Week / March 8-14**

Learn more by visiting  
[www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org).

## 2009 Proposed Amendments to Chapter 35

The Well Drillers and Pump Installers Advisory Council and the Board have recommended a number of proposed amendments to Chapter 35 for 2009. The amendments will go before the nine-member Oklahoma Water Resources Board for approval on February 10, 2009, and will then be submitted to the Legislature for final approval. Highlights of the proposed rule changes are as follows:

1. The Board may, after notice and hearing, impose an administrative penalty of up to \$5,000 for any person committing violations or for individuals or firms that do not obtain a license or certification to operate in the State. The proposed language is taken from HB 3135 that was passed by the legislature in 2008 to primarily improve enforcement on unlicensed individuals or firms.
2. The maximum amount that can be expended from the Indemnity Fund to correct or plug a problem well shall be increased from \$5,000.00 to \$15,000.00. The larger expenditure is now necessary for plugging or correcting a significant well problem.
3. The application fee for a monitoring well or geotechnical boring variance shall be increased from \$50.00 to \$150.00. Monitoring well variance requests require a significant amount of time for review and documentation justifying the proposed increase. The water well variance request fee will remain at \$50.00.

For a complete listing of the proposed changes use the following website link: [http://www.owrb.ok.gov/util/rules/pdf\\_rul/2009Proposedchanges/Ch35DrillersLicensing.pdf](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/util/rules/pdf_rul/2009Proposedchanges/Ch35DrillersLicensing.pdf) or contact Kent Wilkins at (405) 530-8800 for a copy.

## Garber-Wellington Water Management Study Initiated

The Garber-Wellington Water Management Study was initiated in June 2008 to address growing concerns about future of water availability in central Oklahoma. The primary purpose of the study is to obtain the necessary hydrologic information to develop a water management plan that will ensure sufficient good quality water to support a growing population and economy.

The four-year investigation is a cooperative effort between the OWRB, Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Oklahoma Geological Survey (OGS), Tinker Air Force Base, and other state and federal agencies. The USGS will be key in developing a groundwater flow model that will be used to predict the impacts of long-term groundwater withdrawals on the aquifer and to simulate water management strategies.

Current efforts include developing the geohydrologic framework and water budget. In February, USGS staff plan to measure water levels in about 300 wells across the aquifer to update the 1986-87 potentiometric surface (water level) map. Comparison of the two maps will provide information on how the aquifer storage has changed over the past 20 years.

Garber Wellington Aquifer

