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 Drillers Program Coordinator



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Coordinator's Corner

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Happy 2014! It's been a cold start to the new year, but several recent events have kept us active. In December, I was honored to be a delegate for the Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) at the annual National Ground Water Association (NGWA) Expo in Nashville, Tennessee. The Expo is a great opportunity to network with policy and industry people from other states and countries.

In January, I had the pleasure of visiting with many of you at the OGWA Trade Show and Conference. The Association elected Kodi Roberts as President and presented Larry Hudgens of Elk City with the Pioneer Award. This year's event included a great line up of speakers and topics. Oklahoma's newly appointed Secretary of Environment and Energy, Michael Teague, kicked things off. J.D. Strong, OWRB Executive Director, also spoke to attendees.

Check out our new Well Driller & Pump Installer Continuing Education web page at www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/wd/DrillerCE.php. The page features links to courses that have been pre-approved for continuing education credit. Please note that up to four of your eight required CEUs can be obtained online.

After many years of service to the WDPI program, Theda Adkisson retired last June. We all wish Theda the very best. The program's new administrative assistant, Whitney Thomason, will now handle licensing of firms and operators, conduct testing, and approve applications. Whitney can also assist with completion of well logs. Please feel free to contact her with any questions concerning firm licensing or operator certification.

Whitney and I can be contacted at (405) 530-8800 or by email at angie.taylor@owrb.ok.gov and whitney.thomason@owrb.ok.gov.

New WDPI Continuing Education Page

The OWRB website has a new web page with information about continuing education for drillers and pump installers, available at www.owrb.ok.gov/supply/wd/DrillersCE.php.

Since 2004, drillers and pump installers have been required to attend at least four units of approved continuing education each year or a total of eight units over two years.

The new page will be dedicated to providing a list of available opportunities to attain these credits, including dates, locations, and contact information for pre-approved courses.

In addition to the pre-approved courses listed on the page, the page contains links to other sites with courses that may be eligible for credit. Please contact Whitney Thomason at (405) 530-8800 or by email at whitney.thomason@owrb.ok.gov to check on possible eligibility of any courses not listed.



The Importance of Proper Well Development

Many drillers and pump installers have pointed out that poorly developed wells can lead to several potential problems. When foreign particles are allowed to enter the well, the result can be significant wear and tear and more frequent pump failures. Incomplete removal of drilling mud deposits can result in clogged gravel packs, bacterial slime build-up, and borehole wall clogging, all of which can reduce the amount of groundwater entering the well screen and lead to poor well efficiency.

Proper well development leads to lower pumping costs, longer pump life, and fewer biological issues. Two important steps for proper well development (except for open-hole

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To ensure the integrity of water well construction, and thus prevent potential pollution of state groundwaters, the OWRB supervises the state licensing program of pump installers and drillers of water supply, geothermal, observation, and monitoring wells. The OWRB has published the Oklahoma Driller's Log since 2001 as a source of information for the state's licensed water well drillers and pump contractors. Please e-mail your comments and article ideas to pubinfo@owrb.ok.gov. Visit the OWRB website at www.owrb.ok.gov to access the online well log filing program or the water well record search program, or click on "well drilling" for more information.

The Importance of Proper Well Development (continued)

completions) are (1) repairing the formation damage due to the drilling process and (2) removing all sediment after completion of the well.

Immediately following the completion of the drilling process and prior to installation of the well screen, well casing, and gravel pack, the drill cuttings and any drilling fluids should be removed. For improved well efficiency, pumping out the well following the completion of drilling could require several hours to multiple days.

After the well screen, well casing, and gravel pack have been installed, the gravel pack must be properly settled around the well screen to increase permeability and maximize stability of water flow. A properly developed gravel pack keeps fine sediments out of the well that restrict or clog the flow of groundwater near the well's production zones.

A typical method for removing sediment and fine particles requires a surge or jet of water or air in and out of the well screen openings. Depending on the characteristics of the formation and both the size and depth of the well, this procedure could take several days. The pump and well must subsequently be disinfected.

Once the well is completed and developed, pump tests can help determine the efficiency and capacity of the well and provide information about the permeability of the aquifer. For a pump test, the well should be pumped at a constant rate or increased at intervals, typically for twelve hours to seven days. The water levels in the well should be checked and recorded frequently as they decline from their standing water level to pumping water level.

Once well development is complete, a specialized video camera can be utilized to check for damage, verify construction details, and make sure all screen perforations are open.

Finally, do not forget to file a well log with the OWRB no later than 60 days following the completion date of the well.

Adapted from the University of California reference sheet "Water Well Design and Construction," available online at <http://anrcatalog.ucdavis.edu/pdf/8086.pdf> (Feb. 2014)

2014 RENEWAL INFORMATION

During the last week of April, the OWRB will mail renewal application forms to all licensed well drilling and/or pump installer firms (the renewal includes the company license and all certified operators) whose license numbers (DPC #) end in an even number. The DPC number and the date of expiration are listed on your license certificate or operator card. You can renew by mail or online as outlined below:

- Review the renewal application to update contact information (i.e., phone number, email, etc.) as well as any operator changes. Return the completed application packet by May 31, 2014 to be eligible for the \$250 submittal fee rate (including one category and one operator).
- Completed application packets received after May 31 thru June 30, 2014, will be eligible for renewal; however, an additional \$150 late fee will apply.
- Applications received after June 30, 2014, are ineligible for renewal and will be considered new applications.
- Each operator listed on the renewal application must have completed eight CEUs between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2014, and copies of the earned CEU certificates and complete fees must be included with the renewal application for it to be considered complete. One hour of CEU must be focused on Rules and Regulations. [See 785:35-3-2(a-b) of Chapter 35.] However, if one more operators associated with a renewing company fails to meet their full eight CEU requirement, the company can choose to pay a \$250 penalty and each violating operator would be required to obtain 16 CEUs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016, and the company could proceed with the renewal. Or the company can make a written request on the renewal form and have those specific operators removed.

PLEASE NOTE: incomplete applications cannot be processed.

To renew online, please go to <http://www.owrb.ok.gov/wd/index.php> or return your completed renewal forms along with the fee and all attachments.

As of July 1, 2014, the license becomes invalid and it will then be necessary for the individuals to submit a new application for a new license, take the appropriate examination, pay applicable fees and obtain approval for the new license from the Board. Also, please take advantage of the online renewal system. Licensed firms may renew their license, update contact information, and delete operators from their own computer. If you have any questions, please contact Whitney Thomason, WDPI Licensing, at (405) 530-8800 or whitney.thomason@owrb.ok.gov.