

OKLAHOMA WATER RESOURCES BOARD WELL DRILLER'S LOG

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NEWSLETTER OF THE OKLAHOMA WELL DRILLER'S PROGRAM



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Coordinator's Corner



Angie Taylor,
Coordinator

I've got some very important dates to remind everyone about in this installment of Coordinator's Corner. First and foremost, it's time for renewals. The OWRB's WDPI program has mailed renewal application forms to both operators and companies with even-numbered licenses. You should be well on your way to finalizing your renewals as the submission deadline to avoid late fees is May 31.

The OWRB and the Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) have teamed up to offer free courses this spring and summer that will discuss topics like Safety at the Drill Site, Variable Frequency of Drives, Fundamentals

of Drilling Properties, Environmental Monitoring, and Oklahoma Rules & Regulations. Visit our [Continuing Education](#) web page for course details. Please note that up to four of your eight required continuing education units (CEUs) may be obtained online.

Finally, it's my pleasure to welcome Brian McDonald to the OWRB WDPI team! Brian joined us this month and we are excited to have him as our new field inspector.

As always, feel free to contact our team with questions concerning firm licensing or operator certification.

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Drill Smart: Proper Well-Site Research and Preparation

When drilling a water well for a private landowner, there are important steps that should be taken before loading up your rig and heading out to the site. Although not all of the following steps are required, every driller should collect as much information as possible about the site prior to the day of drilling.

WHAT KIND OF WELL ARE YOU DRILLING AND WHERE SHOULD IT GO?

Find out in advance if the well is domestic, agricultural/irrigation, public, commercial, or industrial. Ask the owners/customers if they want to meet on-site. Your priority should be to research and assess the site, including the site plan or plat. Begin locating underground utility lines. Try to obtain copies of well and/or septic permits for the property in question as well as surrounding properties, and copies of appropriate local rules and regulations. Note: The contractor is responsible for contacting local authorities to determine if there are licenses, permits, and regulations in addition to State requirements.

WHAT IS ON THE PROPERTY, OR SURROUNDING PROPERTIES?

Be aware of these features if they are in the vicinity: existing or proposed septic systems and their designated repair areas; other waste disposal systems such as cesspools, privies, and/or landfills; buildings with foundations that may be treated with pesticides; easements or right-of-ways; existing or proposed wells and waterlines, as well as springs; surface water bodies or designated wetlands; above ground or below ground storage tanks; agriculture-related sites such as animal feed lots or manure piles.

2014 Renewal Information

The OWRB has mailed renewal application forms to all licensed well drilling and/or pump installer firms whose license (DPC#) ends in an even number. The DPC number and the date of expiration are listed on your license certificate or operator card.

APPLICATION DUE DATES

Return the completed application packet by May 31 to be eligible for the \$250 submittal fee rate, which includes one category and one operator. A \$150 late fee will apply to application packets received from June 1 thru June 30. Applications postmarked on or after July 1 will be considered new applications.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEUs)

Each operator listed on the renewal application must have completed eight CEUs between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2014, with one hour of CEU focused on Rules and Regulations. Copies of the earned CEU certificates must be included with the renewal application. If one more operators associated with a renewing company fails to meet the CEU requirement, the company may choose to pay a \$250 penalty and each violating operator will be required to obtain 16 CEUs from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016. Alternatively, the company may make a written request on the renewal form to have those specific operators removed.

Operators may apply CEUs from the OWRB/OGWA courses listed below to satisfy 2014 renewal requirements. The complete application packet, payment, and attachments must be postmarked no later than seven (7) business days from the date of the course the operator(s) attended.

Drilling Down to the Details: Tips for Arriving on Site

- Make an effort to honor owners' requests **except** where a request violates proper well construction standards and regulations.
- Make certain you're on the correct lot, and locate all property corners/lines.
- The goal is to find a well area, and not just one specific well site.
- Don't forget about topography such as gullies, concave areas, and steep slopes subject to flooding.
- Locate existing septic systems or other pollution sources using available permits **and** a probe rod. Do not rely on old septic permits only.
- Use a tape measure to be certain you can meet required setbacks.

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION PACKET

Review the renewal application for changes to contact information and operators. Applications are available online at <http://www.owrb.ok.gov/wd/index.php>. **Please be aware that you must print and mail the complete application, including payment and attachments, to:**

Attn: Whitney Thomason, WDPI Licensing
Oklahoma Water Resources Board
3800 North Classen Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

If you have questions, please contact Whitney Thomason at (405)530-8800 or whitney.thomason@owrb.ok.gov.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Well Driller's Course (hosted by OWRB and OGWA)

Registration is **free** and begins at 8:00am

Classes are held from 8:30am-12:30pm

May 27 Goodwell

May 28 Woodward

June 4 Wilburton

June 5 Broken Arrow

Visit our [Continuing Education](#) page for course details

May 31 Renewal Application Due (No late fee)

June 10 OK Rules & Regulations Course
Oklahoma Water Resources Board, OKC

June 30 Renewal Application Due (\$150 late fee)

Jan12-13 OGWA 2015 Annual Conference
Embassy Suites, Norman

J.D. Strong, Executive Director
Oklahoma Water Resources Board

Julie Cunningham, Chief
Planning & Management Division

Angie Taylor, Coordinator
Driller/Pump Installer Program

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 comments and article ideas to pubinfo@owrb.ok.gov.