

October  
November  
December  
2007

Kent Wilkins, OWRB  
Drillers Program Coordinator



## Coordinator's Corner

*Kent Wilkins, OWRB Drillers Program Coordinator*

I hope the year 2007 was a prosperous year for all licensed firms. I heard a few complaints regarding muddy conditions, but thankfully rainfall was significantly greater this year and provided some much need groundwater recharge. The Board was busy this year licensing 28 new firms and 56 new operators. We also currently have approximately 114,000 well log records entered in our database.

The OGWA trade show and conference will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Oklahoma City on February 21 and 22, 2007. The Association members have prepared an excellent schedule of presenters and topics. Everyone can surely gain some useful information to improve his or her business while obtaining required continuing education credit. This year the Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) is pleased to announce that the distinguished National Ground Water Association (NGWA) McElhiney Lecturer, Mike Krautkramer, will be present at our trade show. The presence of this

speaker indicates to me that the national association thinks the state association is doing something positive. 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 2008. If you would like a copy, feel free to give me a call or go to our website at [www.owrb.ok.gov](http://www.owrb.ok.gov). As always, if I can be of any assistance, please contact me at (405) 530-8800 or my cell at (918) 429-3605.

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## OGWA Trade Show and Conference

The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) invites you to attend the 6th annual Conference and Trade Show. The conference will be held February 21 and 22, 2008, at The Clarion Meridian Hotel & Convention Center, 737 S. Meridian, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Don't miss this opportunity to obtain up to 10 hours of continuing education credit!

On February 21, all attendees will have the opportunity to hear from Mike Krautkramer, distinguished NGWA McElhiney lecturer. Mr. Krautkramer's presentation is entitled "Decisions in the Water Well Industry." Other presenters include Gould Pumps, H2Optimal, and Franklin Electric, which may be of particular interest to pump installers. Drilling operators can gain knowledge by attending one of the following sessions: Inspection and Compliance Issues, ODOT Record Keeping, Rig Safety, and The Sealing Properties of Bentonite. Geothermal drillers will also have an opportunity to learn more about ground source heating/cooling systems and grouting procedures.

On February 22, Dan Meyers with the NGWA will present information regarding the groundwater industry from the national level. OWRB Rules and Regulations will be presented both days of the conference, and this year, participants may attend a number of excellent technical courses for continuing education credit.

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 \$75.00, nonmember with CEUs \$127.00, Member without CEUs \$37.00, nonmember without CEUs \$75.00. For further information contact Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary at P.O. Box 58130, Oklahoma City, OK 73157 or toll free at (888) 884-6492 or visit the OGWA website at [www.ogwa.biz](http://www.ogwa.biz).

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## 2008 Proposed Rule Amendments

The Well Drillers and Pump Installers Advisory Council has recommended a number of proposed amendments to Chapter 35 for 2008. The amendments will go before the nine-member Oklahoma Water Resources Board for approval on February 12, 2008, and then will be submitted to the Legislature for final approval. Highlights of the proposed rule changes are as follows:

1. Specify that in the continuing education for licensing of well drillers, one unit of the four per year (eight units for the two-year license period) must include a review of OWRB rules about well driller licensing and minimum standards of construction of wells.
2. Add language to allow the OWRB to provide a grace period for license renewal based on military service obligation.
3. Require GPS coordinates to be submitted regarding actual well location beginning July 1, 2009.
4. Reference known contamination areas as listed in Appendix H of Oklahoma's Water Quality Standards.
5. Amend the rule on minimum distance a well must be drilled from pollution source to include

separation distances for aerobic septic systems.

6. Amend the rule on casing of water wells to increase the height above ground level of well casing (from 8" to 12") above the natural ground level, or 8" inches above the floor surface for surface pad completions.
7. Amend the rule on heat exchange minimum standards to clarify that the provisions apply to the drilling of the borehole, installation of casing, installation of heat loop pipe, and the filling and/or grouting of the well, but that the manifolding of loop pipe to complete a heat exchange system is not regulated under the rule.
8. Amend the rule on test hole drilling and plugging requirements to provide more flexibility for plugging.
9. Clarify that the cement grout requirement for plugging monitoring wells to ensure effective grouting for a minimum of 95% of the original drilled borehole depth.

For a complete listing of the proposed changes use the following website link [www.owrb.ok.gov/util/rules/pdf\\_rul/Chapter35\\_amend08.pdf](http://www.owrb.ok.gov/util/rules/pdf_rul/Chapter35_amend08.pdf) or contact Kent Wilkins at (405) 530-8800 for a copy.

## Water Plan Update

In 2007, the Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB) celebrated 50 years as a state agency. As the OWRB begins its next half-century, 2008 promises to be another busy and productive year for the Oklahoma Comprehensive Water Plan (OCWP).

Regional meetings, the second phase of the OCWP public participation process, will be held later this year in each of the eleven sub-state planning districts. Each regional team will consist of 30 representatives of all water-related interests. The teams will review the findings of last year's listening sessions, validate regional issues and concerns, consolidate issues into categories based upon their similarity, and suggest priorities for further consideration in the planning process.

Meeting dates and locations will be posted on OWRRI's Web site at <http://okwaterplan.info> as soon as they are determined. Meetings will be open to the public.

Also in 2008, OCWP activities will include development of water supply and demand projections, as well as, preliminary water supply and engineering studies to help determine the best ways to use and manage Oklahoma's water supplies.