

April
May
June
2009

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Published Quarterly
by the
Oklahoma Water
Resources Board
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Oklahoma City, OK 73118

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www.owrb.ok.gov

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Coordinator's Corner

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I hope everyone is having a great summer. It appears that most everyone is again busy drilling or installing pumps, which is a good sign for the industry. The Oklahoma Ground Water Association (OGWA) just completed a successful summer education program, providing training to over 100 operators. This year, workshops were again held at locations in Wilburton, Altus, and Enid, as well as the usual Tulsa and Oklahoma City locations. 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, 2009, for the odd numbered licensed firms. A grace period was extended until July 31, 2008, but after that, firms cannot be renewed. Any firm attempting to renew after the grace period will have to reapply and retest.

The well drillers and pump installers advisory council will begin proposing rules in September, so if you have any comments or suggestions, please let me know.

Please be aware that the Board is now requiring GPS coordinates for all well records submitted. The new rules were effective July 1, 2009, and are available online or as requested. And as always, if you have any questions, 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 (OGWA) presented five continuing education classes for licensed operators during June of 2009. Classes were held at Franklin Electric in Wilburton, GEFCO in Enid, and other training sites in Altus, Tulsa, and Oklahoma City. Over 100 attendees obtained four hours of classroom credit toward their license renewal requirements.

Instructors included Keith Hall from Franklin Electric, Lyndon Pence from Baroid Industrial Services, Garen Ewbank, and Kent Wilkins/Kim Sullivan from the OWRB. Presentations included information regarding constant pressure pumping systems, pump motors, grouting materials, construction standards, and drilling fluids.

The OGWA is always looking for new topics of interest to the drillers and pump installers. If you have any suggestions please contact Beth Vannoy, OGWA Executive Secretary, at 888-884-6492 or go to <http://www.ogwa.biz/> and click on "contact us."

We are planning to host the workshops during the month of May in 2010 and possibly include a class in the Guymon area. The next OGWA continuing education classes will be presented in Oklahoma City at the 2010 OGWA Trade Show and Conference on February 18-19, 2010.



Attendees gain knowledge of groundwater pump motors from Keith Hall of Franklin Electric.

Oklahoma Driller's Log 2nd Quarter, 2009

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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* quarterly 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 web site at www.owrb.ok.gov and click on "well drilling" for more information or to access the online well log filing program or the water well record search program.

GPS Requirement Effective

The new OWRB requirement for submitting well logs with GPS coordinates went into effect beginning July 1, 2009. The OWRB will no longer accept well logs submitted solely with Section, Township and Range for the legal description. The accuracy level with Latitude and Longitude coordinates will greatly improve the quality of our well log database, while assisting our field inspectors in locating wells.

If you need assistance with operating your GPS unit or have any questions regarding this matter, please contact our office at (405) 530-8800.

Renewal Period Ends

The OWRB has processed all renewal application forms for firms renewing for the 2009-2011 period. Odd number DPC licenses expired on June 30, 2009, which means the firm and any certified operators working under the authority of the firm are no longer authorized to drill wells and/or install pumps in Oklahoma until the license has been reinstated.

After July 31, 2009, the license became invalid and it is necessary for the individuals to submit an application for a new license, take the appropriate examination, pay applicable fees and obtain approval for the new license from the OWRB.

Next renewal period, please take advantage of our new 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 Theda Adkisson, DPC Licensing at (405) 530-8800.

Groundwater Permitting

In Oklahoma, groundwater belongs to the land surface owner and may be used subject to the Oklahoma Groundwater Law. A permit is required for non-domestic use.

The law provides for the OWRB to study the state's aquifers ("groundwater basins") and make determinations of how much can be withdrawn each year (the "maximum annual yield") while assuring that the groundwater basin will last at least 20 years. The maximum annual yield is divided into an "equal proportionate share" for each acre of land over the basin. "Regular" permits are issued for these basins. Generally, the amount of a regular permit is based on the equal proportionate share multiplied by the number of acres owned or leased by the applicant. For example, if the equal proportionate share is 1.5 acre feet and the applicant owns 160 acres, the regular permit will authorize use of 240 acre feet per year.

If an aquifer's maximum annual yield and equal proportionate share have not yet been determined, the law provides that a "temporary" (year-to-year, until the maximum annual yield is finalized) permit can be issued. The law specifies an amount of 2 acre feet per acre of land for temporary permits. Eventually, when the aquifer's maximum annual yield is determined, the temporary permit will be converted to a regular permit and the authorized amount will be adjusted to the equal proportionate share.

In order to obtain a regular or temporary permit, an applicant must prove: (1) the applicant owns or leases the land surface, (2) the land lies over a groundwater basin, (3) the proposed use will be beneficial, and (4) waste of groundwater will not occur (i.e., groundwater will not be wasted due to excessive losses or pollution).