

The Driller's Digest

Volume 7, Issue 2

**** Corrected Copy ****

June 2006

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This newsletter is published as a service to Certified Well Contractors and others in the ground water industry. Suggestions for articles for publication in the newsletter are welcome.

Updated Well Abandonment Form

by Betty Wilcox, Aquifer Protection Section

In May 2006, the Aquifer Protection Section in the Division of Water Quality revised the GW-30, "Well Abandonment Record." This new GW-30 form, Rev. 5/06, is formatted like the newer version of the GW-1, "Well Construction Record", but still contains all the information from the previous version of the GW-30 form. It also includes additional space for permit numbers (if applicable), well identification numbers, and well location.

Please note that permit numbers and well identification numbers should always be obtained from the well owner if a well is associated with a permit. There are a couple of additional items that should be taken note of. The form should always be filled out com-

pletely, including the "Latitude" and "Longitude" sections that help confirm the well location and identification. An additional line has been added in the signature section, "Printed Name of Person Abandoning Well." This line can be filled with the name of an apprentice assisting in the well abandonment, if applicable, to help document experience.

This revised form can be found on the Aquifer Protection Section's website <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/agw.html> under **Well Information**: "Well Forms, Records and Applications." Aquifer Protection Section Staff are also available at (919) 733-3221 if you have questions or need assistance.

Children's Water Festival Coming to North Carolina

by Wilson Mize, WCC Staff

The 2007 Children's Water Festival, tentatively scheduled for October 2007, is modeled after the internationally acclaimed Children's Groundwater Festival, now in its eighteenth year. The festival will enable 5th graders in the Salisbury/Rowan area to spend several hours exploring water through interactive dynamic activities; learn about drinking water, groundwater, watersheds, surface water, and water quality topics in exciting presentations; and gain a better understanding of your water supply and greater appreciation for what a truly precious resource it is.

Staff recently visited the 2006 Children's Water Festival hosted by Chesapeake College, located in Wye Mills, Maryland. It was truly an amazing event as 1,745 children were taught how to make edible aquifers, played

water jeopardy, learned how drill rigs operate, and enjoyed more than 30 hands-on activities presented by water and natural resource experts. The goals of the festival are to be fun and memorable, connect students and experts, encourage education outside the classroom, meet a growing concern for the environment, and encourage behavior change.

The results of a festival impact study, originally conducted in 1994 and updated in 2002, showed that the festivals provide consistent, statistically significant increases in student understanding of water resources and ways to conserve and protect water.

After successful completion of the Children's Water Festival in the western portion of the state, the Water Sys-

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Summary of Civil Penalty Assessments

Penalties for violations of NCGS Chapter 87, Article 7A and NCAC Title 15A, Chapter 27 vary depending upon the particular facts and circumstances present in each case. Note: only finalized uncontested cases or cases not seeking remission and at the collection stage are included in this list (payment of fines and corrections of violations may already have occurred).

Alan S. Gantt

Rutherford County, NC. Allegations of misconduct violating 15A NCAC 2C. Violations include failure to properly grout a well. Assessed a civil penalty of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). **Effective Date 8/31/05 Case #2C 2005-0008.**

Ronnie Ball

McDowell County, NC. Allegations of misconduct violating 15A NCAC 2C. Violations include failure to properly grout a well. Assessed a civil penalty of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). **Effective Date 8/31/05 Case #2C 2005-0009.**

Professional Development Hours May Be Completed Online

by International School of Well Drilling

The International School of Well Drilling has announced today that 16 states have approved the delivery of professional development hours online for well drillers and pump installers.

This is great news for well drillers and pump installers who have told ISWD that they are extremely busy and, in some cases, did not have a clue how they could possibly take the time away from their businesses to obtain the professional development hours needed to renew their licenses.

Since offering this service in July 2005, hundreds of drillers from across the nation have chosen to complete their professional development hours online with ISWD.

Among the states currently permitting professional development hours to be completed online are: Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oregon, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wisconsin. And many more states are currently in the approval process.

ISWD Vice President, John Mastropietro, explains that this is an opportunity for well drillers and pump installers throughout the nation to *Learn and Earn*: *Learn* valuable information in areas such as well construction history, well development, injection wells, well rehabilitation, geothermal heating & cooling systems, to name but a few; and *Earn* your required

professional development hours without interrupting your workweek or without leaving your own home.

John says that a driller or pump installer should choose ISWD because they have experience delivering online professional development hours to the water well industry, all professional development topic choices are directly related to the well drilling industry and all topics are well written, easy to understand and interesting.

You can review the courses offered by ISWD by visiting their site at www.welldrillingschool.com

Certification Exam Changes

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

The Well Contractors Certification exam currently references three books from the National Groundwater Association (NGWA). One of those books, "Well Drilling Manual" will no longer be available. In response, the Well Contractors Certification Commission (WCCC) has been working diligently to take this opportunity to revise the exams.

As part of this process, we plan to change the NGWA references from the three books, to one widely known book: "Groundwater and Wells" (second edition) by Fletcher G. Driscoll. This new book should prove to be an excellent reference worth keeping long after an exam is passed. The next scheduled exam is set for August 7, 2006. After this exam, the WCCC plans to roll out the revised versions of the exam with this new reference book in place.

Children's Water Festival Coming to North Carolina

(Continued from page 1)

tem's Council hopes to find a location in the eastern portion of the state in order to educate as many students as they possibly can. If you have any ideas for the next festival location please feel free to pass this information to the WCCC staff and they will discuss future locations with the Water Systems Council.

An event such as the Children's Water Festival is an excellent opportunity to teach young students the importance of preserving and conserving our groundwater for future generations. However, such a festival requires a great deal of time and effort. If anyone would like to volunteer or make donations please contact WCCC staff and they will put you in contact with someone from the North Carolina Children's Water Festival planning committee. For more information on the Children's Water Festivals, please visit www.waterfestivals.org.

Welcome New Commission Members

by Wilson Mize, WCC Staff

The Well Contractors Certification Commission would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest commission members. Elmer Newman, Balinda Ferree, and Bill Hamlin have come on board with the WCCC in order to replace Wilson Martin, Connie Pixley, and Gene Everette.

Commissioner Newman is one of the seven original members appointed to the WCCC in 1998. This is Commissioner Newman's second appointment to the commission and we are truly grateful to have access to his wealth of knowledge concerning the well drilling industry.

Commissioner Ferree is an Environmental Health Specialist for Randolph County with years of experience dealing with environmental health concerns. Commissioner Ferree's knowledge of well inspections and permitting will be beneficial in assisting the commission in making important decisions.

Commissioner Hamlin occupies the public member seat on the commission and is a retired employee of R.J. Reynolds after 39.4 years of service. The commission greatly appreciates Commissioner Hamlin's input as a representative of the general public.

Water In The News

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

The News & Observer newspaper has recently published a number of articles on water testing, wells, arsenic, and the need for effective county programs. You can find information on these articles and other news online at Newsobserver.com under keyword "water."

Certification Clarifications

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

Well contractor activities include the construction, installation, repair, alteration, or abandonment of any well.

- Hydrofracturing/ dynamiting wells to rehabilitate them would be a form of repair or alteration of a well and thus would be considered a well contractor activity.
- Installation of a caisson, piling, or structural pier is exempt from requiring a certified well contractor. (G.S. 87-98.4)

North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission

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Telephone: (919) 733-7015 x521 Fax: (919) 715-1769

Commission Members

- Mike Floyd, Chairman** - Charlotte, North Carolina
- David Hutson, Vice Chairman**- Durham, North Carolina
- Greg Bright**- Louisburg, North Carolina
- Balinda Ferree**- Asheboro, North Carolina
- Bill Hamlin**- Dobson, North Carolina
- Bill Magette** - Ahoskie, North Carolina
- Elmer Newman**- Elkin, North Carolina

WCCC Staff (DWQ / PTIM / WCCC)

- Joanne Rutkofske** (919) 733-7015 x521 (CE, general info.)
Joanne.Rutkofske@ncmail.net
- Wilson Mize** (919) 733-7015 x546 (enforcement)
Wilson.Mize@ncmail.net
- (vacant)** (919) 733-7015 x531 (pump installer reg.)

Certification Numbers Update

Total number certified.....	1051
Total number of applicants for certification.....	33
Approved to take exam.....	23
Applications pending.....	9
Certifications currently suspended.....	4

NC Division of Water Quality Aquifer Protection Section (APS)

For assistance with well construction problems, or questions about well construction rules, contact your regional office- Aquifer Protection Section at:

<u>Asheville</u>	828-296-4500
<u>Fayetteville</u>	910-433-3300
<u>Mooreville</u>	704-663-1699
<u>Raleigh</u>	919-791-4200
<u>Washington</u>	252-946-6481
<u>Wilmington</u>	910-796-7215
<u>Winston-Salem</u>	336-771-5000

APS website: <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/aps>

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Staff Moving !

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

Currently, WCC staff is looking at the possibility of moving into the Ashely House with the Technical Assistance & Certification unit (staff for the Wastewater Treatment Operators Certification Commission). Both groups are part of the Personnel, Training and Information Management Group within the Division of Water Quality. This move would allow easier access to our shared cardmaker and will enable the two groups to combine a support staff position. Staff is considering mid-August as a potential move time; we will include any new information in future editions of the Drillers Digest.

New Renewal Cards

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

Commission staff, in conjunction with the Technical Assistance & Certification unit, are in the process of acquiring a new cardmaker to be shared by the two groups. The new cards will be sized to actually fit in your wallet and staff will have the capability to add the contractor's photo for improved identity verification. The new cardmaker also can add a barcode which may be used at sponsored continuing education events to ease registration of attendees. If everything goes as planned, staff expects to roll out the first batch of new cards around the third week of June.

Moving? New Job?

Please let WCCC staff know of any home or work address changes within 30 days of the change [*as per 15A NCAC 27.0601 (d)*]. Please include your old address, the new address and any phone # changes. This information can be faxed to us at 919-715-1769, Attn: WCCC

Connections Section

The WCCC does not endorse or verify the accuracy of the following products/services/advertisements:

Successful Geoprobe Company for sale. Located in the Raleigh area. Please fax request for information to 919-821-2324

To Report Violations or Uncertified Well Contractors Call (919) 733-7015 x546