

The Driller's Digest

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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.

Continuing Education Workshop

by Preston Lee Phillips, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Pembroke

A Well Drillers Workshop is scheduled for early January 2007 in Pembroke, NC.

Drs. Martin Farley and Lee Phillips, and Ms. Rachel McBroom, UNCP faculty members, were awarded a grant through the National Science Foundation - GEO – Opportunity for Enhancing Diversity for a project titled, “Life of the Aquifer: Using local groundwater data to introduce students of underrepresented groups to geology.” The project is focused on better equipping and preparing Robeson County Earth Science teachers for the classroom.

As part of this initiative they seek to install shallow (10-20') monitoring wells on the campuses of six Robeson County High Schools. While the grant funded purchase of materials needed

for these wells, it does not fund the actual drilling. Consequently, they seek volunteers from the well drillers community to help with the installation.

In return, they are hosting a well drillers workshop in early January 2007. The cost to attend this workshop is free for the first drillers to volunteer their services to support educational enhancement efforts. The workshop is not limited to volunteers only; others may attend at \$20 for 6 – 8 professional development hours. Part of these funds will be used to purchase a GPS unit that will be given away as a door prize at the end of the workshop. Additional information will be posted on the web at: www.uncp.edu/geo. You may also contact Dr. Phillips by phone (910.522.5787) or email (lee.phillips@uncp.edu).

House Bill 2873, Safe Drinking Water/Private Wells

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

House Bill 2873 was passed in July 2006 and will go into effect July 1, 2008. This bill requires all 100 North Carolina counties to have a well regulation program. Each county program will include permitting, water testing, and inspections.

The county health department will conduct a field investigation of a site before issuing a well construction permit.

Once a drinking water well is completed, the local health department will inspect it to ensure it was constructed in compliance with the requirements of the construction permit. (The Environmental Management Commission will adopt rules specifying these require-

ments.) Upon passing the inspection, a certificate of well completion will be issued and the well can be placed into service.

Within 30 days after the certificate of well completion is issued, the local health department, or designee, will conduct water testing. The water will be tested for arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, fluoride, lead, iron, magnesium, manganese, mercury, nitrates, nitrites, selenium, silver, sodium, zinc, pH, and bacterial indicators. (The Commission of Health Services will adopt rules specifying the allowable limits of these parameters.) The results of the water test will be

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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)

JEFF LEE

Orange County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). **Effective Date 5/11/06 Case #WCCC 002-06.**

MITCH COPELAND

Currituck County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). **Effective Date 6/06/06 Case #WCCC 003-06.**

KERMIT BALLANCE

Cumberland County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). **Effective Date 5/31/06 Case #WCCC 004-06.**

JOEL WALKER

Currituck County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of four thousand dollars (\$4,000.00). **Effective Date 5/20/06 Case #WCCC 005-06, 006-06, 007-06, and 008-06.**

WAYNE HOLMAN

Ashe County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of five hundred dollars (\$500.00). **Effective Date 10/06 Case #WCCC 009-06.**

GREG HAYES

Cumberland County, NC. Allegations of contracting without the benefit of certification in violation of 15A NCAC 27. Assessed a civil penalty of one-thousand dollars (\$500.00). **Effective Date 6/06/06 Case #WCCC 010-06 and 011-06.**

“But if you ask what is the good of education in general, the answer is easy: that education makes good men, and good men act nobly.”

Plato

Appalachian District Well Program

by Chris Brantley, Watauga County Health Department

The Appalachian District Health Department has adopted a local well ordinance that will go into effect January 2007.

Any well that is drilled in Alleghany, Ashe, or Watauga County after January 1, 2007 will be required to have a permit prior to the well's being drilled and constructed.

The Appalachian District Health Department's ordinance is designed for the property owner to apply for the permit and pay the fee prior to the driller being involved so that any limitations of the site will be identified and any special requirements for the well construction will be noted for the driller.

Drillers will be responsible to schedule a grouting inspection after the casing is set. If you should have any questions or concerns with the Appalachian District Health Department's well ordinance, please contact Christopher Brantley at 828-264-4995, 8-9am.

Certification Clarifications

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

Well contractor activities include the construction, installation, repair, alteration, or abandonment of any well. The following are some of the activities that have been exempted from the certification requirement (as per G.S. 87-98.4(b), house bill 1096):

- Construction, repair, or abandonment of a well used for a temporary dewatering activity that is associated with the construction of a borrow pit if the dewatering activity is located within 15 feet of the proposed perimeter of the borrow pit.
- Construction, repair, or abandonment of a well used for a temporary dewatering activity that is associated with and necessary to complete construction of a utility distribution system or collection system, a building or other structure, or a transportation system, if all the following conditions are met:
 - a. The dewatering well is constructed solely for the purpose of removing water from or lowering the water table in the immediate area of the construction activity.
 - b. The dewatering well is located within 25 feet of the excavation and is not greater than 25 feet deeper than the excavation.
 - c. The dewatering well is abandoned in accordance with the following conditions:

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Radon-222

Paper by Ted Campbell, DENR-Division of Environmental Health, Radiation Protection Section

(excerpt)...“Elevated levels of naturally occurring carcinogenic radionuclides are found in ground water and indoor air (radon) in the Blue Ridge and Piedmont Provinces of Western North Carolina. This is due to the presence of uranium rich rocks – including granites and gneisses - across much of the region. Ductile and brittle faulting also is common in the area and may increase the mobility of radionuclides in ground water and air.

About half of the citizens of Western North Carolina rely on ground water as their principal drinking supply. Existing data from public and private wells in the region indicate that elevated concentrations of dissolved uranium, radium, and gross alpha-particle activity occur locally, and elevated concentrations of dissolved radon-222 (radon) are widespread.

Anecdotal evidence suggests that few residents are aware that their domestic ground water supply may be contaminated with elevated levels of naturally occurring radon or other radionuclides. Radionuclides are human carcinogens and have been linked to bone, kidney, and lung cancers, among others. To protect the public from these health hazards, public water suppliers are required to collect radionuclide samples at regular intervals as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) “Radionuclides Rule” (EPA, 2000)”...

The full text of this research paper, and more on this and other research topics can be found online at: the Division of Water Quality’s website <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us> under Hot Topics. Also on the Aquifer Protection Section’s website <http://h2o.enr.state.nc.us/APS> under Groundwater Protection Unit, Special Projects.

Commission Member Leaving

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff



The Well Contractors Certification Commission would like to take this opportunity to say farewell to Commissioner Balinda Ferree. She has decided to retire after 29 years as an Environmental Health Specialist with the Randolph County Health Department. She will continue to serve on the Commission until her replacement is appointed. Balinda is an avid bird watcher and plans to continue being actively involved with many environmental issues.

North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission

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Telephone: (919) 733-0026 Fax: (919) 733-1338

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) 733-0026 x315 (CE, general info.)
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Wilson.Mize@ncmail.net
- Sonja Grisle-Okumu** (919) 733-0026 x0 (pump installer)
Sonja.Grisle-Okumu@ncmail.net

Certification Numbers Update

Total number certified.....	989
Total number of applicants for certification.....	51
Approved to take exam.....	28
Applications pending.....	23
Certifications currently suspended.....	5

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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Keeping Halloween Safe

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

Along with the traditional reflective tape and flashlights, there are other ways to help keep our children and pets safe this season... abandoning wells. Old wells that are no longer in use should be properly abandoned to avoid becoming a channel for contamination or even a serious safety hazard. You have all heard the stories (and maybe seen a horror movie or two) about some kid falling into an old well that was not properly abandoned and had been long since forgotten. When speaking with homeowners on how to care for their new well, please stress the importance of abandoning an old well that will no longer be in use. Make the world safer one well at a time.

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 919-733-1338, Attn: WCCC

Certification Clarifications
(Continued from page 2)

dance with rules governing the abandonment of wells adopted by the Environmental Management Commission pursuant to G.S. 87-87 within 30 days of installation of the well or within 10 days of completion of the project, whichever is later.

- Installation of a cathodic protection anode.
- A person who constructs, repairs, or abandons a well that is located on land owned or leased by that person. *(but they still have to follow 2C well construction rules!)*

These general statutes can be found online at www.NCwelldriller.org under "Regulations", "General statutes- Exemptions."

House Bill 2873
(Continued from page 1)

given to the homeowner.

This article is just a brief overview of the bill. The full text of this bill can be found online at www.ncga.state.nc.us by entering **H2873** in the bill look-up box.

To Report Violations or Uncertified Well Contractors Call (919) 733-0026 x302