

# The Driller's Digest

Volume 8, Fall/Winter Issue

October 2007

Published by the North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission



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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.*

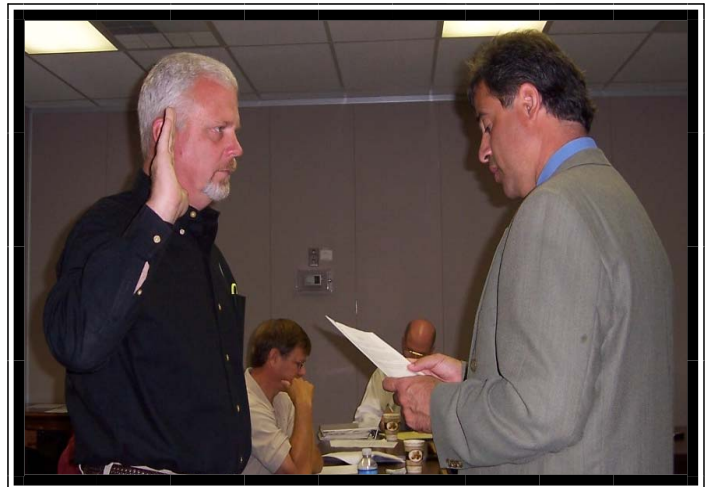
## Commission Member Changes

by Drew Morgan, WCC Staff

The Commission would like to welcome Mr. Benford Graham, president of Graham & Currie Well Drilling Company. Mr. Graham was sworn in at the September Commission meeting by Bill Saffo, Mayor of Wilmington. Graham & Currie Well Drilling Company has conducted work all over the Southeast including water well & water system installations, environmental, geotechnical and more. They are also experienced with a variety of drilling methods including air, mud rotary, and cable tool drilling.

The Commission would also like to congratulate Mr. Bill Magette, Jr., of Magette Well & Pump Company, on being sworn in for a second term at the September meeting.

We must bid farewell to Mr. David Hutson, of Acme Well Company, as his second term has expired and would like to thank him for his years of service to the Commission and the profession. Chairman Mike Floyd presented a plaque to Mr. Hutson in honor of his service. Mr. Hudson was an active member of the Commission, serving on the Review Committee and acting as a Commission representative during the recent stakeholders meetings on the 2C well construction rules changes.



## Is This Going to be a Public Water Supply Well?

by Allen Clark & David May, WaRO

Public water system means a system for the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption if the system serves 15 or more service connections or which regularly serves 25 or more individuals. Be aware that wells for public water systems have to meet certain setbacks and other requirements that are regulated by the Public Water Supply Section. Before you drill a water supply well, you are encouraged to determine what the wa-

ter supply well will be used for to ensure that owner's needs can be satisfied.

Under 15A, Subchapter 18C of the North Carolina Administrative Codes, Section .0203,

Any site or sites for any water supply well to be used as a community or non-transient, non-community water system shall be investigated by an authorized representative of the **North Carolina Division of Environmental Health**. Approval by the Division of Environmental Health is required in addition to any approval or permit issued by any other state agency.

## 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).*

### DONALD SWEETING

Onslow County, NC. Allegations of misconduct violating of 15A NCAC 2C. Violations include failure to grout a well a minimum of 20 feet and no GW-1 submitted. Assessed a civil penalty of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00). **Effective Date 6/11/07 Case #2C 2007-0008.**

### HAROLD WINKLER

Burke County, NC. Allegations of misconduct violating of 15A NCAC 2C. Violations include animal waste dumped into a bored well. Assessed a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00). **Effective Date 5/18/07 Case #2C 2006-0004.**

### RONNIE BALL

McDowell County, NC. Allegations of misconduct violating of 15A NCAC 2C. Violations include failure to case a well a minimum of 20 feet. Assessed a civil penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00). **Effective Date 8/24/06 Case #2C 2006-0006.**

## Enforcement

by Drew Morgan, WCC Staff

The WCC staff is here to assist well contractors in any way possible. Chapter 27 (Well Contractor Certification) violations are processed through our office. If you know of or see an un-certified driller please call it in. Certification is here to help protect the water supply, public health and the profession. Certification staff can be reached at 919-733-0026.

Subchapter 2C (Construction Standards) violations may be reported to this office, but must be processed by the appropriate Regional office or Local Health Department.

A \$1,000 penalty may be assessed for performing or offering to perform well contractor activities without certification. The Commission may also take disciplinary action on the certification of those repeatedly violating the 2C well construction standards.

## Certification Rule Changes

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

The Chap. 27 Well Contractor Certification Rules are currently undergoing changes. The main focus of these rule changes is to split certification into four different levels. The new levels include:

**Level A**– Includes all well contractor activities.

**Level B**– Includes all well contractor activities except air and mud rotary.

**Level C**– Includes grouting, well abandonment, hydrofracturing, rehabilitating a well due to biofouling, well development (eg.- pumping or surging), packer and liner installations, extending casing above land surface, and all Level D activities.

**Level D**– Includes breaking a well seal to perform activities such as pump repair, well chlorination, and using a down-hole camera in a well.

Experience requirements and renewal fees will be reduced for the lower levels and a field observation will be added to the requirements for obtaining Level A. Currently certified well contractors will “grandfather in” to the new levels. Also, those registered as pump installers for the past 5 years will qualify to “grandfather in” to Level D certification.

Public hearings for these rule changes are currently scheduled for:

Nov. 9, 2007– Archdale Bldg., Ground Floor Hearing Room, 512 N. Salisbury St., Raleigh, NC

Nov. 14, 2007– Asheville Regional Office, 2090 US Hwy 70, Swannanoa, NC

Nov. 16, 2007– Washington Regional Office, 943 Washington Square Mall, Washington, NC

The public hearings are of course open to the public and you are encouraged to attend. You may also submit written suggestions to certification staff thru December 14, 2007. The proposed rule changes can be viewed in their entirety online at [www.NCwelldriller.org](http://www.NCwelldriller.org) under “Regulations” then “Proposed Chap. 27 Rule Changes.” If you do not have internet access, staff can also fax a copy upon request.

These proposed rule changes may go into effect as early as the 2008 renewal. Please pay attention to the renewal notice you receive this coming May. Details on the conversion from our current general certification into a new more specific level will be outlined there.

## Continuing Education– Renewal Requirement and Exemption

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

All certified well contractors should be familiar with the continuing education requirement. Eight (8) PDH need to be earned for each certification period. The renewal deadline and deadline for earning continuing education are the same, June 30th. But did you know that PDH was not a *renewal* requirement?

A well contractor could pay their renewal fee to renew certification even if the required PDH had not been earned. The PDH deficiency would then be handled separately through disciplinary action by the Commission, including a possible suspension. In August 2007 Senate Bill 844 was ratified. In this bill General Statute 87-98.7(b) was changed to read ...”A certificate shall be renewed annually by payment of the annual fee and proof that the applicant has completed any professional development hours as may be required by the rules of the Commission.”... This means starting with the 2008 renewal, you must have your PDH hours completed *before* being able to renew. If continuing education is not earned by the June 30th deadline you will not be able to renew.

Another change in Senate Bill 844 was to extend the continuing education exemption until September 2010. This exemption applies to well contractors that are 70+ years old, have been engaged in well contractor activities for at least 20 years, and have had no violations for the past 10 years. Staff can supply you with a form to apply for this exemption if you feel you qualify.

## Are We in the Capacity Use Area?

by Allen Clark & David May, WaRO

There are 15 counties located in the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area (CCPCUA). In addition to obtaining a well construction permit from the Division of Water Quality, all ground water users using more than 100,000 gallons per day within the CCPCUA are required to apply for and obtain a water use permit in order to continue withdrawing. Regulated withdrawals include those from a well, a group of wells operated as a system, or a sump. The water use permit is issued and regulated by the **North Carolina Division of Water Resources.**

In addition to this permit, annual registration and reporting of withdrawals is required. The Environ-

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## North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission

1618 Mail Service Center / Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1618

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

### Commission Members

- Mike Floyd, Chairman** - Charlotte, North Carolina
- Elmer Newman, Vice Chairman** - Elkin, North Carolina
- Greg Bright** - Louisburg, North Carolina
- Balinda Ferree** - Asheboro, North Carolina
- Benford Graham** - West End, North Carolina
- Bill Hamlin** - Dobson, North Carolina
- Bill Magette** - Ahoskie, North Carolina

### WCCC Staff (DWQ / BOG / WCCC)

- Joanne Rutkofske** (919) 733-0026 x315 (CE, general info.)  
Joanne.Rutkofske@ncmail.net
- Drew Morgan, R.S.** (919) 733-0026 x302 (enforcement)  
Andrew.Morgan@ncmail.net
- Gail Winley** (919) 733-0026 x0 (pump installer)  
Gail.Winley@ncmail.net

## Certification Numbers Update

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Total number certified.....                       | 987 |
| 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>Mooresville</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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## New Staff

by Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

There have been multiple staff changes since last issue. First, Ms. Gail Winley arrived to take on the staff administrative duties for the Commission. Ms. Winley was previously with the Department of Corrections. All pump installer registration inquiries can be directed to Ms. Winley.

Second, Mr. Andrew (Drew) Morgan, R.S. came aboard as the new enforcement specialist. Mr. Morgan has several years experience as a registered sanitarian including well inspections with the Durham County Health Department.

In June, 2007, the WCC staff was moved under the supervision of Jerry Rimmer. Mr. Rimmer has been the supervisor for the Technical Assistance and Certification Unit (TACU) since November, 2004. With 30 years in environmental management he looks forward to working on the water supply side of the plumbing. Mr. Rimmer may be contacted at (919) 733-0026 x309 or [Jerry.Rimmer@ncmail.net](mailto:Jerry.Rimmer@ncmail.net).

*Are We in the Capacity Use Area?  
(Continued from page 3)*

mental Management Commission has designated the following 15 counties as the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area and approved the rules that create a ground water use permitting process. The rules became effective August 1, 2002.

Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, Washington, Wayne, and Wilson counties fall within the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area.

**Please be aware that issuance of a well construction permit from the Division of Water Quality does not imply that the Division of Water Resources will issue a water use permit.**

Therefore, you may wish to secure applicable permit from the Division of Water Resources prior to constructing a large capacity production well to ensure that the well can be used for its intended purpose. More information on the Central Coastal Plain Capacity Use Area can be found at: [http://www.ncwater.org/Permits\\_and\\_Registration/Capacity\\_Use/Central\\_Coastal\\_Plain/](http://www.ncwater.org/Permits_and_Registration/Capacity_Use/Central_Coastal_Plain/)

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