



WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Spring - 2015

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Yellowstone Controlled Groundwater Area

Are you prepared to encounter artesian pressures, hot water, or maybe heaving sands? These are all possibilities when drilling in the Yellowstone Controlled Groundwater Area (YCGA). Along with being prepared for extreme drilling conditions, some permitting requirements exist that you should know about.



MBMG Yellowstone Controlled Ground-Water Area

A Controlled Groundwater Area was established in the vicinity of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) in January 1994. This area is in portions of Montana that are within about 16 miles of YNP's boundary and includes Cooke City, Gardiner, West Yellowstone, and the Corwin Springs area. The purpose of the YCGA is to protect the geothermal features in YNP from being affected by groundwater withdrawals from wells. The YCGA was created through negotiations between the State of Montana (Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission) and the National Park Service. Certain restrictions, limitations, and requirements for new wells in this area exist that you be aware of.

Persons intending to use groundwater in the Area are required to apply for a water-use permit **before** putting any water to use. The groundwater temperature and specific conductance must be measured and reported to the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT DNRC). The MT DNRC has asked area drillers for

assistance in obtaining these measurements. Per Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM 36.12.1206), the temperature that must be reported on the well log report form is of the water produced when the well is completed. This should be taken at the end of an air test or pumping period and only after the temperature of the water has remained constant for several

minutes. The water sample for specific conductance must be collected and recorded using the same procedure. The temperature of the water could increase during an air test if the air is hot and especially if the yield of the well is low. Therefore, if the water

temperature is 60°F or more during an air test, it is recommended that the well be pumped to more accurately determine the water temperature. Specific conductance can also be measured by YNP staff or MT DNRC staff in the Bozeman Office, if these alternatives are preferred.

If groundwater produced by a completed well is 60 °F or warmer, a permit cannot be issued unless certain conditions are met. Because of this requirement, the MT DNRC recommends that water temperature be monitored as the well is drilled so that any zones in which cooler water is encountered can be identified. Drillers need to be prepared to fully abandon a well, in a manner that fits the conditions, if hot water is encountered that cannot be permitted.

Additional information on the YCGA is available from both the Bozeman MT DNRC office at (406) 586-3136 or the MT Bureau of Mines and Geology (MBMG) at (406) 496-4765.

Keri Strasheim, DNRC Bozeman Regional Office Manager, provided technical assistance with this article.

Next Board Meeting

May 1, 2015
9 am
DNRC Water Resources Building
Fred Buck Conf. Room, 1st Floor
9th and Roberts
Helena MT

License Renewal

Multiple Licenses

The combination Water Well Contractor/ Monitoring Well Constructor license has been deleted. Water Well Contractors may construct monitoring wells without the additional monitoring well constructor license.

Montana Codes Annotated § 37-43-302(1) states:

"... An individual who is licensed as a water well contractor is not required to have a separate water well driller's license to perform the actual work on the well or a separate license to install monitoring wells."

An individual that has a Water Well Driller's license is required to have a Monitoring Well Constructor's license to construct monitoring wells without a licensed Water Well Contractor or a licensed Monitoring Well Constructor on site while the drilling rig is in operation.

Electronic License Renewal

All of the required documents: license renewal form, proof of continuing education, proof of bonding and fee must be received by the Board's office email before midnight July 10 or post marked no later than July 10 to avoid late fees. A license renewal application is not consider complete until **all required documents are received** by the Board's office.

License renewal documents may be submitted electronically by email or by regular mail. Copies of documents are acceptable.

Procedure to File License Renewal Notice Electronically

- 1) You will need Adobe Reader on your computer to open and fill out renewal form. The link to Adobe Reader is: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>
- 2) Go to the Board's web site <http://bwwc.mt.gov>, the License Renewal Form is in the "Forms and Information" drop-down menu. Fill out renewal form. All of the following information must be provided in order to save the form:
 - a. Select license type. Only one box may be marked
 - b. Fill out contact information.
 - c. Select license type and enter license number.
 - d. Provide a contact phone number
 - e. Check boxes of documents you have or will provide: proof of bonding, proof of continuing education and if you have submitted the proper fee.
- 3) After completing form, you will need to save the form on your computer in a file or on your desktop. Select a file that can be easily remembered and accessed
- 4) Open the email account you use, ie: msn, google, gmail, yahoo, ymail, etc.
- 5) Attach the renewal form and other electronic forms to email
- 6) Send the form to: arobinson@mt.gov

I will respond that I got your email with a list of forms that were attached

For assistance, please call: (406) 444-6643 or (406) 444-0860



A-1 Drilling, Laurel, MT

Montana Driller's Licenses

As of January 15, 2015

There currently are 236 licenses compared with 246 licenses in January 2014:

Active Licenses:

Water Well Driller.....	24
Water Well Driller/Monitoring Well Constructor	5
Monitoring Well Constructor	64
Water Well Contractor.....	126
Total Active Licenses.....	219

Inactive Licenses:

Total Inactive Licenses	17
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Exempt Wells

At the printing of this newsletter, the status of Exempt Water Rights for wells is unknown. For question concerning exempt wells, please contact the DNRC Regional offices.

Billings Regional Office
(406) 247-4415

Counties: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud, Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure, Yellowstone

Bozeman Regional Office
(406) 586-3136

Counties: Gallatin, Madison, Park

Glasgow Regional Office
(406) 228-2561

Counties: Daniels, Dawson, Garfield, McCone, Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley, Wibaux

Havre Regional Office
(406) 265-5516

Counties: Blaine, Choteau, Glacier, Hill, Liberty, Pondera, Teton, Toole

Helena Regional Office
(406) 444-6999

Counties: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge, Jefferson, Lewis & Clark, Powell, Silver Bow

Kalispell Regional Office
(406) 752-2288

Counties: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln, Sanders



Hayes Drilling, Livingston, MT



License Renewal Process

As it will soon be time to renew your licenses, we thought this is a good time to explain the renewal process. Usually license renewal notices are sent on or before May 10 of each year, giving you lots of time to send in the renewal application and fee before your current license expires on June 30th.

Montana Code Annotated section 37-43-307, provides that any license which is not renewed by June 30th is considered suspended. If the license remains suspended more than 30 days after July 1st, it is considered revoked. However, before revoking the license, the Board will send a notice to the licensee of intent to revoke. This letter is mailed to the licensee on or before July 10th. If the license has not been renewed by August 1st, it is automatically revoked and cannot be reinstated without payment of the application fee and successful completion of the appropriate exam.

Administrative Rule of Montana 36.21.415 also provides that any licensee who has not renewed his license by July 10th will pay an additional \$150 as a late fee.

Important dates for license renewals:

- May 10 renewal notices are mailed to the licensees
- June 30 licenses expire
- July 1 licenses are suspended; the licensee is not allowed to drill
- July 10 late fee applied (\$150) and letter of intent to revoke license mailed
- August 1 licenses are revoked

When submitting the license renewal application, four things are required:

- (1) completed renewal form including current address and phone numbers
- (2) the correct fee
- (3) proof of bond
- (4) proof of completion of 4 hours of continuing education

Renewal applications that are incomplete may be returned to the licensee. Licensees will be charge with a late fee if the documentation for bonding or continuing education is submitted after July 10th, even if the original renewal form was sent in prior to this date.

In past years there have been licensees that have abused the system and took months to submit the proper documentation hence the need to enforce the letter of the law.

Last year there were a number of problems with providing proof of bonding and proof of continuing education hours. Drillers should begin the process of obtaining proof of bonding by contacting their bond companies early. All bond companies will provide the necessary documents, but it may take some time to receive the documents. Some bonding companies do send the continuation certificate to the Board of Water Well Contractors, but this is not always the case. The licensee is responsible for contacting their respective companies and making the request and insuring where the certificate will be delivered. It is helpful if the term of the bond is from June to June each year so that the continuing certificate is in your hands by the time you are ready to submit the renewal form.

All continuing education courses must be pre approved by the Board. A class attendance roster provided by the sponsor of the class or a certificate of attendance is examples of acceptable documentation that the continuing education requirement has been met. Licensees that attend the National Ground Water Convention will need to provide the NWGA continuing education reporting form with the name of each class and the course code. A receipt for paying convention fees or a motel bill does not qualify as proof of continuing education hours.

New licenses will not be issued until all of the requirements are met.

New Driller's Licenses

<i>JD Billmayer</i> <i>Billmayer Drilling</i>	<i>WWC</i> <i>Big Fork, MT</i>
<i>Shawn Ankney</i> <i>A3 Services Inc</i>	<i>WWC</i> <i>Sheridan, WY</i>
<i>Chris Iba</i> <i>Iba Drilling</i>	<i>WWC</i> <i>Glendive, MT</i>
<i>Tory Wing</i> <i>AAAA Drilling</i>	<i>WWC</i> <i>Helena, MT</i>
<i>Jason McGuire</i> <i>Sudan Drilling</i>	<i>WWD</i> <i>Kila, MT</i>
<i>Thomas Arnott</i> <i>Eagle Drilling</i>	<i>WWD</i> <i>Florence, MT</i>
<i>Shane Kraha</i> <i>O'Keefe Drilling</i>	<i>MWC</i> <i>Butte, MT</i>
<i>Greg Walston</i> <i>Environmental West</i>	<i>MWD</i> <i>Spokane, WA</i>
<i>Jerry Phillips</i> <i>O'Keefe Drilling</i>	<i>WWD/MWC</i> <i>Butte, MT</i>



Sharp Drilling, Sidney, MT

Lewistown Regional Office
(406) 538-7459
Counties: Cascade, Fergus, Golden Valley,
Judith Basin, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum,
Wheatland

Missoula Regional Office
(406) 721-4284
Counties: Granite, Mineral, Missoula, Ravalli

Websites to Bookmark

The Internet is a huge information bank and finding what you are looking for can be time consuming and frustrating. Provided below is a list of websites that relate to the BWWC.

Board of Water Well Contractors

The BWWC web page with links, dates, newsletter, information for drillers and Board members contact information
www.bwwc.mt.gov

Ground-Water Information Center

Provides ground water information and filed well logs
<http://mbmaggwic.mtech.edu/>

On-Line CE Classes

Internet access to Board approved on line continuing education classes
www.welldrillingschool.com

Administrative Rules of Montana

Provides the Rules for the BWWC
<http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=36.21>

Well Log Report Forms

Contains the Well Log Report Form 603 for drillers
http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_op/bwwc/pdfs/603-R2-04.pdf

Driller's License Renewal Form

Provides the yearly license renewal form
http://www.dnrc.mt.gov/wrd/water_op/bwwc/pdfs/new_2015-2016_renewal_form.pdf

Montana Water Well Drillers Association

<http://www.mwwda.org>

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Persons with disabilities who need an alternative, accessible format of this document should contact:

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406-444-6643
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Hi-Line Drilling, Havre, MT



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