



WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Spring - 2019

BWWC

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BOARD MEMBERS

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Next Board Meeting

May 17, 2019
9 am
DNRC Water Resources Building - 1st Floor
Fred Buck Conf-Room,
9th and Roberts
Helena MT



Petrie Drilling, Malta, MT

Kirk Waren Retires



Kirk Waren and Chairman Pat Byrne

In October 2009, Kirk Waren was appointed to represent the Bureau of Mines and Geology on the Board of Water Well Contractors. Kirk brought a high-level knowledge of groundwater hydrology to the Board. Kirk retired from the Bureau of Mines and Geology on December 31, 2018. The BWWC wishes Kirk the best in his retirement.

Fred Robinson, Legal Council



Fred Robinson, Attorney and Chairman Pat Byrne

Fred Robinson, Attorney, retired from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on December 31, 2018. Fred served as the Board's Attorney for 28 years.

James Madison Replacing Kirk Waren

"I grew up in southwestern Louisiana and worked as a welder until the bottom dropped out of the Petro-Chem industry in the early 1980s. During that time, welders were "dime-a-dozen", so I decided to go to school for a geology degree. I laugh now, but in the early '80's geologists were also "dime-a-dozen" too. I received a Bachelor of Science degree from McNeese State University, and extended my education with a Master of Science in Geology from The University of Montana in Missoula. While at The U of M, I interned at the USGS in Helena and worked on an investigation of the groundwater resources in the Helena Valley.



I have been a hydrogeologist at the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology since 1992, except for a 4-year stint as a geologist for Stillwater Mining Company (2006-2011).

I have designed, installed, and/or overseen the construction of numerous monitoring wells in SW Montana. For the past 8 years and as part of my duties with Groundwater Characterization Program at the Bureau, I have answered questions from individuals, community groups, government agencies and well drillers about well depths and groundwater quality at potential drill sites."

License Renewals

As it will soon be time to renew your licenses, we thought this is a good time to review 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 will be automatically revoked and cannot be reinstated without filling out application to take a driller's exam, make the payment of the application fee and successful complete the appropriate exam with a 80% minimum passing score.

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

License renewal can be renewed electronically through the use of the links on the Board of Water Well Contractors' (Board) web site and email. Drillers need to fill out all required information, when completed, the licensee will use the submit tab. The form will be sent to a Board's data base. An acknowledgement email of the renewal form submission will be sent to the licensee and a notification email of the renewal form will be sent to the Board's office. Proof of continuing education and proof of current bond may be scanned and attached to an email or be mailed to Boards office.

Payment of the license renewal fee can be made on line with the use of a credit card. A processing fee will be added to the license fee. The credit card payment link can be found on the Board's web site.

The electronic license renewal form link and the credit card payment link can be found on the Board's web page: bwwc.mt.gov

Send scanned copies to email address: arobinson@mt.gov

Administrative Rule of Montana 36.21.415 also provides that any licensee who has not renewed his license by July 10th will pay a \$150 late fee. Licensees will be charged with a late fee if the documentation for bonding or for 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.

Please contact the Board of Water Well Contractor's office if you have questions. (406) 444-6643

New Licenses

Owen Fifield, WWC, Northwest Drilling, Libby, MT

Dallas Werner, WWC, Hydroresources Rocky Mountain, Fort Lupton, CO

Myles Morris, West Central Environmental Consultants, Missoula, MT

Jayden Bell, WWD, OH Drilling and Pump, Polson, MT

Layne Smith, WWD, Central Drilling Inc, Lewistown, MT



Higgins Drilling Inc., Miles City, MT

In Memory

This last year, the drilling industry has lost drillers and family members that have passed away. To the family and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Charles Berget, Northwest Drilling, Libby, MT

Wilburn Franklin, Layne Christensen Co., Helena, MT

Joe Liss, Joe Liss Water Wells Inc., Eureka, MT

Jack Lowry, J Lowry Excavation & Pump LLP, Helena, MT

Beverly Askin, Ron Askin's wife, Ron Askin Drilling, Miles City, MT



Well Log Reports

In the 1950's, prior to any requirements for licensing or reporting, Well Logs were issued by drillers with information transferred from drilling notes, as a service to their customers. It was standard practice for well owners to provide the Well Logs to the Department of Health to facilitate filing a water right. In the early 1960s, the Water Resources Board developed new well log form for well owners and began filing the well logs with the applications for water rights.

The Water Use Act of 1973 required that Well Log Reports be filled out by the driller on a form provided by DNRC within 60 days after well completion.

Well logs must be filed on: completed wells; dry wells; abandoned wells; monitoring wells.

Section 85-2-516, Montana Codes Annotated (MCA), requires that all Well Log Reports be filed by the driller within 60 days after completion of any well. BWWC Rule Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 36.21.504(1)(g) provides that disciplinary action may be taken against the licensee for failure to comply with MCA Section 85-2-516.

In 2007, the Legislator amended MCA 85-2-516 to require the driller to "...provide a location for the well using at least two methods as specified on the (well log) form". The accepted method of location must include 2 of the following:

- Well address
- Legal description; section, township, range
- GPS location; latitude, longitude
- Subdivision, lot and tract/block with Certificate of Survey number

Well Logs are a legal document. DO NOT sign a well log for a well you did not drill. This action is committing fraud and you can be sued in civil court. Well Logs must be submitted to; the well owner, the Ground Water Information Center (GWIC) and other agencies if required.

The Well Logs are very helpful to the DNRC Water Rights offices in determining a water right by beneficial use of water. Even though the Well Logs are required to be filed within 60 days, there is no requirement that a Well Log is necessary for the well owner to make application for a water right.

This problem has been discussed with some of the contractors, and the comment has been made that some contractors do not consider the well completed until full payment has been received. Once a well has been physically completed, the Well Log Report must be filed with the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and a copy be given to the well owner within 60 days. Continued failure to file the reports promptly may result in action against the licensee.

Pumping Tests Required for Existing and New Wells

By Kari Scannella, PG, Natural Resources Conservation Service Bozeman, MT

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) introduced pumping tests in 2016 as a requirement for agricultural producers who receive Federal financial assistance for water wells and stockwater systems. A pumping test helps verify a planned flow rate and the associated drawdown to better design submersible pump systems that support livestock pipelines 5 to 40-miles-long. NRCS is not interested in the maximum flow rate of the well, but in the aquifer characteristics and drawdown levels, specifically the sustained drawdown level for the design flow rate. Air and bailer tests are not accurate enough for NRCS needs. Air injection and variable injection pressures create turbulence that impact measurements. Bailer tests are limited by (well and water-table) depth, well diameter, and flow rate, and both tests only locally evaluate the aquifer. Well logs that have both air and pumping test data demonstrate that air tests report excessive yields, sometimes by as much as 170 gallons per minute (gpm) more.

NRCS Specification CS-200 (formerly called MT-642) establishes the procedure for a step-drawdown test. The Producer is responsible for making sure the tests are completed according to the specification. Failure to comply with the specification could result in loss of payments to the producer and subsequently the drilling or hydrogeologic company. NRCS appreciates the hard work, time, and cooperation of the drilling and hydrogeologic companies. Thank you!



Thermal Drilling Inc., Sidney, MT



Graham Drilling Inc., Sheridan, MT

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://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/water/operations/board-of-water-well-contractors/divisions/water/operations/docs/bwwc/603-r2-04-1.pdf>

250 copies of this document were published at an estimated cost of \$0.00 per copy. The total cost of \$0.00 includes \$0.00 for printing and \$0.00 for distribution.

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

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Aqua Drilling, Joliet, MT



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