



# WELL DEVELOPMENTS

**BOARD MEMBERS**  
 Bob Bergantino, MBMG Member  
 Pat Byrne, Industry Member  
 Kevin Haggerty, Industry Member  
 Eric Regensburger, DEQ Member  
 Laurence Siroky, DNRC Member

No. 23 Board of Water Well Contractors September 1999

## CONTINUING EDUCATION

Following is a list of the approved continuing education classes that are sponsored by the Montana Environmental Training Center for the next four months.

Please contact Jan Boyle at (406) 454-2728 for additional information and to register for the above continuing education classes. Contact your suppliers for other upcoming schools in your area.

Several contractors have said that they are unable to attend any continuing education due to their busy schedule. Rule 36.21.413A requires four hours of board-approved training annually. There are no exceptions; however, the board may approve a waiver for good reason if the licensee agrees to attend eight hours of classes in the next license year. The waiver is given for reasonable excuses, as

determined by the board, and will not be granted for consecutive years.

As long as the waiver policy is not abused, the board will continue its liberal policy of approving local first aid, CPR, welding, sanitation, electrical, safety, and related training to meet this requirement. However, if you are not on the waiver list or have not made arrangements with the board's office, your license will be "inactive" even if you have paid renewal fees and have a bond in place. "Inactive" means that you

### SCHEDULE

#### Source Water Protection

September 14, 1999	Miles City
September 16, 1999	Wolf Point
October 27, 1999	Billings

#### Communication Skills

November 4, 1999	Great Falls
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#### Call Before You Dig

November 16, 1999	Sidney
November 18, 1999	Forsyth

#### 1999 NGWA Annual Convention

December 3-6, 1999	Nashville, Tenn.
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cannot drill water wells until you have met all the requirements for license renewal. □

## DISINFECTION

Past newsletters have presented ARM 36.21.662, on the rule disinfection requirements. Complaints have come to the attention of BWWC to the effect that some contractors do not have a written agreement with the well owner, as suggested in ARM

36.21.662(2), and therefore the contractor is not disinfecting the well. Part (1) of this rule stands alone and requires that a "well and its equipment shall be disinfected by thoroughly agitating and mixing in the well a solution containing enough chlorine to leave a residual of 25 ppm

throughout the well after a period of 24 hours." Regardless of whether there is a written agreement, the responsibility to disinfect the well belongs to the water well contractor. □

## COMPUTERIZED WELL LOG REPORT FORM

The Well Log Report, Form No. 603, is available in the following software formats: Microsoft Word 6.0, Microsoft Word 97, and WordPerfect 6.1. No other formats are available at this time. Unless you are very knowledgeable about computers and the different software, you will not be able to convert it to

other versions of Microsoft Word, Works, or WordPerfect. If you have any questions, contact Pat Boggess at 444-0860.

When you generate the well log on the computer, you will need to print three copies: one for your files, one for the well owner, and the third for the Department of

Natural Resources and Conservation, 48 North Last Chance Gulch, P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601.

The Notice of Completion of Groundwater Development, Form No. 602, that appears on the back of the pre-printed well log form is sent to every well owner when the well has been developed. The driller is not responsible for sending out this water right form. However, if you would like some 602 forms to give to your customers, contact Mandi Shulund at 444-6610.□

### DRILLING IN 45 MPH WINDS



*Photo by Bob Rudio*

Frank Martin of Poverty Drilling, Great Falls working near Cascade, Montana in 45 mph winds, windchill -20° F. BWWC photo February 1999.□

## WELL LOG REPORTS

Drillers are required by statute, MCA 85-2-516, to provide a correct and complete well log to the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) within 60 days after a well is completed. Drillers must also comply with ARM Title 36, Chapter 21, 6 and 8.

DNRC is required to provide these logs to the Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology and to return incomplete or incorrect well logs to the driller to be corrected and refiled.

DNRC's Water Rights Bureau will receive all Well Log Reports, Form 603, and review them for completeness. The bureau will not check the validity of the information provided on the Well Log Report. However, the log remains the legal record of the work.

Monitoring well logs are to be sent directly to the board office at 48 North Last Chance Gulch, P. O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620-1601. Contractor's log forms or the Form 603 may be used for monitoring wells.□

## VARIANCES

The Board of water well contractors (BWWC) granted four variances from the construction standards in 1998-1999. Two requests were for rehabilitating old wells where new casing was set around old casing and sealing could be done to only about 12 feet rather than the required 18-foot depth. Two requests were for shallow wells where the 18-foot sealing rule could not be followed.

BWWC determined that it was better to have a licensed contractor construct the shallow wells and seal the surface casing than to deny the request only to find that the landowner can use a backhoe to dig a well and potentially expose the aquifer to surface contamination.

One request was for drilling within 100 feet of a drainfield. The board required a letter of approval from the county sanitarian before issuing a variance. The county would not approve the request.□

## RENEWALS

Over twenty renewal notices were returned to the board office due to wrong addresses. BWWC needs to be notified of address changes for special notices, rules changes, and license renewals. The board needs the following information each year.

1. Completed renewal form including current address and phone number
2. Renewal fee (\$140 plus late charge, if any)

3. Bond continuation certificate for the next year
4. Proof of four hours of board-approved continuing education for that year

The renewal forms are sent out annually in May. It is best to have the bond and continuing education certificates handy to include with the renewal form and fee when they are returned, prior to July 1 each year. □

## LICENSING WELL DRILLERS

Licensing requirements and board policy are as follows. The three licenses — contractor, driller, and constructor — basically require:

1. Apprenticeship for one year under a person licensed in Montana, or
2. Reciprocity from another state, or
3. Equivalent experience, education, or both.

Applicants for the contractor's and driller's licenses generally find that BWWC views their equivalent experience with skepticism and rarely grants qualification for equivalent experience. BWWC would rather err on the side of

"Not Qualified" than have a licensed water well contractor or driller who is unable or unwilling to comply with the rules.

BWWC takes more liberal view of a monitoring well constructor's equivalent experience. However, substantial experience, education, and references are still required.

BWWC also looks favorably on a driller's application when the applicant is currently employed as well as recommended by a licensed contractor. Rarely does the board waive the one-year apprenticeship requirement. □

## ROUTINE INSPECTION



Photo by Bob Rudio

Frank Chappel of Camp Drilling, Missoula, drilling near Clinton, Montana. BWWC photo July 1999. □

## NEW LICENSEE

### Water Well Contractors

Ladessa Croucher	Libby, Mont.
Terry Daugherty	Parma, Idaho
John Eddy	Belgrade, Mont.
William Eddy	Belgrade, Mont.
Troy Hauser	Manhattan, Mont.
Randy Kotecki	Missoula, Mont.
James Lausch	Alberton, Mont.
Donald (Bill) Maxwell	Belgrade, Mont.
Clay Parson	Butte, Mont.

### Monitoring Well Constructors

John Eddy	Belgrade, Mont.
William Eddy	Belgrade, Mont.
Troy Hauser	Manhattan, Mont.
Wayne Klein	Billings, Mont.
James Laush	Alberton, Mont.
Donald (Bill) Maxwell	Belgrade, Mont.
Clay Parsons	Butte, Mont.

### Water Well Drillers

Steve Bowles	Belgrade, Mont.
Kevin Chastain	Parma, Idaho
Brett Douglas	Roberts, Mont.
Todd Fisher	Troy, Mont.
Joe Liss	Eureka, Mont.
Wyman McLaughlin	Choteau, Mont.
Brendon Powers	Butte, Mont.
Andy Roberts	Polson, Mont.
Cliff Tudor	Bozeman, Mont.
Al Weirisma	Bozeman, Mont.

## HISTORICAL BOARD MEETINGS

A special meeting of the Montana Well Contractors Examining Board was held March 21, 1968, at 10:30 a.m., in Room 124 of the State Capitol Building, Helena, Montana.

The meeting was called to orally examine Mr. Charles Smerker of Great Falls, Montana, who had taken a written examination and failed it.

After conferring with the Attorney General's Office, the board agreed to hold a special meeting to question Mr. Smerker

orally to make sure he qualifies as a water well contractor.

Mr. Osborne questioned him on matters mostly dealing with the rotary rig, as this is the type of rig with which Mr. Smerker is most familiar.

Mr. Brinck questioned him on rotary terms, types and construction of wells, and how they should be sterilized.

Mr. Darlinton said, if he had not known of the written examination, he would have concluded

that Mr. Smerker was qualified by the answers he had given.

After a discussion, Mr. Darlinton made a motion to give Mr. Smerker a license based on the oral examination, but feels he lacks experience. Therefore, the board will watch Mr. Smerker's operations through the year, and if they have reason to believe that he is not performing properly, he will be called before the board. Mr. Osborne seconded the motion, and it was passed by voice vote.

A complaint had been sent in by Mrs. Joe Fiedler that Mr. Robert Anderson of Cut Bank had drilled a well in 1963 or 1964 and had not given them a log of the well. She had written to Mr. Anderson and had not received an answer.

The board decided to contact Mr. Anderson, ask him about the well, and tell him he was putting his license in jeopardy.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.□

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*Persons with disabilities who need an alternative, accessible format of this document should contact: DNRC, 48 North Last Chance Gulch,*

*P.O. Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620 -- Phone: 444-6603/Fax: 406-444-0533/TDD: 406-444-6873*



**Montana Department of Natural  
Resources & Conservation**

**Board of Water Well Contractors**

P.O. Box 201601

48 North Last Chance Gulch

Helena, MT 59620-1601

*ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED*