



WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Fall - 2011

BWWC

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Montana Water Well Drillers Association Annual Convention

The Montana Water Well Drillers Association's annual convention is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, February 2nd – 3rd in Billings at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. The convention classes have been approved for 4 hours of continuing education. You must attend both days in order to receive credit for the full 4 hours of continuing education. Contact the MWWDA for more information and registration forms at (406) 675-3179 or by email at contactus@mwwda.org. Hope to see you there!!

Exemption and Variance Permits

The Montana Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC) has recently received a number of calls inquiring about Exemption Permits and Variance Permits and the differences between the permits.

Applications for the Exemption Permit and Variance Permit can be found on the BWWC web site www.bwwc.mt.gov. There is a \$100 application fee associated with each permit.

Exemption Permit

The Montana legislature passed a law that allows land owners and land leasees to construct wells on property they own or lease. An Exemption Permit is issued to a person (non-licensed) who is performing the actual construction or abandonment of a well that is located on property they own or lease. This type of work is allowed under Montana Code Annotated § 37-43-302(2)a. All construction work and material must meet the minimum BWWC construction standards. The permit must be approved by the BWWC before work commences. The permit application must include detailed construction plans including how the well is dug or drilled, a list of the material they will be using, distances from septic systems and casing sealing description. After the application is approved, the applicant must provide an as-built description of how the well was constructed. The applicant is provided with a well log and is required to submit the well log to the Ground Water Information Center.

Variance Permit

Since the inception of the BWWC Administrative Rules (ARM) in 1987, it has been recognized that well construction standards could not meet every conceivable situation that may arise when drilling. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the contractor, variances are necessary.

Variance Permits are issued to licensed drillers. ARM § 36.21.80 allows the BWWC to grant a variance where due to special circumstances or unusual conditions, the variance accomplishes two things: (1) the variance will adequately protect the public, and (2) the variance will adequately protect the groundwater sources. An example of the need for a variance permit is with the ARM change that extended the requirement of surface casing from 18 feet to 25 feet. This change has increased the number of variance permits issued. In some areas of Montana, the only water available is less than 25 feet deep. If the well is to be utilized for domestic use, the driller must apply for a variance permit. Special surface casing sealing requirements may be included with the permit approval.



Clearwater Drilling, Libby MT

Information about the Form 646 Geothermal Heating/Cooling Notice of Completion

Jamie Ellis, DNRC Water Rights Bureau

Background

Senate Bill 103 became effective on 10-01-2011. Essentially the bill created an exemption for completed groundwater developments where the water has been put to use for non-consumptive geothermal heating or cooling purposes with a maximum use of 350 gallons per minute (GPM).

Details

- The maximum appropriation has to be 350 GPM or less.
- The water has to be extracted and returned without delay into the same source aquifer.
- The appropriation has to be located outside the boundaries of a controlled groundwater area.
- The distance between the extraction well and either the nearest existing well, or any hydraulically connected surface water source must be at least twice the distance between the extraction and injection well.

Considerations

- A Form 602 (Notice of Completion of Groundwater Development) can be used for geothermal heating/cooling as long as the flow rate used is less than 35 GPM and the volume used by the system is less than 10 acre-feet per year.
- If the flow rate used by the geothermal heating/cooling system is greater than 350 GPM a Form 600 (Application for Beneficial Water Use Permit) is required.
- Please contact a DNRC representative with any questions you have.

Questions

BILLINGS: 406-247-4415
Airport Industrial Park, 1371 Rimtop Drive,
Billings MT 59105-1978
Serving: Big Horn, Carbon, Carter, Custer,
Fallon, Powder River, Prairie, Rosebud,
Stillwater, Sweet Grass, Treasure and
Yellowstone Counties

BOZEMAN: 406-586-3136
2273 Boot Hill Court, Suite 110,
Bozeman MT 59715
Serving: Gallatin, Madison and Park Counties

GLASGOW: 406-228-2561
PO Box 1269, Glasgow MT 59230-1269
Serving: Daniels, Dawson, Garfield, McCone,
Phillips, Richland, Roosevelt, Sheridan, Valley,
and Wibaux Counties

HAVRE: 406-265-5516
PO Box 1828, Havre MT 59501-1828
Serving: Blaine, Chouteau, Glacier, Hill,
Liberty, Pondera, Teton and Toole Counties

HELENA: 406-444-6999
PO Box 201601, Helena MT 59620-1601
Serving: Beaverhead, Broadwater, Deer Lodge,
Jefferson, Lewis and Clark, Powell and Silver
Bow Counties

KALISPELL: 406-752-2288
655 Timberwolf Parkway, Suite 4,
Kalispell MT 59901
Serving: Flathead, Lake, Lincoln and Sanders
Counties

LEWISTOWN: 406-538-7459
613 NE Main St, Suite E,
Lewistown MT 59457-2020
Serving: Cascade, Fergus, Golden Valley,
Judith Basin, Meagher, Musselshell, Petroleum,
and Wheatland Counties

MISSOULA: 406-721-4284
PO Box 5004, Missoula MT 59806-5004
Serving: Granite, Mineral, Missoula and Ravalli
Counties

Changes at BWWC Office

Long time assistant to the BWWC, Bri Shipman, has accepted an offer for a temporary position in the Montana Floodplain Management program. She will be working there for a one year period. Bri has been associated with the BWWC for the last 5 years. The BWWC will miss Bri greatly and wishes her the best in her new position. We all look forward to her return.

DeeAnna Walker has been hired as the new temporary assistant. She plans on being here for a one year period and enjoys what she will be doing and with whom she will be working with. DeeAnna has two boys one is 10 and the other is 21 and in college. The BWWC would like to welcome DeeAnna.



Island Well

This well, owned by the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Department, is located north of West Yellowstone in the Madison River. This year's overabundance of moisture and significant runoff has eroded approximately 30 feet of bank, leaving the well 15 feet from the shore in 4 feet of water. This is a flowing well with 8 pounds of pressure at the well head. Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks has contracted with a Bozeman drilling company to abandon the well.



Hickel and Tooke Drilling, Turner MT



50 Years of BWWC Original Rules and Regulations

September 25, 1961

1. Any person, persons, partnerships, firm or corporations, licensed under this act shall be required to paint or attach on all drill rigs, which he or it uses in such business, the words, "LICENSED MONTANA WATER WELL CONTRACTOR" and immediately under these words he or it shall paint or attach the number of his license in the space so provided with the letters and numbers at least 1 1/2 inches high. All lettering and numbering shall be in distinct color contrast with its background. It is the responsibility of the licensed water well contractor to remove his license number before selling a piece of equipment to which his number has been attached.

2. A licensed Montana Water Well Contractor shall furnish high-quality materials, properly installed in a water well constructed by him, unless authorized by the owner to use other materials.

3. A Licensed Montana Water Well Contractor, licensed under this act shall provide competent supervision and equipment for drilling and developing every water well and for the installation of pumps.

4. A Licensed Montana Water Well Contractor shall extend to the purchaser factory guarantees on pumps and accessories sold and installed by him.

5. A Licensed Montana Water Well Contractor shall prepare a log of each well showing sizes of casing and other pertinent specifications. He shall make reasonable provisions for maintaining such records permanently. He shall supply a copy to the well owner and such agencies as are required by law.

6. A Licensed Montana Water Well Contractor shall attach to each drilling rig a gummed label indicating the current Water Well Contractor's License has been purchased. The label what be attached to the drilling rig at a point near the license number. The color is to be changed each year and will the license year on the label.

7. A Licensed Montana Water Well Contractor shall acquaint himself with the laws and regulations governing the drilling of wells and installation of pumps at each location where he performs such work. He shall meet the requirements of such laws and regulations

and supply said information to such agencies as are required by law.

8. A Licensed Montana Water Well Contractor shall safeguard the well owner against any and all claims for labor and materials used in construction of any water wells or pump installations in the State of Montana.

9. It is the obligation of the Licensed Montana Water Well Contractor upon completion of a well to properly cap and seal it.

10. A duplicate license card shall be provided by the Board to persons requesting the same upon the payment of \$1.00 fee for each duplicate license card issued. A duplicate license certificate will not be issued without Board approval.



Graham Drilling, Sheridan MT

New Licenses

Fred Rothauge - Water Well Contractor, Hydro Resources, Fort Lurton, CO

Michael McCullar - Monitoring Well Constructor, O'Keefe Drilling, Butte, MT

Frank Scott - Cascade Drilling, Woodinville, WA
Monitoring Well Constructor

Jayman Lauer - Cascade Drilling, Woodinville, WA
Monitoring Well Constructor

Wade Emerson - MWC, Allwest Drilling, Polson, MT

Ryan Buffington - WWD, MWC, Gordon Drilling, Roundup, MT

Craig VanVactor - MWC, Terracon Consultants, Billings, MT

Mathew Banks - WWD, Graham Drilling, Sheridan, MT



Kirk Waren Reappointed

The Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology has reappointed Kirk Waren to the BWWC, for a 3-year term, as their representative on the Board. Kirk was first appointed to the BWWC in October 2009 to replace retiring Bob Bergantino.

Kirk Waren grew up in states including Alaska, Montana, Minnesota and Ohio. After a three-year tour of duty in the Army at Fort Lewis, WA, he attended the University of Montana, graduating with a BA in Geology in 1985. He obtained an MS in Geology with an emphasis in hydrogeology at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio in 1988. He worked in private industry for Rittenhouse-Zeman and Associates in the Seattle area performing geotechnical and groundwater remediation work. He was then hired by the DNRC Water Management Bureau, where he worked on a variety of issues ranging from water rights disputes to basin scale hydrogeologic studies. After about 11 years with DNRC, Kirk worked for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Industrial and Energy Minerals Bureau (coal mining regulation) as a hydrogeologist and reclamation specialist.

Kirk was hired by the MBMG in early 2007 as an associate hydrogeologist for the Groundwater Assessment Program and is now a senior research hydrogeologist for the new Groundwater Investigation Program. He lives in Butte with his wife Angie and two youngest children, Betty and Alex.

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%2E21>

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/renewal_form.pdf

Montana Topographic Map Finder

By using the "Search Tools" on this site, a driller can enter well location information and the well site will be marked on a topographic map
<http://maps2.nris.state.mt.us/scripts/esrimap.dll?name=LocMap&Cmd=Map>

260 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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