



WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Spring - 2011

BWWC

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It's Time to Think About Renewing Your License

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Time to Think About Renewing Your License
- 2 Fifty Years
- 3 Drillers License Numbers
- 3 Online CE Classes
- 3 New Licenses
- 4 Websites to Bookmark

The three Montana water well licenses – water well contractor, monitoring well constructor, and water well driller—are issued to the licensed individual on an annual basis. The renewal is due June 30th of each year. Renewal forms are mailed out during the first two weeks of May and are fairly simple to fill out. Three things are required: (1) the fee must be paid, (2) the bond must be current, and (3) proof of the continuing education hours must accompany the renewal form.

A late fee of \$75 is charged for any license not renewed by July 10th. This includes incomplete applications submitted before this date. Licenses will be revoked August 1st if the renewal form with the required documents is not received by the Board. To have the license reinstated, the person must take the exam for the license. (MCA §37.43.307)

BONDS – Bonds are usually renewed by the surety companies by issuing a continuation certificate to the bonded person or company. This continuation certificate must be sent in with the renewal. Some licensed persons assume that the bonding company sends the continuation certificate to the Board of Water Well Contractors, but this is not always the case. It is important to be sure that BWWC has the current bond and continuation certificate at renewal time. 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.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS –

Continuing Education Credits (CE's) are obtained year-around, and the law requires a minimum of four hours of continuing education annually. The Board maintains a fairly liberal policy of credit for attendance. However, four hours are the minimum, and you must show proof when you submit the renewal. Classes must be preapproved. Attendance lists are sometimes lost or not given to the Board. Remember, it is your responsibility to prove your attendance. There has been an increase in requests to provide a detailed list of CE classes the drillers have attended. The Board has been asked by insurance companies and OSHA to provide a detailed list of classes attended for CE's. Drillers have been required to submit this information when obtaining licenses to drill in other states. A list of CE classes may be required when submitting a bid for a drilling job. Credit is given for attendance at state, national, or regional conventions. For those who attend the NGWA conference, class codes are required. Manufacturers and suppliers hold area-wide seminars. The Montana Environmental Training Center holds water related classes throughout the year. The Board has approved on line continuing education classes. The link is available at the Board's web site www.bwwc.mt.gov.

INACTIVE STATUS – The Board policy is that a licensed driller, contractor, or constructor on inactive status does not have to have a current bond or perform continuing education. However, the renewal fee must be paid to maintain the inactive status.



Pat Byrne Drilling – Pat, Rick and Tyler Byrne

Fifty Years

This is the 50th anniversary of the Board of Water Well Contractors. The first Board meeting was held August 11, 1961. Here are the minutes from that meeting.

"The first meeting of Montana Water Well Contractors' Examining Board was held in the office of Mr. C. W. Brinck, State Board of Health, Helena on August 11, 1961, at 10:00 A.M. Present at this meeting were: Mr. Bert Van Dyken, Immediate Past President, Montana Water Well Driller's Association, Bozeman; Mr. Fred Buck, State Engineer, Helena; Mr. C. W. Brinck, Director, Division of Environmental Sanitation, State Board of Health, and Mr. Don Douglas from the Attorney General's Office.

Election of officers was held. Mr. Buck and Mr. Brinck were nominated for Chairman of this Board. A vote was called for and Mr. Buck was elected Chairman unanimously. Mr. Brinck was elected Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Brinck told the group of the discussion he had with the Plumbing Board at their last meeting. They discussed an arrangement whereby the Plumbing Board could be paid by the Water Well Contractors' Examining Board for the use of their office and their assistant secretary. This arrangement met with the approval of the Plumbing Board. Mr. Brinck made a motion that the Water Well Contractors' Examining Board make arrangements with the State Board of Plumbing Examiners to pay them a fee of \$100.00 a month that may be modified based upon the amount of time required to carry on the business of the Montana Water Well Contractors' Examining Board, this is to include secretarial services, telephone service, and the use of office machines and equipment. This motion was seconded by Mr. Van Dyken.



Gary's Drilling, Gary Mayes

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Douglas pointed out that we will need ratification of this motion by the Plumbing Board.

Mr. Buck informed this group that he had received 20 checks for \$100.00 each. Mr. Van Dyken had received one check for \$100.00 which he turned over to Mr. Buck. Mr. Buck

stated that he had sent out letters serving as receipts to the people submitting checks. Mr. Brinck made a motion that the Chairman of the Water Well Contractors' Examining Board or the State Engineer be authorized and directed to endorse and deposit with the Treasurer those checks received prior to promulgation of the rules and regulation from the applicants for licensure who, to the personal knowledge of the Board, are prima facie eligible for licensing under the act. Mr. Van Dyken seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

A copy of the above motion and also the following motion was made for the State Treasurer and signed by all members of the Board.

Mr. Brinck made a motion that until such time as arrangements for providing secretarial services are final, necessary expenditures of the Board from Available funds shall be made upon claims drawn by the Chairman and approved by at least one other member of the Board and as provided for in Section 5 Paragraph 5 of the act. This motion was seconded by Mr. Van Dyken.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Van Dyken made a motion that the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Buck, contact the Telephone Company and have a Telephone Company and have a Telephone Credit Card made for each of the members of the Water Well Contractors' Examining Board. Mr. Brinck seconded the motion.

MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Brinck stated that all members of the Board would receive a copy of the minutes of each meeting.

A tentative date for the next meeting is Monday morning, 10:00 A.M. September 25, 1961, in Mr. Brinck's office.

Mr. Van Dyken made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Brinck seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned 4:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Louise Date, Acting Secretary

Quiz

How well do you know the Montana Codes Annotated (MCA) and the Administrative Rules of Montana? Here are 10 questions taken from the rules book and from the exams of licenses.

1) A monitoring well that has not been monitored for more than 3 years shall be considered out of use and shall be properly abandoned.

2) Water well drillers/contractors are responsible for abandoning wells that in the process of being drilled are rendered unusable due to driller error.

3) The main function of the Board of Water Well Contractors is to protect the public and the ground water resources of this state.

4) The penalty for drilling without a license or willfully violating any lawful rule or order from the Board can be a fine of \$500 or imprisoned for up to 6 months or both.

5) Each rig shall have a sign showing the company name and contractor name and license number in letters three inches high.

6) Licensees must be given an opportunity to respond to complaints and demonstrate or achieve legal compliance prior to disciplinary action.

7) Two of the types of wells that are excluded from monitoring well construction standards are piezometer and observation wells in dams.

8) A licensed driller is required to be on site when well abandonment work is being done.

9) Perforations above the lowest expected static water level shall not be permitted.

10) In the event a driller leaves a firm, the responsible contractor shall notify the board office in writing within five days and his responsibility for the driller continues until such notification is received.

Answers next page...



Driller's License Numbers

On October 30, 1961, Water Well Contractor (WWC) license number 1 was issued to Bert Van Dyken. Since that time, over 600 Water Well Contractor licenses have been issued to drillers in the State of Montana. The Water Well Driller (WWD) license was first issued in 1986. Water Well Drilling license number 1 was issued to Ron Luce. Since that time over 150 Water Well Driller licenses have been issued. In 1987 the Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC) started to issue Monitoring Well Constructor (MWC) licenses. Monitoring Well Constructor license number 1 was issued to Bruce Thorson. Approximately 450 Monitoring Well Constructor licenses have been issued. Each of the licenses followed the same numbering pattern, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc. This pattern of numbering has created a problem. There can be three different licenses with the number 100, or three with the number 129. Most of the time when the number is used, a signature is next to the number. Many of the signatures are not decipherable; hence confusion can arise as to who the driller is and who submitted the well log or other document that has been submitted.

It would be beneficial if drillers state what type of license, WWC, WWD, or MWC, they have and are using. An example of this would be if I had a Water Well Contractor license with license number 980 and I filed a paper well log, the number I would write on the well log would be WWC 980. If I had a Water Well Driller license, the number would be WWD 980.

The BWWC is working with the Bureau of Mines and Geology to correct well logs filed under the wrong driller license. Drillers should check on GWIC what well logs have been filed under their license number in case there are well logs for wells that you have not drilled and have the wrong driller's name on the log. Corrections can be made by contacting GWIC by email or letter.

New Licenses

Jeffrey Eman - USGS, Denver CO, MWC license

James Whitley - WDC Exploration and Wells, Zamora CA, WWC license

Online CE Classes

The Board of Water Well Contractors has approved on line CE courses from the International *School of Well Drilling*. There are 5 one hour CE courses and 4 two hour CE courses. The courses include: geothermal heating and cooling systems, drilling methods, well rehabilitation, injection wells, basic geology and groundwater, well abandonment, well development, aquifer storage and recovery, and history of well construction.

The web site to access the courses is: www.welldrillingschool.com

At the completion of each course, review questions are asked. The driller is free to refer back as often as needed to the text before selecting the answer to the review questions. The completed review questions are submitted via email to the staff of the *International School of Well Drilling* so that the CE hour Completion certificate can be emailed to the course completer. A minimum score of 70% is needed to successfully pass the review questions. Once the review questions for the course selected are completed and the Statement of Integrity has been signed the driller is asked to make payment by credit card. The CE hour is then submitted. Each CE hour costs \$34.95, so a one hour CE course costs \$34.95 and a two hour CE course costs \$69.90.

A one CE hour course is designed to take one hour to complete from start to finish. A two CE hour course is designed to take two hours from start to finish.

A driller is only allowed to receive a CE hour credit once from each course taken. In other words, drillers may not receive additional CE hour credits by repeating the same course more than once within the same license period.

The purpose of offering the on line class is to provide another source for drillers to obtain the required 4 hours of continuing education.



Main Harbor Well Drilling, Mike Lein



Main Harbor Well Drilling



Sharp Drilling, John Sharp

- (1) True ARM 36.21.810(1)
- (2) True ARM 36.21.669A
- (3) True MCA 37-43-101
- (4) True MCA 37-43-312
- (5) True ARM 36.21.403(1)
- (6) True MCA 37-43-3089
- (7) True ARM 36.21.802(8)
- (8) True MCA 37-43-302(1)
- (9) True ARM 36.21.650(1)
- (10) True ARM 36.21.407

Answers to Quiz

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://mbmgwic.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/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>

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

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Hi-Line Drilling, Rodger Freier



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