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DIVISION OF WATER, WATERSHED MANAMAGEMENT BRANCH, GROUNDWATER SECTION

KENTUCKY DRILLER QUARTERLY

# Kentucky Driller Quarterly

## Rig Operator Provision Terminates June 30, 2009

In accordance with Kentucky's new water well, monitoring well and well driller certification regulations, the rig operator provision will be terminated from the water well and monitoring well drillers certification program June 30, 2009. Under the new certification regulations 401 KAR 6:320 401 KAR 6:310, and 401 KAR 6:350, a Kentucky certified well driller shall be on site during the construction, modification or abandonment of a water or monitoring well.

Applications for certification can be downloaded from the water well driller program Web site at www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/gwdrill/ . Applicants must meet the minimum of two years suitable experience or education as determined by the Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC). Listed below are the requirements and steps to become a certified well driller:

- Complete an application for approval and submit with an application fee of $25 payable to the **Kentucky State Treasurer**.
- Pass the required exams. The minimum passing score for all exams is 70 percent. You will be required to pass a minimum of two National Ground Water Association (NGWA) exams, depending on what specialty drilling method(s) you want to be certified for. You can purchase an exam study guide titled "Voluntary Certification Exam Study Guide" from the NGWA bookstore online at www.ngwa.org These exams are administered through the NGWA and can only be taken online at an authorized testing center. To find a testing center in your area, go to www.lasergrade.com Some of the testing centers are only available for testing during certain days. Call ahead to be sure the testing center is available at the time you wish to take the exams. Each NGWA exam costs $75.

  You will also be required to take one or two of the state exam depending on what you want to be certified for. The monitoring well driller exam covers the construction regulations in 401 KAR 6:350, Monitoring Well Construction Practices and Standards. The water well driller exam covers the well construction regulations in 401 KAR 6:310, Water Supply Well Construction Practices and Standards. Each state exam cost $40. Call Sam Collins at 502-564-3410 to schedule a state exam.

**Rig Operator Provision continued**

- Provide a current certificate of liability insurance of not less than $100,000 (KRS 223.430).
- Provide a surety bond in the amount of $5,000. The bond must be in the driller's name (not the company name).
- Once you have met all the above requirements, submit a check for certification in the amount of $100 payable to the **Kentucky State Treasurer.**

If you have questions concerning the application process, exam requirements, certification renewals, wallet cards, liability insurance, surety bonds, etc., contact administrative coordinator Sam Collins at 502-564-3410, ext. 4938 or e-mail samuel_collins@ky.gov

If you have technical questions related to well construction, abandonment, groundwater, variances, training, etc. contact program coordinator Joe Moffitt at 502-564-3410 ext. 4940 or e-mail joe.moffitt@ky.gov

**Certified Driller Certification Renewals**

The driller certification online renewal period begins **July 1, 2009,** and ends **Aug. 31, 2009**. The Division of Water encourages you to renew your license online to save time. To renew your certification online go to www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwtech/gwdrill/ and follow the instructions for certification renewal.

If you have an e-mail address, please send it to us so that we can better provide you with information related to the driller certification program.

**Monitoring Well Driller's Notification**
**(Currently under consideration by the Energy and Environment Cabinet)**

Blanket Approval

Abandonment Procedures
Monitoring Well Construction Practices and Standards

This driller's notification addresses monitoring well abandonment procedures for direct push monitoring wells, temporary monitoring wells, and permanent monitoring wells installed in unconsolidated formations.

The cabinet will grant a variance to the monitoring well abandonment requirements of 401 KAR 6:350, Section 11(2)(a), for the referenced wells based upon one or more of the following criteria:

1. The monitoring well(s) to be abandoned has been constructed in a manner, and meets the definitions of, a direct push well or a temporary well per 401 KAR 6:350, sections 5 and 6.

2. The monitoring well(s) to be abandoned is constructed and completed in an unconsolidated formation with a total depth of less than or equal to 30 feet below ground surface. In addition, the variance request must adhere to the following:

3. Shall be accompanied by written approval of other permitting agencies, 401 KAR 6:350, Section 12, and

4. The variance request shall be submitted to the cabinet by approved procedures per 401 KAR 6:350, Section 1(6)(a through e).

The approved procedures for abandonment of the referenced monitoring wells shall require the removal of all the casing and screen from the borehole. The resulting borehole shall then be filled and completed per 401 KAR 6:350, Section 11(2)(b through d). If the entire length of casing and screen cannot be pulled from

the borehole, the well shall be abandoned per 401 KAR 6:350, Section 11(2)(a).

## Well Site Field Audits

Joe Moffitt the Water Well Driller Program Coordinator will be conducting field audits this year. These field audits are not intended to be regulatory inspections. The primary purpose is to observe the well drilling operations, and to address questions the driller may have related to the certification program. Drillers will be randomly selected. You may also contact him if you would like to schedule a time to meet at your well site.

## Board Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the Kentucky Water Well Certification Board will be June 12 at 9 a.m. (CST) at the Rough River State Park Lodge. The board meetings are open to all well drillers and the public.

## Groundwater and Water Well Search Information

The Kentucky Geological Survey has developed a user-friendly data base on groundwater which can be located at: http://www.uky.edu/KGS/ . Select Search Databases and Publications, then select Groundwater Information.

## Call 811 Before You Dig

In compliance with the Kentucky Dig Law KRS 367.4901 to KRS 367.4917, any activity that results in the movement, placement, probing, boring or removal of earth, rock or other material in or on the ground requires the excavator to contact the One Call Center with adequate information regarding the dig.

Remember…It's The Law!!! Kentucky 811 is open seven days a week, 24 hours a day to process locate requests or address questions regarding a locate request. The toll-free number is 800-752-6007 or 811 (the National Three Digit Call Before You Dig phone number).

Each excavator is required to provide no less than two business days' notice or no more than 10 business days prior to commencing work. Kentucky 811 does not factor state and federal holidays in the Two Business Day Notice required by law. When a Locate Request is submitted and a holiday falls within the Two Business Day Notice, then the date the holiday is observed will not be considered in the Two Business Day Notice. To view the current year's holiday list that affects the Two Business Day Notice, visit the Kentucky 811 Website at www.kentucky811.org.

## Generic Groundwater Protection Plans (GPPs)

GPPs for well drillers are available. Drillers are required to keep and implement a GPP. Drillers who drill closed loop geothermal borings, soil borings, or rock coring are also required to implement a GPP. Generic GPPs for domestic wells and septic systems are available to homeowners. These GPPs can be located on the Groundwater Section's Web site at: www.water.ky.gov/gw/gwprotection/gwplans/ Contact Pat Keefe for more information at 502-564-3410.

http://www.KentuckyUnbridledSpirit.com

The Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability and provides, on request, reasonable accommodations including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities.


**Energy and Environment Cabinet**
**Department for Environmental Protection**
**Division of Water**
**Watershed Management Branch**

**Water Well Drillers Program**
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