

KENTUCKY WATER WELL DRILLER'S QUARTERLY

Summer 2018
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Certified Water Well Driller Billy Lewis and helper of Lewis Water Works, drilling a water well in Lee County Ky.
By groundwater staff.

Notes from Water Well Drillers' Certification Program Coordinator

Scotty Robertson

This quarter we would like to focus upon the importance of well tags and AKGWA numbers, well records and reporting. Everyone hates paperwork but it is part of the job and the job is not done until the paper work is completed and submitted to the cabinet and the water well owner. In order to complete a well record, an identification number for the water well is required. In Kentucky we refer to this number as an AKGWA number and it is found on well tags provided by the cabinet to the driller on an as-needed bases.

Well tags contain the AKGWA number and contact information for the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW). The Division of Water uses this information to track the data collected on a particular well from construction through modification to abandonment. This information is ultimately made available to the public.

More than once drillers have come upon a water or monitoring well that did not have a Kentucky Division of Water well tag upon it. Home owners contact the Division of Water almost daily for information on water wells found on their property. Most of the time the water well does not have a well tag on it. There are several reasons that a water well might not have a tag:

- The well is pre law, meaning that it was drilled prior to 1985 , or 1991 for monitoring wells,
- The well is a post law well that was simply never tagged,
- The well has been modified or reworked and the tag was removed or destroyed as a result of the activity, or
- The tag was a victim of circumstance, meaning that it simply fell off due to normal wear and tear from exposure to the elements.

Ownership of the property on which a water well is located may change over time but the AKGWA number, under normal circumstances, should not. The AKGWA number allows new owners to find out information about their water well, and it allows the drillers that are making modifications on these wells or abandoning the well to identify and report them.

Drillers have resisted change over the years and some still do not complete the necessary well records required, or place well tags on the wells that need them. They often withhold well records from submittal to the cabinet and well owner until they receive payment for constructing the well, or completing other tasks such as modifying the well casing. Be aware that non-submittal of these records or withholding them past the required 60 day submittal date are violations of the regulations that govern water well drilling in Kentucky. Violators of these regulations are subject to penalties and or fines, suspension, or loss of certification for such violations.

In addition, we all can benefit from sharing records of a water well installation, modification or abandonment. Most drillers have had to work on a water well that someone else has installed and could have benefited from a well record if one had been available.

According to water supply well construction practices and standards outlined in 401 KAR 6:310 Section 1(5) the certified well driller should tag every well that he constructs, modifies or abandons, with a well identification number on a water well tag provided by the cabinet. Submittal of well records is required within sixty days of completion of installation, modification or abandonment. For clarification, modification includes: repair, replacement, or performing maintenance, on any part of the water or monitoring well- Modification which is described as repairing, replacing, and evening performing maintenance, on any part of the well requires the presence of a certified water well driller and he is to submit a maintenance or plugging record for the modification. So if a driller makes a modification to a water well, shortens or extends the casing, installs or replaces a pitless adapter, replaces a well cap with a sanitary seal, -, adds or replaces backfill around the well, etc. or abandons a well, he is required to submit a Uniform Water Well Maintenance and Plugging record to the DOW.

If an existing well identification number is not present on a water well at the time a driller modifies, or abandons it, then the certified driller or owner should contact the Division of Water. Division of Water personnel will then provide the driller with an appropriate AKGWA number for the well, so he can submit the required documentation of that activity to the cabinet.

Many times the certified driller is reluctant to assign an identification number to a water well if he did not install the well and does not want to accept responsibility for the well's condition. A certified driller will not held liable for a predecessor's work. This is the certified driller's chance to document the conditions that existed prior to working on the well and any changes he may make and why.

If you happen to come upon a water well that is not tagged please contact the Kentucky Division of Water at **502-564-3410**, for direct assistance contact: Scotty.Robertson@ky.gov or Tekovia.Brown@ky.gov or call Scotty at **502-782-7054** or Tekovia at **502-782-6902**. They will be more than happy to determine if a record of the well exists and provide you with a well tag identification (AKGWA) number if needed or other technical assistance concerning the well.

Water Well Driller Certification Program Board Meetings **Groundwater Staff**

Anthony Hatton has been appointed to the Kentucky Water Well Drillers Certification Board. Tony, as he prefers to be called, attended his first board meeting on May 11, 2018. Tony is replacing David Jackson who was the Secretary/Treasurer for the Board. Tony is also the Commissioner of the Energy and Environment Cabinet. Please welcome Tony to the Board, and thanks to David Jackson for his years of service as Secretary/Treasurer.

During the May 11, 2018 board meeting Danny Kelly was re-elected as Chairman of the Kentucky Water Well Drillers Certification Board by a unanimous vote. The Board discussed

Senate Bill 197 that would have allowed for the certification of assistant drillers and the last minute failure of it in this year's legislative session. Geothermal driller certification and certification fee increases were discussed but no action was taken. Board members voted to recommend to the Secretary of the cabinet that Division of Water personnel pursue actions against non-certified drillers who have been installing and abandoning water wells in Kentucky without a license.

The latest meeting of the Water Well Driller Certification Board was held on August 17, 2018 at the Division of Water offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Issues discussed at the board meeting included certification of drillers installing vertical boreholes for closed loop geothermal systems, an assistant driller certification program, adoption of a Standard Operating Procedures for the certification board, disciplinary actions taken by the Board and the Division of Enforcement. Also discussed were the number of drillers that had renewed their drilling certifications and regulatory violations made by certified and non-certified water well drillers during the past quarter.

The next meeting of the Water Well Drillers Certification Board has been scheduled for, November 16, 2018 it too will be held at Division of Water's Offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. If there is something specific you would like to have addressed by the Board please let us know. All board meetings are open to the public and all drillers are encouraged to attend. Visitors to the Division of Water will need a Photo ID to get into the facility. Please contact Scotty.Robertson@ky.gov or Tekoyia.Brown@ky.gov or call Scotty at 502-782-7054 or Tekoyia at 502-782-6902, prior to November 15, 2018 if you plan to attend the next board meeting, so that we can make seating arrangements.

Well Records

Groundwater Staff

The Watershed Management Branch (WMB) of the Division of Water has been redesigning the electronic Uniform Kentucky Water Well Construction Form to include well construction data currently not contained in the existing electronic form. The WMB is also on the verge of completing the development of the long anticipated electronic version of the Uniform Kentucky Maintenance and Plugging Form.

Testing of these electronic forms has already began. Soon be new electronic filing records (e-logs) will be available for use by certified water well drillers.

The creation of these e-log forms will also result in the creation of new paper forms for water well construction, modification and plugging, as well. The new printable form's content will be redesigned as well to better match the e-logs.

The new e-logs and printable forms are being edited and changed to better match the construction standards and practices outlined in KAR 401 6:310 and 401 KAR 6:350 not included on the current well records for construction, modification or abandonment.

New sections are being added to the form for monitoring well to report how the wells are constructed, developed, modified, and abandoned. A section for surface completions is also being added. Drilling methods are being updated to include those that were not on the forms before. Old confusing terminology is being removed for terminology more reflective of current drilling practices. New items are also being added, like indicating if the water well lies within a floodplain, and to identify materials used for surface completions. The forms will also indicate when a variance request is required for approval prior to construction, modification, or abandonment. Plugging records will have an updated section on modifications such as repair, replacement, and maintenance. Check boxes have been added for some of these items. On the electronic forms there will be new drop down boxes for these items. Depending on the action being reported, some sections and drop downs boxes will automatically turn off and on, when completing the electronic forms.

The intent of these changes is to make the forms easier to use for the drillers and reviewers. It is the cabinet's intent to have these new electronic forms and paper forms available in the very near future.

Annual Certification Renewal Ends August 31, 2018

Scotty Robertson

The certification renewal period began June 1, 2018 and ended July 31, 2018. However, drillers had until August 31, 2018 to complete the annual certification process. If you did not renew during this period and are still drilling water or monitoring wells you are in violation of the regulations and should cease all drilling activities until such time as your certification can be reactivated.

Unless you are certified the Division of Water's Directory of Certified Water Well and Monitoring Well Drillers will not contain contact information for your firm and the Division of Water will not give your contact information out to potential water well clients. So, if you have forgotten to renew in Kentucky contact the Division of Water as soon as possible, preferably before we publish our new Directory on our Webpage.

Groundwater Section News

David Jackson

The window for applying for the Geologist III vacancy in the Groundwater Section has closed. Management is currently in the process of reviewing applications received for a position vacancy. Applicants will be contacted if selected for interviews. Hopefully we will have the position filled in the near future.

Long time certified water well driller George VanHoose, of VanHoose Well Drilling in Louisa, Kentucky, recently contacted the Division of Water to say fare thee well. George is retiring from the drilling industry. George is 84 years old. He said that he wishes everyone success and good luck. He enjoyed the Kentucky Groundwater Association's annual tradeshow and workshop and would miss getting to visit with everyone. We are going to miss you too, George! Enjoy retirement.

Quick Links

- Drillers Directory: <http://water.ky.gov/groundwater/Documents/GWDrillersDirectory.pdf>
- Forms and Application: <http://water.ky.gov/groundwater/Pages/FormsApplications.aspx>
- Training Resources: <http://water.ky.gov/groundwater/Documents/training%20resources.pdf>

Division of Water-Well Drillers Program

<http://water.ky.gov/groundwater/Pages/WellDrillersProgram.aspx>

<http://water.ky.gov/>

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