

# KENTUCKY WATER WELL DRILLER'S QUARTERLY

Fall 2018  
Published February, 2019

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**Striking water while advancing borehole for monitoring well installation in Lawrence County, KY.  
By Groundwater Staff.**

## **Notes from Water Well Drillers' Certification Program Coordinator**

**Scotty Robertson**

Another year has come and gone and the program to certify water well and monitoring well drillers working in the Commonwealth of Kentucky continues onward and upward. We experienced a few bumps in the road this past year.

For the second time in many years, a certified driller had to appear before the Water Well Drillers Certification Board due to serious violations of Kentucky's well construction practices and standards. The drillers were issued Notices of Violations (NOVs) by DOW's Division of Enforcement and were found guilty of violating their solemn duty of upholding the laws and regulations as certified monitoring well drillers. The Water Well Drillers Certification Board issued recommendations for punishment of the drillers to the Secretary of the Energy and the Environment Cabinet. The fraudulent monitoring well documents submitted to the Division of Water caused millions of dollars to be paid out by the EEC for work that was not completed, or not completed properly in accordance with monitoring well construction and standard practices contained in 401 KAR 6:350.

There were several other drillers brought before the board for minor infractions of the regulations. These drillers were able to bring their work into compliance. Therefore, these actions did not result in NOVs being issued.

Groundwater Section personnel inspected twenty-six (26) domestic water wells between January and December of 2018 and collected groundwater samples from six (6) of the wells. Groundwater Section personnel also, inspected four (4) public water supply wells, but did not collect samples from them.

Groundwater Section personnel inspected twenty-eight (28) monitoring wells, three (3) dewatering wells, and eleven (11) injection well abandonments. The certification program coordinator performed well audits on two (2) monitoring well drillers installing or abandoning fourteen (14) monitoring wells. The program coordinator also inspected two (2) US EPA Region 4, UIC Class V injection wells.

## **Water Well Driller Certification Program Board Meeting**

**Groundwater Staff**

The Water Well Drillers Certification Board met on November 16, 2018. At that time, the Board made a recommendation to Energy and Environment Cabinet to sponsor a revision to KRS 151 to define and include vertical boreholes for geothermal systems in the definitions of a water well, and to require certification for geothermal vertical borehole drillers. The legislation would be introduced during the 2019 legislative session. Nevertheless, EEC did not act upon this recommendation.

The Board was also notified that the Kentucky Groundwater Association had submitted an amendment to KRS 223.400-460 to include definitions and language to allow for certification of Assistant Water Well and Monitoring Well Drillers. The amendment was pre-filed before the 2019 legislative session by Senator Stan Humphries.

The next board meeting will be held on February 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in Louisville at the Holiday Inn East during the Kentucky Groundwater Association's 2019 Annual Tradeshow and Workshop.

## Water Well Drillers

### Groundwater Staff

Several drillers have retired, there were a few deaths amongst our ranks, some companies folded, others opened, and there was a surge in new driller certification applications this year. We still have about 156 certified drillers in the state. At last count the Division of Water records indicate there were thirty one (31) water well drillers certified, sixty-nine (69) monitoring well drillers certified, and fifty-six (56) combined water well and monitoring well driller certifications issued this past year.

During the past fiscal year certified water well and monitoring well drillers have reported the installation of **748** wells. Table No. 1 summarizes the well types and numbers installed.

**Table No. 1**

<b>State Fiscal Year 2018</b>	<b>WELL TYPE</b>		<b>TOTAL BY USAGE:</b>
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Water</b>	
Agriculture		66	<b>66</b>
Domestic		46	<b>46</b>
Industrial and Commercial		7	<b>7</b>
Monitoring and Remediation	609		<b>609</b>
Public		3	<b>3</b>
Other*		17	<b>17</b>
<b>TOTAL WELLS DRILLED BY YEAR:</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>748</b>

During the past fiscal year certified water well and monitoring well drillers have reported the plugging of **535** wells. Table No. 2 summarizes the well types and numbers plugged.

**Table No. 2**

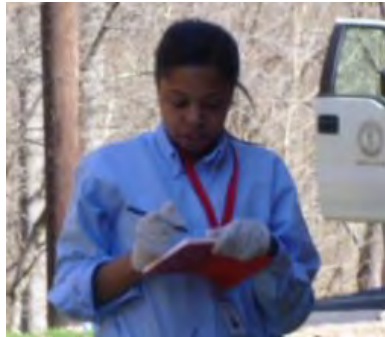
<b>State Fiscal Year 2018</b>	<b>WELL TYPE</b>		<b>TOTAL BY USAGE:</b>
<b>SUMMARY:</b>	<b>Monitoring</b>	<b>Water</b>	
Agriculture			
Domestic	2	12	<b>14</b>
Industrial and Commercial		3	<b>3</b>
Monitoring and Remediation	506		<b>506</b>
Public		3	<b>3</b>
Other*		9	<b>9</b>
<b>TOTAL WELLS PLUGGED BY YEAR:</b>	<b>508</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>535</b>

The Groundwater Section approved variance requests for six hundred eighty one (681) monitoring wells and eight (8) water wells. Variance request were denied for sixty-four (64) monitoring wells.

## **Groundwater Section News**

### **Groundwater Staff**

Tekoyia Brown transferred out of the Watershed Management Branch's Groundwater Section to the Drinking Water Branch in December 2018 with a promotion to Environmental Scientist III. Tekoyia, known as "TK" by most, was the administrative coordinator for the Water Well Drillers Certification Program. Her duties entailed assisting the program coordinator in certifying and tracking driller certifications, well and spring inspections, groundwater sampling, providing technical assistance to the drillers and the public. Another of her duties was keeping the Groundwater Section's supervisor David Jackson humble.



(Picture taken by Groundwater Staff)

Wei Ji a Geologist II in the Groundwater Section tendered her resignation effective January 2019. Wei administered the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring Program for the Groundwater Section, ordering supplies, tracking sampling events, reviewing analytical results, and notifying owners of results. Wei also assisted with well and spring inspections, groundwater sampling, and providing technical assistance. Wei is planning an extended trip to Germany and then moving to New York, New York to further her education.



(Picture taken by Groundwater Staff)

## Kentucky Groundwater Association Message

Groundwater Staff

### 2019 KYGWA Trade Show



THE ROOM SPECIALS ARE AVAILABLE UNTIL NOON, TUESDAY, FEB 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019!!! CALL THE HOLIDAY INN LOUISVILLE EAST – HURSTBOURNE TODAY TO RESERVE YOUR ROOM FOR THE 2019 TRADE SHOW!!!  
[502.426.2600](tel:502.426.2600)

**YOU MUST MENTION THE KY GROUNDWATER ASSOCIATION TRADE SHOW TO GET THE DISCOUNT!**

The 2019 KY Trade Show is quickly approaching!

The members of the board of directors are very excited about this years trade show! We believe this will be another step forward for both the Association and for you, the Driller, to:

- Interact with suppliers, regulators, and industry leaders.
- Round Table discussion with the Division of Water and members of the Water Well Certification Board on upcoming changes to regulations which govern our industry.
- Auction to benefit the Scholarship Fun. PLEASE COME READY TO BUY!
- Continuing Education Opportunities.

## Other News

### Groundwater Staff

Bart Davidson retired from the Kentucky Geological Survey as a hydrogeologist at the end of December 2018. Bart was instrumental in overseeing the Groundwater Data Repository, and has been a Water Well Drillers Certification Board member for several years, his input and enthusiasm for protecting Kentucky's groundwater will be missed.



(Picture supplied by Bart Davidson)

I paraphrased a personal note to me, from Bart: "Hey Folks," "Thanks to all of you for the kind wishes and great memories". "I'm going to miss you guys at the Board meetings!"



(Picture supplied by Bart Davidson)

Steve Greb, Bart's colleague, graced Bart with one of his caricatures, which we had to share it with you. Bart called it "a masterpiece!" Steve made him much better looking than Bart claims to be. The artist says, "bald guys are just harder to draw." By the way, you might notice some Star Fleet (Star Trek) insignia here and there (4 pips on the collar is a "**Captain's**")

ranking!) The Davidson clan crest is reported to be exactly accurate, with the Latin phrase “Sapienter Si Sincere,” which means “Wisely if Sincerely.”

## **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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KENTUCKY GROUNDWATER ASSOCIATION  
CONTRACTOR APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP AND 2019 TRADE SHOW REGISTRATION

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!! February 28<sup>th</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 – Louisville, Kentucky!**  
**THE 2019 SHOW WILL ONCE AGAIN BE HELD AT**  
**HOLIDAY INN – LOUISVILLE EAST HURSTBOURNE**  
**1325 South Hurstbourne Parkway**  
**Louisville, KY 40222**  
**502.426.2600**

Remit to: Kentucky Groundwater Association  
153 Booger Hollow Road  
Gray, KY 40734

Todd Mills, President  
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270.339.1270

Tommy Lawson, Vice President  
[advancedgeodrilling@gmail.com](mailto:advancedgeodrilling@gmail.com)  
859.393.0681

**Additional Questions? Please feel free to contact Todd or Tommy**  
**To register for 2019 trade show and workshop, please complete the application below.**

\*\*\*\*\*2019 KYGWA Membership Application AND Trade Show Registration\*\*\*\*\*

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Attendee Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

For 2019, the cost of annual membership in the KYGWA and admission to the 2019 KYGWA Trade Show will be \$125.00 per person if registered by February 7, 2019. The cost for registration after February 7, 2019 (including day of show) will be \$175.00 per person. Please make checks payable to KYGWA. One price will include your admission to the 2019 KYGWA Trade Show and your membership in the KYGWA.

Don't forget you must have a name tag to be able to go through the Buffet lines. The cost of your spouse's meals while attending is \$65.00 and a name badge will be made available. We must have a head count so everyone can eat.

**Note: This is NOT the Renewal Fee for your Kentucky Driller Certification for 2019.**