

KENTUCKY WELL DRILLERS QUARTERLY

TEAM
KENTUCKY®

ENERGY AND
ENVIRONMENT CABINET

IN NEED OF A DRILLING ASSISTANT?

Does it ever feel like you need to be in more than one place at once? Does your staff need more drillers? Do you get frustrated looking for drillers with the required experience to be certified? Does someone you know want to break into the drilling profession but does not have the required experience? If these are familiar experiences, you should look at the Assistant Driller Program.

Becoming a Certified Driller Assistant requires no experience. It does require a supervising driller who is certified and willing to sign an Affidavit of Supervision. This allows an assistant to work under their “direct supervision”. Meaning a supervising driller “...oversees and manages the work...providing specific instruction regarding the construction, modification, alteration, repair, and abandonment of a water well, but...is not required to provide in-person supervision at the drilling site” according to [401 KAR-320, Section 1\(14\)](#).

To obtain a Certified Driller Assistant license, an applicant must be at least 18 years of age and legally permitted to work in the United States. They must complete an Application for Certification ([DOW6060](#)) and submit the \$50 application fee. Qualified applicants must then pass the applicable state exam (\$80 testing fee per exam). The exams available depend on the certification of the supervising driller. For example, an applicant seeking supervision from a certified monitoring well driller may only take the Monitoring Well Exam. Once the exam is passed, an Affidavit of Supervision from a certified driller must be provided. Finally, a \$200 certification fee is required to complete the licensing process. Certified Driller Assistants are not required to take any National Groundwater Association (NGWA) exams because they are certified in the same drilling methods as their Supervising Driller. Assistants are also covered under the same bond and liability insurance as their supervisor ([KRS223-425\(5\)](#)). More information, as well as all the required forms and instructions can be under “[Certification Forms and Documents](#)”. Any questions can be addressed by the Driller Certification Program Coordinator, Tim Collins at Tim.Collins@ky.gov, (502) 782-4206 (office), or (502) 229-3793 (cell).

-Tim Collins

DID YOU KNOW?

Frequently missed information from the rules and regulations:

- Water well drillers are required to provide the [“Water Well Owner’s Guide”](#) to the owner of the well.
- According to the water supply well construction practices and standards, undesirable water shall be [cased off](#) or otherwise prevented from contributing to the well. This prevents contamination of good, water-producing, aquifers.
- A [monitoring](#) or [water](#) well driller can request a variance in advance from the cabinet when conditions exist that don’t allow for regulatory compliance in construction or abandonment.
- The Division of Water and Kentucky Geological Society have many [resources](#) a driller can use for researching groundwater resources.



GROUNDWATER PROTECTION PLANS

Groundwater is a critical resource for many Kentuckians. It is used as a drinking water source for many communities and is also used as an agricultural watering source throughout the Commonwealth. Groundwater provides recharge to local streams, lakes, ponds, rivers, and wetlands across the state. Even for communities that do not use groundwater resources, it is important to protect groundwater. Activities in these areas may impact the groundwater that is used by other communities outside of this area. Implementing groundwater protection best management practices is essential to safeguard your groundwater supply and to protect groundwater for generations to come.

The Kentucky Groundwater Protection Program was established by [401 KAR 5:037](#) in 1994 to protect Kentucky's groundwater resources. This regulation requires a Groundwater Protection Plan (GPP) to be made for sites that fall under [401 KAR 5:037](#). These sites can range from a simple domestic use water well to large industrial facilities. A few examples of what requires a GPP include: oil wells, pesticide and herbicide storage, commercial and industrial bulk storage, geothermal wells, and more. A GPP identifies all the activities that have potential to impact or pollute groundwater and the best management practices to protect groundwater. A GPP is required to be updated every three years or with any site changes that lead to an activity that could impact groundwater. All inspection and maintenance records are required to be kept for six years. When implemented properly, a GPP reduces the potential for groundwater contamination through prevention and mitigation. This protects the drinking water supply we all depend on, as well as protecting businesses from the costs of expensive clean up and remediation in the event of spills or accidental contaminant releases.

Anyone familiar with the operations of the facility or project can draft a GPP regardless of professional licensure or certification. There are several GPP guides and generic GPPs located on the DOW website that can be used when drafting a GPP. The Groundwater Section is an available resource for anyone drafting a GPP for guidance and input. More information regarding GPPs can be found at [the Groundwater Protection Plan webpage](#). If you have any questions regarding the GPP program, please contact Bronson McQueen at bronson.mcqueen@ky.gov or (502)782-6036.

-Bronson McQueen





GROUNDWATER SECTION NEWS

Groundwater Staff

Adam Smith, PG, now heads up the Groundwater Section as the supervisor. Kurtis Spears, leads the Ambient Groundwater Network for the State in which groundwater samples are collected from sources across the state are available for review. Tim Collins oversees the Driller Certification Program and can answer any questions you may have about certification or well log submission requirements. Bronson McQueen is tasked with leading the Groundwater Protection Plan Program. Zachary Campbell is a new addition to the team and is heading up the driller auditing and compliance area. Megan Sidaway is the other new hire, and is assisting in all areas including driller certification and compliance. The Groundwater Section provides technical assistance on groundwater issues to the public and other government agencies. Our section is officially fully staffed, check out below for more details on our staff!



Adam Smith, Groundwater
Section Supervisor



Kurtis Spears, Ambient
Groundwater Network



Tim Collins, Driller
Certification Program



Bronson McQueen,
Groundwater Protection Plan
Program.



Zachary Campbell, Driller
Audit and Compliance



Megan Sidaway, Driller
Certification and Compliance



EMAILS AND QUICK LINKS

Emails of Groundwater Staff:

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Quick Links

Water Well Drillers Certification:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/401/006/320/>

Monitoring Well Construction:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/401/006/350/>

Well Owner's Guide:

<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/Reports/Reports/2009-WaterWellOwnersGuide.pdf>

Water Supply Well Construction:

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/kar/titles/401/006/310/>

Well Driller Certification Program:

<https://eec.ky.gov/Environmental-Protection/Water/GW/Pages/GWDrillers.aspx>

Well Record Information Map:

<https://kygis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=3f4828d60d32429fa01215e2425d6e82>