

# Wyoming Water Well Contractor's Licensing News

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## Wyoming Water Well Association Convention!

The Wyoming Water Well Association is holding their annual water well convention starting January 18, 2017 thru January 20, 2017. Open registration begins at Eleven O'clock (11:00 am) on January 18th at the Parkway Plaza in Casper. This year they are offering

continuing education classes on Wednesday starting at noon. They have some great classes lined up including a McElhiney Lecture on "Defining the Operational Age of a Well" and their guest speaker is NGWA Director, David Heinrich.

If you would like to register early you can contact Karie Walker, Executive Secretary, at [wywaterwell@gmail.com](mailto:wywaterwell@gmail.com).

Hope to see you there!

## January's Water Well Journal Focuses on Well Maintenance!

By Mike Price, Information Products Editor, NGWA

This issue kicks off the 71st volume of the National Ground Water Association's Water Well Journal.

We begin 2017 with a January publication focusing on well maintenance. There are two feature stories on the subject, one focusing on bleach and the other on how knowing microbiology can assist you in maintaining a well.

The cover story is titled "No Bleach." Author Roger Miller examines how to effectively—and smartly—disinfect well

systems. He begins by pointing out the significance of disinfection as a process that can enable a well to continue producing water while also ensuring it is a safe well.

Miller notes effective water well disinfection is not a simple process. It is one requiring a trained water well contractor who understands disinfection chemicals, their proper application procedures, and the rules and regulations under which to operate. He goes into

detail on chlorine, concentrations to use, and removing it from the well so the system can be put back into operation.

Author Eric Duderstadt contributes "Knowing Well Microbiology." He says groundwater professionals with a strong knowledge of biofouling mechanisms can better maintain well systems and that monitoring bacteria is not just a water quality issue.

To read these articles and more, visit [www.WaterWellJournal.com](http://www.WaterWellJournal.com).

## License Renewals Update!

The Board Office mailed out a second notice to licensed contractors whose license expired December 31, 2016. Notification was also done via phone calls

and messages were left with those who still had valid contact information. With 174 licenses up for renewal there are still 44 contractors who have

not renewed. For those who have expired you still have until February 1, 2017 to get your renewals into the Board Office.

State Board of Examining Water Well Drilling Contractors and Pump Installation Contractors

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## Letter from the Executive Director

Happy New Year to everyone! So far 2017 has brought us frigid temperatures and lots of snow. I hope that some of you are staying busy.

The end of 2016 was a big renewal year and unfortunately it looks like we will lose a good number of licensed contractors. I have hopes that

our new President and his Administration will bring jobs back and strengthen our economy but only time will tell!

I would like to remind everyone to review Chapter 7 of the Board's Rules and Regulations. It defines the educational requirements to maintain a license, since 2016 was the

last year that certain educational exceptions were allowed.

I hope you are all planning on attending the Wyoming Water Well Associations Convention which starts January 18th. See you there!

Until next time, stay safe!

## Borehole North of Sheridan with High Air Pressure! Info

from Melissa Bautz, Project Manager, Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Division, Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

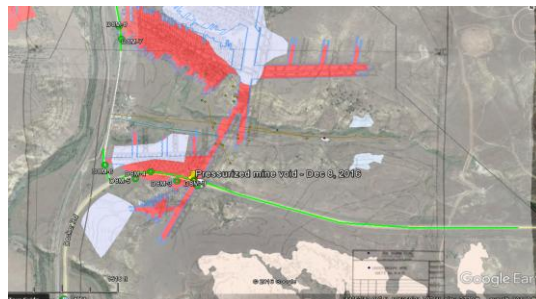
AML (Abandoned Mine Lands) drilled last week north of Sheridan in which tremendous air pressure was encountered. AML consultants were able to close-off the borehole and it is currently sealed. AML wanted to inform your office about the pressure encountered in this hole in the interest of safety.

The high pressure borehole was encountered by AML's Consultant, Tetra Tech (with Douglas Exploration doing the drilling) last week (on December 7 and 8, 2016). The borehole was targeting a suspected mine void in the historic underground Deitz Mine. The underground workings of the Deitz mine have been closed for decades. The purpose of AML's investigation in the area was to determine mine subsidence risk under the highway (Hwy 338) at this location.

Once the void was encountered during drilling, extreme air flow rushing out of the hole was observed at the ground surface. The drillers were unable to lower any geophysics tools into the hole. We were also unsuccessful lowering a downhole camera (due to the blowing air). The borehole was temporarily sealed (for the weekend of Dec 10-11, 2016) with a packer and a bentonite plug. That seal held all weekend and today (Dec. 13, 2016) the hole was reopened.

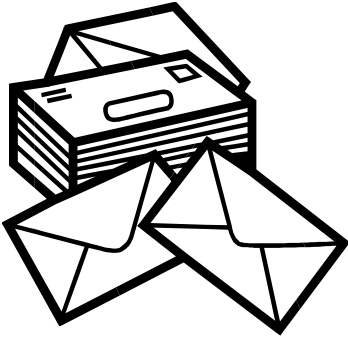
The LEL of the air rushing out of the hole was measured today with a handheld meter at 20%LEL. There was tremendous wind in the atmosphere above the borehole at this time, so it was difficult to get a clear LEL reading on the meter from the air rushing out of the hole. But the meter spiked to 20% LEL several times. After this, the hole was resealed with a permanent closure: A packer pushed to a depth just above the void and a column of cement in the hole.

The coordinates for the borehole: 44.888165, -106.979844, Void is from 185'-195'bgs.



We would like people to know about this for the safety of future drillers in this area. Nobody was hurt, but we were prepared for great pressures.

AML will be monitoring the integrity of the seal on this borehole monthly indefinitely, until further notice.



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## Calendar

Continuing education opportunities for March and April: The codes in the first column are as follows:

WWWA – Wyoming Water Well Association

NGWA – National Ground Water Association

NWDA – Nebraska Well Drillers Association

CWWCA – Colorado Water Well Contractors Association

WARWS – Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems

WWA- Wyoming Water Association

WWQ & PCA – Wyoming Water Quality & Pollution Control Association

The topic, date, time and location are given. Please refer to each respective association's website for more information on how to register, and/or for future educational opportunities.

BIDP – Baroid Industrial Drilling Products

AGWT – American Ground Water Trust

SEDC – Shallow Exploration Drillers Clinic

ISWD – International School of Well Drilling

CPS - CPD Distributors

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS December - January

AGWT	Educational Videos and Books	Website	<a href="http://www.AGWT.org">www.AGWT.org</a>
ISWD	International School of Well Drilling Online Courses	Website	<a href="http://welldrillingschool.com">welldrillingschool.com</a>
NGWA	Introduction to Groundwater Resources (#1012)	Website	Online self-paced course
WWWA	Wyoming Water Well Association Convention	Casper, WY	January 18 - 20, 2017

If you have any training opportunities you would like to be published in this newsletter please send them to the Board office.

**Next Board Meeting scheduled for January 18, 2017, Parkway Plaza, Casper at 10:00 am.**

**Professionalism: " the skill, competence, or character expected of a highly trained profession."**

**Be a professional, call yourself a professional, work like a professional, and demand the same from everyone in your profession!**