

# Wyoming Water Well Contractor's Newsletter

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



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

Website:  
[wwcb.state.wy.us](http://wwcb.state.wy.us)  
 email:[wwcb@wyo.gov](mailto:wwcb@wyo.gov)

Sheri R. Culver  
 Executive Director  
 122W. 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
 Cheyenne, WY 82002

Office:  
 (307) 777-7243

Fax:  
 (888) 988-1322

E-Mail:  
[sheri.culver@wyo.gov](mailto:sheri.culver@wyo.gov)

I received a phone call the other day from a well driller asking me if it was still necessary to submit the Notices of Intent to the Water Well Contractors Board (WWCB), since there was a new Director. I explained that it was still a requirement and that it was not a policy of the previous Director, but actually part of the WWCB's, Rules and Regulations. I thought it would be a good idea for me to write an article for the monthly newsletter on this subject to help clear up any confusion.

The Notice of Intent requirement can be found in the State Board of Examining Water Well Drilling Contractors and Water Well Pump Installation Contractors', Rules and Regulations, Chapter 5, (a) (ix), "*All licensees shall notify the Board, of any intent to drill a well or install a pump in a newly constructed well or well repair requiring the withdrawal of casing, five business days prior to commencement.*"

Rules and Regulations are not law, but have the force of law since they are adopted under authority granted by statutes and often include penalties for violations. Rules and Regulations are put in place to help insure the health and safety of the public (this includes you!). They can also provide a system of accountability, so if things go wrong, you're covered. They can reinforce company credibility, project a positive image to customers, and maintain fairness. The WWCB's Rules and Regulations also help protect the groundwater resources and help promote

excellence in water well drilling and pump installation practices.

I realize there are a few contractors who feel this stipulation is just another burden or restriction the government has placed on them. However, a majority of the inspector's reports that I have seen compliment the driller. I think an inspection report(s) would make a great marketing tool to show potential customers!

Most of us are basically honest, and knowing the rules, means that we usually try to follow them. One reason we do is to avoid punishment, but the strongest argument for following rules is to avoid possible stronger penalties imposed on us in the future. The Notice of Intent rule is probably one of the easiest to follow and requires little of your time. Filing a Notice of Intent does not guarantee an inspection, but if one is conducted, they are relatively painless and may even be helpful.

If you are having trouble with submitting Notices of Intent let me know and I will be happy to try and help you. The Notice of Intent can be submitted online. Enter the following link in your search browser to see how easy it can be:  
<http://wwcb.state.wy.us/commencementnotice.aspx>

**CONGRATULATIONS to the following drillers who have each submitted 100 plus Notices of Intent: Grant Christensen, Johnnie Christenson, Lou Dickerson, and Wes Moody!**



### ABRAHAM LINCOLN

This article, written by the American Ground Water Trust was originally published in  
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## ABRAHAM LINCOLN - THE GROUND WATER CONNECTION

Had it not been for contaminated well water, America's First Lady in 1861 might have been Ann and not Mary! Before Abraham Lincoln married Mary Owens it was speculated that he had a romance with Ann Rutledge. In 1832 when he moved to New Salem, Illinois, the future President stayed at a tavern where Ann worked. Initially, Ann was engaged to John MacNamar. Sometime during 1832, MacNamar told Ann he had to travel to New York but would return to marry her. He never returned.

As one might expect, much of the information about the relationship between Ann and Abraham Lincoln following MacNamar's departure is not well documented. However, most reports indicate that Lincoln and Ann became very good friends. Unfortunately, Ann Rutledge became ill during the late spring of 1835 and in August finally succumbed to the illness at the age of 22. It is suspected that she died of typhoid fever, which is caused by a bacteriologic pathogen found in human and animal feces.

Ann Rutledge probably contracted her illness from the tavern's well water. The seepage from a nearby outhouse could have infected the well water. In the early 1800's people commonly fetched their water by bucket from open dug wells. Pumping systems were not available to transport water from wells to buildings. Water was deemed safe to drink as long as it didn't smell, taste, or look bad. "Modern" bathrooms were not available to flush wastes to home septic or public sewer systems. Instead, outhouses located near homes and businesses were commonly used.

We now know that dug wells are highly susceptible to contamination from septic system and outhouse seepage. This drinking water/health connection was unknown in the early 1800's because many disease-causing organisms are odorless, tasteless, and colorless and could pass ineffective "nose, mouth and eye" tests. At that time, people had no way of knowing whether or not their water was safe to drink. Bacteria were discovered in 1676, but the link between bacteria and disease was not confirmed until 1876 when Nobel Laureate Robert Koch confirmed the connection through his work with the anthrax bacterium.

In Lincoln's time drilling rigs were not available to drill wells. Drilling machines did not appear on the scene in America until the 1870's. Today, drilled wells with well casing protecting the supply from near surface contamination are much safer, and yield a more dependable supply of water than dug wells. Private well owners (15 million of them in the U.S.), still have the responsibility to test their well water and ensure that the supply is free from contamination. Our knowledge of health protection and hygiene in the U.S. has come a long way since 1835. Wells are a safe daily drinking supply source for 150 million Americans. Unfortunately in some developing countries, the health risk to millions of people from unsafe supply sources has still not improved much from the conditions in rural America 170 years ago.

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## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE *answers on Page 3*

1. Wells should be located at least \_\_\_\_ lateral feet from a property line or boundary.
2. Well screens should only be used in naturally developed wells. True or False
3. For testing electrical characteristics, every pump installer and servicer should have which three of the following instruments? 1.)\_\_\_\_\_ 2.)\_\_\_\_\_ 3.)\_\_\_\_\_

## Calendar of Events:

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

WWWCB – Wyoming Water Well Contractors Licensing Board

BIDP – Baroid Industrial Drilling Products

AGWT – American Ground Water Trust

SEDC – Shallow Exploration Drillers Clinic

ISWD – International School of Well Drilling

CPS - CPS Distributors

Goulds - Goulds Water Technology Factory School WebEx Training

For continuing education opportunities please refer to each respective association's website for additional information.

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Executive Director  
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## Upcoming Events

AGWT	Educational Videos and Books	Website	WWW.AGWT.org
ISWD	International School of Well Drilling Online Courses	Website	welldrillingschool.com
NGWA	Introduction to Groundwater Resources (#1012)	Website	Online self-paced course
NGWA	Selection and Operation of Meters for Safe and Successful Electrical Troubleshooting for Water Well Pump Systems (#7132-1)	Website	Online self-paced course
NGWA	Pumping Test Design and Aquifer Analysis (short course 192)	Westerville, Ohio	July 18-19, 2017
WWWCB	Board Meeting (Teleconference)	Cheyenne, WY	July 27, 2017
WWWA	Board Meeting	Lander, WY	July 28, 2017
NGWA	Groundwater solutions: Innovating to Address Emerging Issues for Groundwater Resources	Arlington, Virginia	August 8-9, 2017
NGWA	Conference on Fractured Rock and Ground Water	Burlington, Vermont	October 2-3, 2017
WWQ & PCA	47 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference	Casper, WY	October 23, 2017
WWWA	2018 Convention	Casper, WY	January 24-26, 2018

Answers to Test Your Knowledge from page 2

1. 10 feet (SEO Water Well Minimum Construction Standards, Page 3-1)
2. False (Manual of Water Well Construction Practices, Chapter 5)
3. Voltmeter ohmmeter ammeter