

# Wyoming Water Well Contractors' Newsletter

## NEWS FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



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In this month's Wyoming Water Well Contractors' Newsletter I wanted to make you aware of a policy change the State Engineer issued regarding groundwater applications for domestic and stock watering uses. I've included a copy of the Memorandum on page 4 for you to read. The policy change is substantial in the way the agency has operated since the early 1980's in which the State Engineer's Office classified certain stockwatering uses as a "miscellaneous" use. A miscellaneous use permit was required for stock use if:

There was beneficial use of water at four (4) or more stock tanks and/or the tanks were located more than a mile from the well.

By statute, a "miscellaneous" use permit required adjudication of the water right. The cost associated with the adjudication process can be costly and the State Engineer's Office often received complaints and comments on this matter since a typical 25 gpm (or less) stock well permit for four (4) tanks or less located within a mile of the well was not required to go through the adjudication process.

The State Engineer's new policy no longer defines the number of tanks or miles of conveyance. The primary requirement is that the well produce no more than 25 gpm at all times.

The State Engineer also rescinded a previous policy and practice which limited "domestic" use filings to no more than three single family dwellings per well. The new policy allows multiple dwellings to be served by a well and still be considered "domestic" use as long as the well does not produce more than 25 gpm.

Neither domestic nor stock, previously considered miscellaneous use will require adjudication

If you have any questions concerning the new policy please contact the Ground Water Division at 307-777-6163.

Stay warm and have a wonderful day!



*Sheri R. Culver*

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

Website:  
wwcb.state.wy.us  
email: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

# CONGRADULATIONS TO THE NEW LICENSEES!

### WELL

**Travis Hueller**  
Premier PowerPlants & Pumps  
Farson, WY

**John Erramousepe**  
Premier PowerPlants & Pumps  
Farson, WY

### PUMP

**Austin Silsby**  
Tyler Exploration, LLC  
Douglas, WY

### WELL & PUMP

**David Glendy**  
Sargent Irrigation Co. Inc.  
Broken Bow, NE

**Bobby Schwab**  
Weber Drilling, Inc.  
Jackson, WY



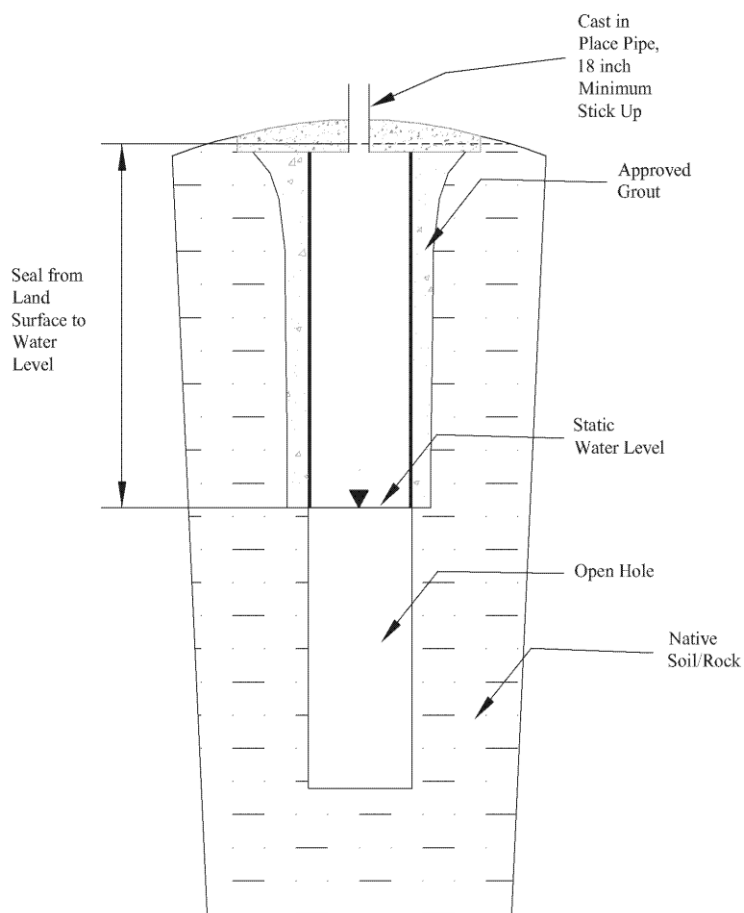
## DID YOU KNOW?

1. More than 90 percent of the groundwater pumped from the Ogallala, the nation's largest aquifer underlying some 250,000 square miles stretching from Texas to South Dakota, is used for agricultural irrigation. Representing about one-third of all U.S. irrigated agriculture, it creates about \$20 billion annually in food and fiber.
2. If spread across the surface of the entire United States, the Ogallala's groundwater would cover all 50 states with 1.5 feet of water. Scientists estimate it could take 6,000 years to refill naturally if it were ever to be fully withdrawn. [16]
3. Texas leads the nation in the number of irrigation wells with 77,389.

[www.ngwa.org](http://www.ngwa.org)

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Is the diagram below a Type I, II, III or IV well according to the State Engineer's Office Water Well Minimum Construction Standards?



Version 11.20.2009

## Calendar of Upcoming Events:

NDA	On-Line Certification Exams	Website	<a href="https://nda4u.com">https://nda4u.com</a>
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
NGWA	Selection and Operation of Meters for Safe and Successful Electrical Troubleshooting for Water Well Pump Systems (#7132-1)	Website	Online self-paced course
TLC	Technical Learning College	Website	Self-paced courses
CPS	2018 Contractor Training Schedule <a href="https://cpsdistributors.com/knowledge-center/">https://cpsdistributors.com/knowledge-center/</a>	Website	Classroom & Online Training
NGWA	2018 NGWA Groundwater Fly-In and Water Resources Congressional Summit	Washington, D.C.	March 6-7, 2018
CPS	CPS Spring Fling	Denver, CO	March 8, 2018
IGWA	CEC Workshop	Pocatello, ID	March 9, 2018
WQA	2018 Convention & Exposition	Denver, CO	March 26-29, 2018
NGWA	Field Methods: Groundwater Geochemistry	Westerville, Ohio	June 7-8, 2018
NGWA	Fracture Trace and Lineament Analysis	State College, Pennsylvania	October 29-Nov 1, 2018
NGWA	Groundwater Week	Las Vegas, NV	December 3-6, 2018

WWWA – Wyoming Water Well Association

NDA – National Drilling 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

IGWA – Idaho Ground Water Ass. Inc.

ISWD – International School of Well Drilling  
[www.welldrillingschool.com](http://www.welldrillingschool.com)

CPS - CPS Distributors

Goulds - Goulds Water Technology Factory School WebEx Training

Technical Learning College  
[www.abctlc.com](http://www.abctlc.com)

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



## ANSWERS TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

The diagram on page 2 is a Type 1 – Dug Well. Dug wells are excavations that penetrate from the ground surface down to the first-encountered aquifer. Dug wells are usually simple pits, elongate trenches, or large diameter, lined shafts constructed by hand or using excavation machinery (e.g. a backhoe).



## State Engineer's Office

HERSCHLER BUILDING, 1-W CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002  
(307) 777-7354  
seoieg@seo.wyo.gov

MATTHEW H. MEAD  
GOVERNOR

PATRICK TYRRELL  
STATE ENGINEER

### MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2018

TO: State Engineer's Office Personnel

FROM: Patrick T. Tyrrell, State Engineer

SUBJECT: Policy regarding groundwater applications for domestic and stock watering uses

Wyoming Statute § 41-3-907 defines appropriations of groundwater for stock or domestic use as follows:

Appropriations of underground water for stock or domestic use, the latter being defined as household use and the watering of lawns and gardens for noncommercial family use where the area to be irrigated does not exceed one (1) acre, where the yield or flow does not exceed .056 cubic feet per second or twenty-five (25) gallons per minute, shall have a preferred right over rights for all other uses, regardless of their dates of priority, subject to the provisions of W.S. 41-3-911, as amended, if an appropriation is for two (2) or more uses, and includes one (1) of the above preferred uses, the preferred use shall be limited to .056 cubic feet per second or twenty-five (25) gallons per minute, and the application shall specify one (1) acre upon which such preferred uses shall be made. Such preferred use shall not include municipal use by any person of water appropriated by a municipality or company, or any instance where water is purchased or held out for sale.

By policy adopted in the early 1980's, the State Engineer's Office (SEO) had further interpreted domestic and stock uses of groundwater as follows:

- Domestic use was for no more than three single family dwellings; and
- Stock use was for no more than four points of use within one mile of the well or spring.

Appropriations that did not satisfy the policy interpretation were permitted as "miscellaneous" use with adjudication requirements (and commensurate costs) specified under Wyoming Statute § 41-3-935.

Presumably, the decision to permit these somewhat larger-scale domestic and livestock watering activities as miscellaneous use was because they do not appear as "de minimis" in the conventional view of domestic and stock uses. Furthermore, mapping and adjudication

requirements would ultimately clarify the place of use of these larger livestock watering and domestic activities and reduce permitting errors or omissions.

However, aquifers respond to the stress applied over an area. Over time, an aquifer responds practically no different to one centrally located well serving four or five closely spaced points of use as it would with each point of use having a dedicated well. The important factor is the statutory cap of twenty-five (25) gallons per minute of well yield or flow. Furthermore, technological advancements now make it possible for a layperson to obtain global positioning system (GPS) coordinates and determine points of stock watering and domestic uses sufficiently accurate for the SEO's records and needs.

Accordingly, I hereby rescind any previously issued SEO policy which provided additional interpretation or definition of stock watering and domestic uses, including:

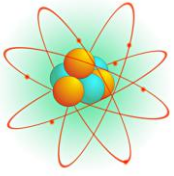
1. The July 1, 1982 Richard G. Stockdale policy memorandum titled "Policy regarding stock watering pipelines where the water source is a well"; and
2. The policy quoted in the letter dated November 1, 1983 from State Engineer George Christopoulos to Mr. Peter M. Hansen, Chairman, Niobrara Conservation District, in which Mr. Christopoulos describes domestic use and stock watering pipelines.

Please review any Application for Permit to Appropriate Ground Water (U.W. 5) submitted to the SEO to assure compliance with Wyoming Statute § 41-3-907 and the Regulations and Instructions of the SEO relating to groundwater.

In addition, for all stock and domestic use applications where the proposed use would have been classified as a miscellaneous use under the SEO's previous policies, granted permits shall contain the following condition:

As part of the well owner's completion and submission of a Statement of Completion and Description of Well form, or as soon as practicable thereafter, the owner shall indicate distance and direction from the well to the point or points of use, and explain how the water is conveyed. If necessary, the owner shall submit a diagram, which may be similar to a special application map, on a separate sheet of paper. Additionally, the owner shall supply GPS coordinates of each point or points of use and tabulate them on the map or diagram. The State Engineer or his authorized representative may inspect the works and the uses being made of the water. Inspection may include, but not be limited to, verification of the well location, permitted flow rate, and points and areas of use.

This policy shall remain in force until such time as it is rescinded, replaced or superseded by statute or rule.



Pictures of a stainless pump from a water well that had become a sacrificial metal that acted as the anode.

