

# The Driller's Digest

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*This newsletter is published as a service to certified well contractors and others in the groundwater industry. Suggestions for articles for publication in the newsletter are welcome.*

## Confusion Continues...

By Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

There still seems to be a lot of confusion over the new continuing education requirements that took effect May 1, 2011 for N.C. certified well contractors. Here is a quick recap of some of the main changes:

- **All continuing education courses must be pre-approved (by the Review Committee) at least 30 days prior to the course date.**

Courses that are currently pre-approved are listed online at [www.wellcontractors.nc.gov](http://www.wellcontractors.nc.gov) under "Continuing Education." The WCCC-Review Committee is the group that pre-approves all courses. The list of WCCC-Review Committee meeting dates and submittal deadlines may be found online under "Meetings." Make sure any pre-approval request you submit is sent in far enough in advance to be reviewed at the appropriate WCCC-

Review Committee meeting. If the course you want to take is not listed online, it has not yet been pre-approved so you will not get credit for attending!

- **A course pre-approval is for the specific course date(s)**

For reoccurring online courses the pre-approval would be for the particular certification period (July 1-June 30). A course pre-approval does not last into subsequent certification periods or to additional course dates not submitted for pre-approval.

The forms to request pre-approval of a course (WCC-8a), and also for submitting proof of attendance after taking a pre-approved course (WCC-8b), may be found online under "Continuing Education." Course pre-approval is for the specific course date or certification period (for online courses) the course is submitted for. So if you intend to take the same course again the following certification

*(Continued on page 3)*

## The ABC's of Septic Systems (or more accurately the IP, CA, and OP's of Septic Systems)

By Trish Angoli, P.E., DHHS/DPH/On-Site Water Protection Branch

Before drilling a well for any purpose (irrigation, injection, geothermal...), the location of the septic system serving the building needs to be located. Septic systems are underground wastewater treatment and disposal systems that are permitted by the local health department. The septic system rules (15A NCAC 18A .1900) and 2C well construction rules require that horizontal setback distances be met based on the intended use of the well and size of the septic system.

There are three different permits issued for a septic system: an improvement permit, a construction authorization, and an operation permit.

Improvement Permit (IP) – An improvement permit is issued for a piece of property by the local health department. The permit identifies where the suitable soil is located on the lot that the building's septic system will be installed in. Septic systems in North Carolina are required to have both an initial (new) drainfield area and a repair drainfield area. If there is not enough suitable soil for both an initial and repair drainfield than an improvement permit will not be issued for that lot.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Summary of Civil Penalty Assessments

*Penalties for violations of NCGS Chapter 87, Article 7 & 7A vary depending upon the particular facts and circumstances present in each case. Note: only finalized uncontested cases or cases not seeking remission and at the collection stage are included in this list (payment of fines and corrections of violations may already have occurred).*

**There are no finalized cases at this time.**

*The ABC's of Septic Systems  
(Continued from page 1)*

Construction Authorization (CA) – A construction authorization is the second part of the permit for the septic system. The construction authorization shows the design of the septic system: where the septic tank is located, where the pump tank is located (if needed), what size pump must be used (if needed), and any other information needed so that the licensed installer can install the septic system as shown on the permits.

In many counties, the IP and CA are issued at the same time.

Before the system is placed into use, an operation permit must be issued. The local health department inspects the septic system installation and makes sure that it meets all the requirements listed in the IP and CA. After all the inspections are done, the health department will issue an operation permit. The operation permit will list the required operation and maintenance frequency for the system, any special conditions that have to be followed, and show the final location of the septic system.



A well driller can request a copy of the permits (IP, CA, and/or OP) for a piece of property from the local health department to make sure that the proposed location of the well meets all the rule requirements.

Septic systems installed in saprolite must be at least 100 feet away from any well. The IP/CA will identify if the septic system is installed in saprolite.

More to come on septic tanks in future issues...

## Revision of NC Injection Well Construction Standards (15A NCAC 2C.0200)

by Thomas Slusser, L.G., DENR/DWQ/APS

The Division of Water Quality has been in the process of revising the injection well regulations, which were last revised in 1997. The proposed revisions consist of organizational changes to make the rule easier to use, certain changes needed to comply with federal injection well regulations, addition of current standards of practice, and expanded use of permitting by rule. Some of the proposed changes include fully grouting the borehole of all closed-loop geothermal injection wells, permitting by rule all closed-loop geothermal injection wells, and permitting by rule injection wells associated with certain groundwater remediation strategies.

In May 2011, the Environmental Management Commission approved the proposed rules to be sent out for public comment and the Office of State Budget and Management approved the economic analysis in August 2011. The public comment period was held from Oct. 17, 2011, to Jan. 13, 2012, with four public hearings conducted in Morganton, Burke County; Raleigh, Wake County; Williamston, Martin County; and Castle Hayne, New Hanover County.

Revisions of the proposed rules based on public comments include reducing the frequency of mechanical integrity testing for aquifer storage recovery wells; prohibiting the use of bentonite grout in groundwater with chloride concentrations of 1,500 mg/L or greater; requiring 30-day prior notification for commercial closed-loop geothermal wells, which will remain permitted by rule; referencing the N.C. Mechanical Code for materials to be used in geothermal wells; requiring plans for managing drilling fluids in such a way as to prevent water quality violations; and expanding the size of the area of "small-scale" groundwater remediation injections eligible for permitting by rule from 2,500 ft<sup>2</sup> to 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. The estimated economic impact of these revisions is to increase the net savings to the state and regulated community from approximately \$700,000 to \$850,000 in the first year of implementation.

On March 8, the Environmental Management Commission voted to adopt the revised proposed rules. Pending approval by the Rules Review Commission the revised injection well regulations could become effective as early as **May 2012**. Information on this revision is available online at <http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/aps/gwpro/rules-statutes/rule-revisions>

*Continuing Education  
(Continued from page 1)*

period, always remember to check online first to see if it has been pre-approved for that certification period/date. Well contractors or course providers may submit a course for pre-approval. Courses must be related to well contractor activities. If you know of a course coming up that you would like to attend but it is not yet listed as pre-approved, please submit it! If you need assistance or have questions WCCC staff is here to help.

- **60 minutes of instructional time = 1 CEU**

This is actual instruction time and does not include lunch or breaks.

- **6 CEU now required**

This is down from the former 8 PDH that had been required but remember the new CEU's do not include any time from breaks. Also, you can still stay ahead a full year with up to 6 CEU carry-over.

- **If a course runs short, you will only be credited with the actual time spent in training**

The CEU hours pre-approved are the maximum that may be attained. For example, if a course was pre-approved for 5 hours but only lasts 4 hours and 35 minutes, then you would be credited 4.5 CEU based on the actual time earned.

A hardcopy Chap. 27 rulebook was mailed out to all certified well contractors last year with renewal notices. The rules may also be viewed online at [www.wellcontractors.nc.gov](http://www.wellcontractors.nc.gov) under "Rules".

If you have any further questions regarding continuing education, please contact Joanne Rutkofske by email at [joanne.rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:joanne.rutkofske@dhhs.nc.gov) or by telephone at (919)707-5881.

**Aquifer Protection Section Move**

by Eric Smith, DENR/DWQ/APS

We've moved! The Division of Water Quality's Aquifer Protection Section (Central Office) has moved our physical location. Our new physical address is 512 North Salisbury Street in Raleigh (Archdale Building - 6<sup>th</sup> Floor); however, the mailing address remains the same (1636 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1636). Our new phone number is 919-807-6300 and our new fax number is 919-807-6496.

**North Carolina Well Contractors Certification Commission**

1653 Mail Service Center / Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1653  
Telephone: (919) 707-5883 Fax: (919) 845-3973

**Commission Members**

- John Boyette**, NCWC– Wilson
- Casey Champion**, REHS, NCWC— Oxford
- Chris Dickey**, NCWC, **Vice Chairman** – Murphy
- John Nykamp**, REHS, NCWC, **Chairman** - Greensboro
- Paul Weller**, NCWC– Rougemont
- Thomas Whitehead**, NCWC– Wilmington

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- Ted Lyon**, REHS (919) 707-5875 (Supervisor)  
[Ted.Lyon@dhhs.nc.gov](mailto:Ted.Lyon@dhhs.nc.gov)

**Certification Today**

Total number certified.....1193  
Total number of applicants for certification.....52  
Certifications currently suspended.....0

**NC Division of Water Quality  
Aquifer Protection Section (APS)**

<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/wq/aps>

<u>Asheville</u>	828-296-4500
<u>Fayetteville</u>	910-433-3300
<u>Mooreville</u>	704-663-1699
<u>Raleigh</u>	919-791-4200
<u>Washington</u>	252-946-6481
<u>Wilmington</u>	910-796-7215
<u>Winston-Salem</u>	336-771-5000

**NC Department of Health and Human Services(DHHS)  
Division of Public Health  
Environmental Health Section**

<http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us>

*N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.*

*Correction:* 1,350 copies of this document were printed at a cost of \$1,171.05 or \$.87 each.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Online at [www.wellcontractors.nc.gov](http://www.wellcontractors.nc.gov)

## JUBILEE Now In Virginia Beach

By Jane Cain

Celebrate the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual South Atlantic JUBILEE by joining water industry professionals at the state of the art Virginia Beach Convention Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia on July 21-23. This year's theme is "Working Together for Better Onsite Water Systems". New meeting site; new classes; new format -- the 2012 JUBILEE is one you won't want to miss! There is even an opportunity for North Carolina drillers to take the North Carolina certification exam. You must pre-register. For information visit [www.wellcontractors.nc.gov](http://www.wellcontractors.nc.gov).

As always, the JUBILEE is where the water "pros" go, with a first class trade show, over 40 hours of continuing education and networking with professionals from all of the onsite water industries. For the first time since the '70's, with new energy and excitement, we are back at the beach in Virginia Beach. or information on the JUBILEE, go to [jubileewater-show.com](http://jubileewater-show.com) or call 504-740-3329.



## We've Moved!

By Joanne Rutkofske, WCC Staff

Staff have moved from the 2728 Capital Blvd. location to 5605 Six Forks Rd. ("Bldg. 3") in Raleigh. The move took place the second week of February.

Our new phone and fax numbers are listed on page 3 of this publication and are also available online at [www.wellcontractors.nc.gov](http://www.wellcontractors.nc.gov) under "staff contacts."

All forms have been updated to reflect the new location. As always, pull a fresh form from the website when you need one, not an old copy from your file, to ensure you have the most up-to-date version.



## Are you moving? Have a new employer?

Remember to fax or mail us a copy of the (WCC-9) Address Change Form so we may update any contact information changes you may have within 30 days.

Report Uncertified Well Contractors to the local health department or call (919) 707-5882