

# Wyoming Water Well Association Annual Convention

## State Engineer's Office Update

January 23, 2014

Parkway Plaza, Casper, WY

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# Today's Presentation

- Relationship between the SEO and the Licensing Board (required by statute)
- Responsibilities of the SEO
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- Water Well Minimum Construction Standards
- Part II Rules and Regulations
- Monitoring wells
- Temporary or “time-limited permits”
- 2014 Proposed Legislation

# Relationship between the SEO and the Licensing Board (required by statute)

- State Engineer or his designee sits on the Licensing Board
- State Engineer's Office (SEO) provides fiscal and administrative staff services to the Licensing Board
- Licensing Board receives \$25.00 from each SEO -groundwater permit application fee (not including CBM wells)

# Responsibilities of the SEO

- State Engineer's Office
  - Requires approved permit prior to drilling a well or developing a spring (U.W. 5 Form)
  - Requires Statement of Completion (U.W. 6 Form) within 30 days of well completion
  - Monitors compliance with Water Well Minimum Construction Standards, endorses permits, and reports problems to Licensing Board

# Responsibilities of the Licensing Board

- Licensing Board
  - Licenses water well drilling and pump installation contractors
  - Requires professional standard of conduct
  - Enforces water well minimum construction standards
  - Ability to withhold, deny, revoke, or suspend licenses

# Water Well Minimum Construction Standards

- 1974 standards revised in 2010
- September 5, 2012 – WWWA requested SEO change rules regarding
  - custom perfs
  - filter pack
- January 30, 2013 – WWWA met with SEO

# WWWA's Proposed Language

September 5, 2012 letter from WWWA to SEO:

- Chapter 3, Section 2(f)(i)(B)
- Type II and III wells shall be constructed with well screen (as defined in chapter 2) commercially manufactured **with custom perforations** for the purpose of well construction and sized appropriately for the grain size of the aquifer materials to be developed by the well.

# WWWA's Proposed Language

September 5, 2012 letter from WWWA to SEO:

- Chapter 3, Section 2(g) Filter Pack:
- Filter pack (or gravel pack) material shall consist of clean, well-rounded, chemically stable grains that are smooth and uniform. The filter material should not contain more than 2% by weight of thin, flat, or elongated pieces and should not contain organic impurities or contaminants of any kind. Type III wells should be gravel (filter) packed opposite the perforated or screened zones(s) and no more than **thirty (30) feet** above the zone(s). The interval above the gravel pack must be sealed, as described in these rules, to prevent fluid cross-contamination from the surface or from a shallow aquifer.

# Water Well Minimum Construction Standards – Custom Perfs

- SEO agreed to develop guidance re requesting a variance request
- May look at making waiver section more understandable and usable rather than seeking a rule change –this should accommodate issues related to custom perfining (e.g., remove certain references to the term “perforated casing” as they apply to Type II and III wells)

# Variance Requests Received: 2013

## Approved

### Custom Perfs

- D & N Drilling Co. (2)
- Nelson Water Well Drilling (1)
- Weber Drilling (1)

### Filter Pack

- Hinckley Consulting (3)

### Plugging and Abandonment

- Slausen (1)

## Not Approved

### No Seal

- Ockinga

# Permit Endorsement

When a variance request is approved, the permit is “endorsed” to note such, for example:

*DATE - The water well drilling contractor requested a variance from Section 2 (c) (ii) of the State Engineer’s Office Water Well Minimum Construction Standards (i.e., a variance from the requirement to use commercially manufactured screen in a Type II well). The variance request is approved. See letter of request filed in Miscellaneous Notice under Permit No. U.W. XXXXXX.*

# GW's Part II Rules and Regulations

Changes being considered to Operating Practices:

- Require Licensed well drilling contractor to submit U.W. 6 Form or Statement of Completion and Description of Well or Spring when well is constructed
- Require Licensed pump installation contractor to submit U.W. 8 Form or Beneficial Use form when pump is installed

# Monitoring Wells

*Monitoring wells* are used to measure water levels and/or collect water samples for analytical purposes

January 4, 2005 Policy Memo: No permit required for monitoring wells constructed with casing i.d.  $\leq$  4 inches

March 12, 2013 Policy Memo: No permit required for any monitoring well

Justification: Monitor wells are not used for the production of water for beneficial use

# 2014 Proposed Legislation

*Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands and Water Resources Interim Committee supports:*

1. HB0010: Water Well Permits
2. SF0006: Groundwater Contested Cases

*Senator Geis, and others, sponsoring:*

1. SF0056: Increase in diversion of permit fees to support Licensing Board

Did not support:

- Change in statute to reflect when a well is complete (i.e., when a pump is installed)

# House Bill HB0010

- Water Well Permits
  - AN ACT relating to water; authorizing the state engineer to approve multiple wells with a single permit as specified; and providing for an effective date

# Senate File No. SF0006

- Groundwater Contested Cases
  - AN ACT relating to water; specifying how certain water right hearings before the state engineer and the board of control shall proceed; providing for allocation of costs of hearings; specifying that certain decisions may be subject to additional review by the board of control; and providing for an effective date.

# Temporary or “Time Limited” Permits

Applications for miscellaneous uses considered to be temporary in nature (water supply wells for the oil and gas industry, mine dewatering, highway construction, gravel pits, water hauling, etc.)

Approved permits are valid for a specified period of time (i.e., temporary or “time limited”)

Approved permits have an automatic cancellation date, specified in the Additional Conditions and Limitations attached to the permit

If an extension of time is not requested (and approved) prior to the cancellation date, the permit is cancelled

# Questions?

Ground Water Division  
(307) 777- 6163

State Engineer's Office Website  
[seo.wyo.gov](http://seo.wyo.gov)