



Nevada Well Driller's Annual Newsletter June 2015

State of Nevada
Division of Water
Resources

Service Since
1903

Message from Jason King, Nevada State Engineer

Lake Tahoe Basin's snowpack is the lowest it's been in over 110 years of record keeping (3%); Lake Mead storage is at an all time low; farmers in the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District are only going to receive a 15-20% water delivery; farmers along the Lower Humboldt have already been cut-off from water deliveries for the year; 16 of the 17 state's counties have been declared Primary Natural Disasters Areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture due to their exceptional drought status; and for the first time in the history of our office, we issued a curtailment order limiting 50% supplemental groundwater for irrigation in Smith and Mason Valleys (order was appealed to the district court which enjoined (stayed) it). Drought is everywhere you look and is a subject in just about every paper you pick up. Are we in the 4th year of a 4-year drought, or the 4th year of a 10-year drought? In a report released earlier this year by the U.S. Geological Survey, University of Arizona and Cornell University, there is an 80% chance that the Southwest will experience a decade-long drought over the next century, and even more worrisome, there is a 20% to 50% chance of a 35-year *megadrought* over the same time period. One thing that is for sure is that we all have to do our part to use water efficiently and conserve the little water we do have.

Because of the drought, our office has been busy processing temporary transfers of existing water rights, including moving water from fields that are being fallowed to other areas where farmers are trying to optimize this year's crop production. We are also busy working with well drillers in expediting well deepenings and replacements.

There are only a couple of weeks left in this 2015 legislative session. Thus far it has not been a good session for our water bills. Our office sponsored two bills, SB 65 and SB 81, and co-sponsored SB 485 with Senator Goicoechea. Senate Bill 65 was a lengthy, clean-up bill that did many good things, including modernizing the adjudication statutes. The bill died before making it out of the Senate. Senate Bill 485, which put a 10-year sunset date on filing Claims of Vested Rights, also died even though there was no opposition to it when discussed last fall during the seven listening sessions our office held around the state. At the time of this writing, Senate Bill 81, which adds tools to the water law in dealing with groundwater management plans in critical management areas, is still alive and we are hopeful it will pass in order for office to best manage basins that are severely over-appropriated.

As mentioned above, our office held seven listening sessions last fall throughout the state. An initial report was published which broadly identifies the various topics discussed at the sessions. That publication can be found at <http://water.nv.gov/documents/DWR%20Listening%20Sessions.pdf>. A second publication is forthcoming that will highlight and examine some of the more pressing issues.

In closing, I cannot stress enough the importance of good stewardship of our most valuable resource – especially during a drought, and keep your fingers crossed for a very wet winter! Thanks for everything you do and have a great 2015!

Best Regards,
Jason King, P.E.

Domestic Wells and their Limitations

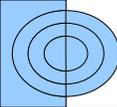
The State Engineer finds it is necessary to remind Nevadans of the limitations on using water from a domestic well. Most domestic well owners in Nevada are aware of the statutory limit of two (2) acre-feet per year on the amount of water that may be used from their well. However, this limitation is only half of the story when it comes to domestic well use under Nevada water law. One must also refer to the statutory definition of domestic use found in Nevada Revised Statute 534.013.

NRS 534.013 sets out the limits regarding the use of water from a domestic well. It provides that "domestic use" or "domestic purposes" extends **only** to culinary and household purposes directly related to a single-family dwelling and an accessory dwelling unit for a single-family dwelling, if provided for in an applicable local ordinance. These purposes may include without limitation, the watering of a family garden and lawn and the watering of livestock and any other domestic animals or household pets, if the amount of water drawn does not exceed the maximum amount of two acre-feet per year set forth in NRS 534.180.

Thus, domestic water use may include a family garden or household pets and even livestock; however, it must be by definition associated with a single-family dwelling or, in the case where "mother-in-law quarters" are allowed by local ordinance, a single family dwelling and accessory dwelling unit.

This means that water use from a domestic well to support a commercial enterprise, such as a horse boarding business or raising produce or livestock for sale, is not considered domestic use and requires that a water right be obtained through the Nevada Division of Water Resources. Indeed, even if produce is being grown for large distribution beyond single-family use, regardless of whether it is for profit or not, it would not fit the definition of domestic use and a water right would be needed. Of course if a residence is being served by a public water supplier, these requirements would not apply.

As Nevada enters its fourth consecutive year of drought, our shared water resources are under increasing pressure from all water users. This pressure brings with it increased scrutiny from other well owners and the general public who are increasingly reporting to the State Engineer incidents of improper water use from domestic wells without benefit of a water right. It is the goal of the State Engineer to conserve, protect and manage Nevada's valuable water resource and to bring such situations into compliance with Nevada water law. Please feel free to call Division of Water Resources staff with any questions.



You can view the web for your carryover CEU's

Just go to our website at water.nv.gov, click on the "Programs" tab. Under the "Well Drillers" topic, click on the "2014 Carryover of Driller's CEU credits". Also available are upcoming courses/workshops under "Continuing Education Opportunity".

CHECK OUT OUR WEB SITE

water.nv.gov
and click on the "Programs" tab to view well driller program information

Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board Members

Advisory Board Member's Name	License Number	Company	Location
Gary (Layne) Harris	1698		Elko, Nevada
Daniel Kohlman	2193	Boart Longyear	Elko, Nevada
Steve Hamrick	1426		Pahrump, Nevada
Harlen (Andy) Andresen (alternate)	1028	Andresen Exploration Drilling	Reno, Nevada
Vacant (alternate)			

Upcoming Well Drillers Exam Dates

June 18, 2015 – Written Examination parts I & II is given in Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas

July 16, 2015 – Written Examination parts I & II is given in Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas

August 4, 2015 – The Board meets in Carson City to conduct oral interviews (part III)

August 5, 2015 – The Board meets in Las Vegas to conduct oral interviews (part III)

September 17, 2015 – Written Examination parts I & II is given in Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas

October 15, 2015 – Written Examination parts I & II is given in Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas

November 3, 2015 – The Board meets in Carson City to conduct oral interviews (part III)

November 4, 2015 – The Board meets in Las Vegas to conduct oral interviews (part III)

December 17, 2015 – Written Examination parts I & II is given in Carson City, Elko and Las Vegas

The Well Drillers Exam consists of three parts:

- I.) A written examination to determine the applicant's knowledge of the State of Nevada's regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling.
- II.) Identification of a well location on a USGS topographic map by Township, Range, Section and quarter-quarter.
- III.) An oral interview by the Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board regarding the applicant's experience and knowledge of general drilling practices.

Revisions Regarding Well Driller Applicants

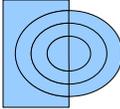
*Temporary Well Driller Licenses are no longer being issued.

*Applicant must have two (2) years full time experience under a licensed driller

*Passing score of 80% or higher is now needed before an advisory board meeting is held.

Reminders of Specific Deadlines & Reporting Periods

- Notice of Intent (NOI) shall be filed **three (3) working days** before the rig is set up. A copy of the NOI approval must be in the possession of the licensed driller at the work site.
- NOI is valid for **sixty (60) days** from date of filing. If a NOI expires, a new notice must be filed and approved and the previous NOI must be referenced on the new card.
- A Well Driller's Report shall be filed within **thirty (30) days** after the well is completed.
- The Division requires a **24 hour notice** (phone call to well supervisor) before plugging a well.

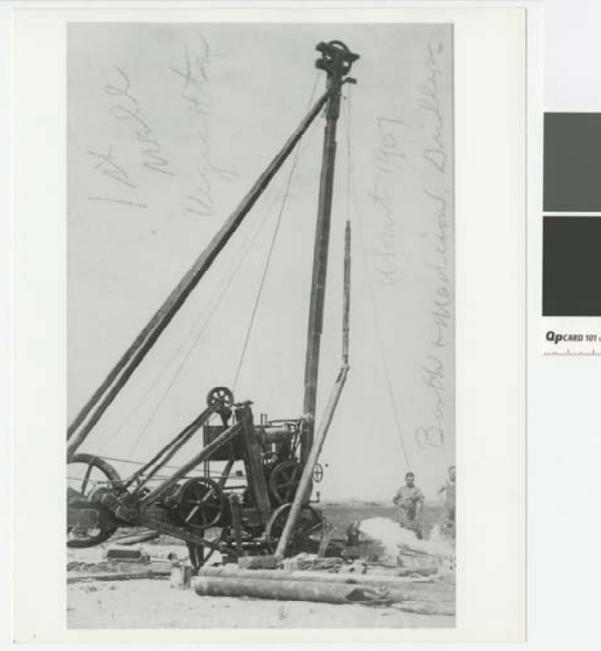


Well Drillers Licensed in the State of Nevada

The Statewide Well Driller’s Advisory Board recommended to the State Engineer that licenses for 13 new well drillers be approved in 2014-2015 (listed below). As of May 2015, there were a total of 353 licensed drillers by the State of Nevada.

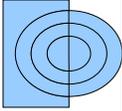
In the previous year 2013-2014, there were 7 newly licensed well drillers and a total of 374 licensed drillers in the State of Nevada.

License Number	Driller’s Name
2507=LTD	Greg Walston
2508	Laurence Oliver
2509	Jeremy Touginant
2510	Gregory Daun
2511	Daniel Staples
2512=LTD	Bob Nix
2513	Keith Arien
2514	Robert Gallina
2515	Michael Hepworth
2516	David Tormoehlen
2517	Joshua Smith
2518	William Boyd
2519	Trenton Gibson



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- I want to thank Mr. Steve Hamrick for accepting appointment to the Nevada State Well Driller’s Advisory Board. I welcome Steve’s vast well drilling experience towards mentoring future well drillers. I also want to thank existing Board Members Layne Harris, Dan Kohlman and Andy Andresen for their dedicated service. I want to give a heartfelt thank you to retiring Board Members and good friends Mr. Roger Thrall and Mr. Fred Allen. Roger served for 25 years and Fred for 11 years, again thank you. I am also looking for another informed and seasoned well driller to act as an Alternate Board Member to serve when needed. Included in the 2015 through 2016 renewal packets that will be mailed out in May is a request for you to apply to be a Board Member.
- A well was being drilled near the Humboldt River when the ground below the rig started to collapse. Thankfully no one was injured. I mention this to keep an awareness of the dangers associated with your work and highly encourage all well drillers and crews to be up to date on safety procedures.
- On October 24, 2014, the Nevada Legislative Counsel Bureau adopted the update to Regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling. I would like to extend my thanks and deep appreciation to those of you who took time out of your work schedules to bring ideas and input to the workshops and hearings. Your participation is the life-blood of the well drilling industry. I have listed some of the regulation changes on Page 4, for your review. We are planning on having a new Regulations manual out by the end of 2015.



**New Topics Regarding the Revised Well Drilling Regulation
Effective October 24, 2014**

- *As part of the renewal process, an applicant must complete the Regulation and Forms Workshops at least once within two consecutive renewal periods.
- *Well Drilling or Plugging may not commence prior to approval of the Notice of Intent card (NOI).
- *Well development and testing of a well is limited to 72 hours; longer durations may be approved by waiver.
- *Bentonite grout specifications have changed (20% bentonite minimum).
- *The vitality of a well driller application has changed as well as some required previous provisions.
- *If a well driller allows his or her license to expire, a new application and fee will be required as well as passing the written examination and reducing the number of demerit points if any the well driller has accumulated to zero.
- *A well driller may up-grade or change a limited license by submitting a written request to appear before the Well Driller’s Advisory Board for re-examination; there is no fee or additional forms required.
- *A well driller must be present at the well drilling site when a drill rig is running at all times, if the Division determines differently, the Division may order a cease to the operation and conduct an investigation.
- *When measuring the well for the water temperature, the readings must be in Fahrenheit degrees.
- *The American Water Work Association standards for casing thickness are used for casing wells 300-feet or greater.
- *Lost circulation materials and organic substance are clarified for down-hole use.
- *Submit an original Well Driller’s Report for the plugging of a well within 30 days of completion.
- *Plugging procedures have been updated and should be reviewed. The biggest change is bentonite chips are only allowed under a waiver.
- *All monitoring wells require an approved M/O-waiver before installation.
- *Water may not be put to beneficial use from any well, except a domestic well, until a water right permit or waiver is approved by the State Engineer.
- *If a replacement well is drilled, the existing well must be plugged before the drill rig is moved from the site unless the owner has obtained a waiver or permit to keep the existing well. If the owner refuses to allow the plugging of the existing well, the licensed driller must contact the Division and request permission to leave the site.
- *A waiver granted by the Division does not extend to the well driller the right of ingress or egress (trespass) across and upon public, private or corporate lands.
- *Temporary well drilling licenses are no longer issued by the Division. A well driller’s license must be obtained by passing the required examinations.

Continuing Education Opportunities offered by NWRA

Well Design, Construction & Rehab Workshop

Wednesday, May 19, 2015. 8 AM –5:30 PM. Reno/Sparks Association of Realtors in Reno.

Cost is \$225 for NWRA members, \$250 after April 24, 2015, or \$275/\$325 for non-members.

Well Design, Construction & Rehab Workshop

Wednesday, May 20, 2015. 8 AM –3:45 PM. Reno/Sparks Association of Realtors in Reno.

Cost is \$225 for NWRA members, \$250 after April 24, 2015, or \$275/\$325 for non-members.

To Register, visit www.nvwra.org or call Tina Triplett at 775-473-5473.

Contact Directory

Carson City Office
775-684-2800

Division of Water Resources
901 South Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Southern Nevada Office
702-486-2770

Division of Water Resources
400 Shadow Lane,
Suite 201
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106

**Water Well & Drilling
Questions**

Carson City Office
Hamilton Reed
Ken Haffey
Amanda Brownlee

Southern Nevada Office
Tracy Geter
Christi Emery

**Drillers License,
Exam
and Continuing
Education
Questions**

Carson City Office
Ken Haffey

Southern Nevada Office
Tracy Geter

Other Useful Contacts

Division
of Environmental Protection
Water Pollution Control
Cliff Lawson (775) 687-9414
ndep.nv.gov

Nevada State Contractors Board

Henderson Office
(702) 486-1100

Reno Office
(775) 688-1141