

Licensed Well Driller Continuing Education Program

Introduction and Objectives

During each license year, July 1 – June 30, licensed well drillers are required to earn at least four (4) continuing education credits (CE) by attending training sessions or participating in ongoing education sponsored or approved by the Board of Water Well Contractors (BWWC) in order to renew their driller's license. Participation in on-going education allows drillers to stay informed of industry and technological advances. Combining field experience with continuing education enhances a driller's knowledge and abilities. The primary objectives of the Montana Driller CE program are:

- Increased protection of groundwater resources
- Increased compliance to well drilling rules
- Develop a minimum level of confidence among water well contractors
- Increase protection of the well owner
- Increase public confidence in the contractor

Montana CE Requirements

The following is a summary of CE program requirements in accordance with the well drilling rules.

- Licensed well drillers must earn four (4) CE credits during a one year licensing cycle in order to renew their license for the next licensing cycle.
- One (1) hour of training or education will equal one (1) CE credit, unless otherwise designated specifically by the BWWC. This requirement also applies to education taken out of state.
- One (1) credit will be assigned to training courses that do not last at least one (1) hour (e.g., a 45 minute class will be assigned one (1) CE credit).
- CE credits cannot be carried over from one licensing period to another.
- CE courses must be preapproved by the BWWC.
- Well drillers are responsible for obtaining and maintaining the necessary documentation for each course attended and submitting the documentation with their license renewal application at the end of each licensing cycle.

CE Credit Approval Process

The BWWC approves training courses appropriate for CE credit. Courses that are approved will be posted on the BWWC web site under continuing education opportunities. The BWWC website is www.bwwc.mt.gov

It is up to the driller to decide what, when, and where to obtain the appropriate training. Training/education courses should relate to occupational health and safety, business and office skills, interpersonal skills, technical aspects of the drilling industry, or other subjects that will

enhance business, technical, or regulatory knowledge, skills, and abilities. A driller can look for training from members of professional associations, government agencies, private businesses, or individuals. A driller can choose from the attached list of courses; however, a driller is not limited to taking the courses that are on that list. Drillers can look for training opportunities in trade magazines, training flyers, or brochures, advertisements in newspapers or mail, and courses offered at universities. Course work should be preapproved by the BWWC so that the driller will know if credit will be granted for a class not on the approved list. Although a driller may choose to take the course first and then ask for CE credit approval, there is no guarantee that the course will be approved. The following is a list of topics that relate to well drilling that would be applicable to the CE program. This list is by no means comprehensive and is for information purposes only.

Rule understanding Water Rights Process Geologic Principles Cuttings Identification Cuttings description Map Reading GPS Use Water Right Web Site Use Aquifer Testing Well Disinfection Issues Well Rehabilitation Issues Water Quality Surface Seals Groundwater Contamination Drinking Water Rules Reg. and Local Water Issues/Requirements Reg. and Local Hydrogeology Well Abandonment OSHA Certifications MSHA Certifications First Aid/CPR	Drilling Muds Pump Systems Compressors Rigs Bits, Drill Pipe, Collars, Stabilizers Safety Screens and Perforations Explosives Horizontal Drilling Hydrofracturing MW Construction & Environmental Regulations Contracting & Business Issues Client Relationships Geophysics & TVing Water Treatment Technology Rig Maintenance Well Maintenance Water Quality Well Development Welding New Technology
--	---

Requesting Approval for a Training Course

It is a good idea to ask about course approval before taking the class if it is not already on the approved list. There is a form for drillers to use when asking the BWWC to evaluate a course content, instructors, and course length. The form, called the “Provider/Course Approval Form,” is attached with this overview and should be used by the driller when submitting a course to be evaluated.

An instructor or provider may also ask for BWWC’s prior approval of a course. It would be useful to publicize that information when advertising the course. The same attached evaluation form can be utilized when making this request.

Obtaining, Maintaining, and Submitting Training Records

In order to receive credit for a course, the driller must obtain a record of course completion and attendance from the course instructor/provider. This proof of attendance can consist of certificates, transcripts, diplomas, and attendance roster. If a course provider does not offer this type of documentation, the driller may use the attached “Documentation Form” as proof of class completion. If the form is used, it must be completed entirely and be signed or stamped by the instructor/provider.

It is the responsibility of the licensed driller to keep track of education records. Licensed drillers must provide these proof documents at the time of renewal application.

Special Conditions and Appeals

A driller may appeal the decision of the BWWC to disallow a course approval or credits. An appeal must be made in writing and directed to the Program Manager. The BWWC and Program Manager will evaluate appeals and hold a hearing if necessary on a case by case basis.

For More Information

Questions regarding the Montana Driller CE program can be directed to Thomas Palin (406-444-6643) or (406-444-0862). These same individuals can also be contacted with any questions or clarifications regarding the CE program requirements. Any written correspondence related to the CEs should be routed to the attention of Thomas Palin and faxed to 406-444-0533 or sent to BWWC, ATTN: Thomas Palin, PO Box 201601, Helena, MT 59620.