

WEBSITES TO BOOKMARK

The Internet is a huge information bank and finding what you are looking for can be time consuming and frustrating. Provided below is a list of websites that relate to the BWWC.

➤ Board of Water Well Contractors
The BWWC web page with links, dates, newsletter, information for drillers and Board members contact information www.bwwc.mt.gov

➤ Ground-Water Information Center
Provides ground water information and filed well logs <http://mbmggwic.mtech.edu/>

➤ On-Line CE Classes
Internet access to Board approved online continuing education classes www.welldrillingschool.com

➤ Administrative Rules of Montana
Provides the Rules for the BWWC <http://www.mtrules.org/gateway/ChapterHome.asp?Chapter=36.21>

➤ Well Log Report Forms
Contains the Well Log Report Form 603 for drillers https://dnrc.mt.gov/_docs/water/603-R2-04.pdf



Montana Board of Water Well Contractors

WELL DEVELOPMENTS

Spring - 2025

BWWC
1424 9th Avenue
PO Box 201601
Helena MT 59620-1601
406-444-6643

Board Members
Doug Askin – Industry Member
Andy Eslinger - Industry Member
Dan O’Keefe - Industry Member
Will Hayes - Industry Member
James Madison – MBMG
Reed Miner – DEQ
Todd Netto - DNRC

Legislative Update
The 69th legislative session adjourned April 30th, which concluded the journey of House Bill (HB) 59, “An act revising laws related to water well contractors.” This legislation was signed by the Governor on May 12th, and changes four different statutes.
Statute 37-43-301 amended language about who can “contract” on behalf of a firm, corporation, or partnership. Allowing businesses more flexibility in allowing their employees to contract on their behalf. Although a licensed water well contractor is still required to be placed in charge of all water well construction.
Statute 37-43-302 added language to clarify the type of work license is required for so that it now reads as, “it is unlawful for any water well contractor, water well driller, or monitoring well constructor to construct, drill, alter, abandon, decommission, or rehabilitate a well or monitoring well without first having obtained a valid license for the activity.”
Statute 37-43-306 has been changed to increase the bonded amount to **\$25,000**. There are no longer two different bond amounts. The **\$25,000** bond will be required for licensing year **July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027**.
Statute 37-43-309 rephrased a licensee’s right to respond to complaints to the following: “Licensees must be given an opportunity to respond to a complaint, after which the Board may begin disciplinary action under 37-43-310.” All licensees will still have an opportunity to respond to a complaint and bring their work into compliance.

Art Robinson Retires

Pictured left to right; Andy Eslinger, Doug Askin, Will Hayes, Art Robinson, James Madison, Dan O’Keefe, Todd Netto, not pictured Reed Miner
After 17 years of being the Program Manager for the Board of Water Well Contractors, Art Robinson officially retired March 7th. The Board extends its sincere thanks to Art for his years of dedicated service to the State of Montana and the groundwater industry.

Meet the new Program Manager
My name is Thomas Palin, and I have now been in the role of Program Manager for the Board since January 27. I had six weeks of overlap with Art, which provided me with invaluable insights into the functions of the Board. I am originally from Absarokee, MT and began my career in the mining industry working for Sibanye-Stillwater Mining Company. I look forward to meeting and working with you all. If you’re in Helena please stop by.

Todd Netto appointed to the Board
Todd has been appointed to the Board by the Director of DNRC. He is currently the Adjudication, Enforcement and Distribution Bureau Chief. Prior to his current position Todd worked for 10 years in the Glasgow Regional office.



License Renewals

As it will soon be time to renew your licenses, I thought this would be a good time to review the license renewal process. License renewal notices were mailed out April 18th, giving you lots of time to send in the renewal application, fee, proof continuing education and proof of bonding before your current license expires on June 30th

Montana Code Annotated section 37-43-307 provides that any license which is not renewed by June 30th is considered suspended. If the license remains suspended more than 30 days after July 1st, it is considered revoked. However, before revoking the license, the Board will send a notice to the licensee of intent to revoke. This letter is mailed to the licensee on or before July 10th. If the license has not been renewed by August 1st, it will be automatically revoked and cannot be reinstated without filling out application to take a driller’s exam, make the payment of the application fee and successfully complete the appropriate exam with an 80% minimum passing score.

Important dates for license renewals:

| | |
|----------|--|
| June 30 | Licenses expire |
| July 1 | Licenses are suspended; licensee is not allowed to drill |
| July 10 | Late fee applied (\$150) and letter of intent to revoke license mailed |
| August 1 | Licenses are revoked |

Administrative Rule of Montana 36.21.415 also provides that any licensee who has not renewed his license by July 10th will pay a \$150 late fee. Licensees will be charged a late fee if the documentation for bonding or for continuing education is submitted after July 10th, even if the original renewal form was sent in prior to this date. Please contact the Board of Water Well Contractor’s office if you have questions. (406) 444-6643

Number of Licenses: 261

- ❖ 142 Water Well Contractors
- ❖ 56 Water Well Drillers
- ❖ 41 Monitoring Well Constructors
- ❖ 5 Water Well Driller/Monitoring Well Constructors
- ❖ 16 Inactive licenses

New licenses January 1, 2025 – May 27, 2025

- ❖ 7 Water Well Contractors
- ❖ 5 Monitoring Well Constructors
- ❖ 3 Water Well Drills

What is Needed for Renewal?

When submitting the license renewal application the following is required:

- Completed renewal form including current address and phone number
- the correct fee
- proof of bonding
- proof of completion of 4 hours of continuing education

Licenses can be renewed electronically by using the links on the Board of Water Well Contractors’ web site: bwwc.mt.gov, and email. Drillers will need to fill out all required information, when completed, the licensee will use the submit tab. The form will be sent to the Board’s database. An acknowledgment email of the renewal form submission will be sent to the licensee, and a notification email of the renewal form will be sent to the Board’s office.

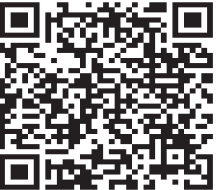
Proof of continuing education and proof of current bond may be scanned and attached to the online application; or be sent in an email; or mailed to Boards office. Payment of the renewal fee can be made online with the use of a credit card. A processing fee will be added to the license fee. The credit card payment link can be found on the Board’s web site.

The electronic license renewal form link and the credit card payment link can be found on the Board’s website. Above and to the right is a QR code you may use to scan with your smartphone’s camera to access the link.



New Online Licensing Examination Application

For those interested in applying to become a licensed Water Well Contractor, Water Well Driller, or Monitoring Well Constructor, an online submittal application can be found on the Board’s website: bwwc.mt.gov, under Driller Forms and Information. This application requires all necessary information to be filled out and documents uploaded before submittal. Below is a QR Code that can be used to access the application, by using your cell phones camera app. Applicants may still either send in a check or pay online following “Pay Your Fees Online” link. The use of a paper application is still acceptable and can be found in the same area on the Board’s website.



Well Log Reports

In the 1950’s, prior to any requirements for licensing or reporting, Well Logs were issued by drillers with information transferred from drilling notes, as a service to their customers. It was standard practice for well-owners to provide the Well Logs to the Department of Health to facilitate filing water rights. In the early 1960s, the Water Resources Board developed a new well log form for well owners and began filing the well logs with the applications for water rights. The Water Use Act of 1973 required that Well Log Reports be filled out by the driller on a form provided by DNRC within 60 days after well completion.

Well logs must be filed on:

- completed wells
- dry wells
- abandoned wells
- monitoring wells

Section 85-2-516, Montana Code Annotate (MCA), requires that all well log reports be filed by the licensee within 60 days after completion of all wells, regardless of depth or use. In 2007, the Legislature amended MCA 85-2-516 to require the driller to “...provide a location for the well using at least two methods as specified on the well log.” The accepted method of location must include two of the following: well address, legal description comprising of section, township, range, GPS location comprising of latitude, longitude, or subdivision including the lot, tract/block with the certificate of survey number.

Well logs are legal documents and must be submitted to the well owner, the Ground Water Information Center and other agencies if required.

Changing Information

There are several circumstances when the Board shall be notified of a change in employment. Per MTARM 36-21-407 “*In the event a driller leaves a firm, the responsible contractor shall notify the board office in writing within five days.*” If there is no such notification of a driller leaving the firm the contractor will remain responsible for the driller until written notification is received.

If a contractor hires a new driller the board must receive written notification within 10 days of any driller or apprentice being hired.

The contents of a contractor’s license shall show the name of the contractor, the firm name. Any changes in firm name or address shall be sent to the Boards office within ten days after the change occurs.

The contents of a driller’s license issued will show the driller’s name, and the contractors’ name who the driller is working for.

Changes that require information on a license to be changed shall be sent to the Board in writing accompanied by the \$50.00 fee set out in MT ARM 36.21.415.

It is important to keep all your information up to date with the Board, including addresses, phone numbers and apprentices.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding whether a certain change in information warrants a written notification.

