

The Advocate

Letter From The President Casey Curtis

Well, summer is officially upon us. As everyone is aware, Utah has seen multiple days of record-breaking temperatures already. It prompts me to remind everyone a few things.

- Check in with neighbors, especially the elderly. Make sure they have what they need to be comfortable.
- When enjoying the outdoors, please play smart. Hydrate, wear sunscreen, when towing trailers please make sure you're not dragging chains, and PLEASE thoroughly extinguish all campfires!! Fire season is already roaring and almost all the fires we've had (or currently having) were man-made and were absolutely preventable.
- Please pay attention to your watering schedule if you have a lawn/vegetation to maintain. Shorten your watering times and set the schedule to water in the middle of the night to eliminate a great deal of water lost to evaporation.

Inside this issue

Presidents Letter Cont'd.....	4
Scholarships	6-7
News From State Engineer	16-17

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 - D. ASSOCIATE:** Any person engaged in the support of the UGWA who does not accurately fit in any of the above.
-

President's Letter Continued

We recently had our Moab Summer Retreat in June. The pictures of where we went on our ATV ride might surprise you, considering that it was 106° in downtown Moab that day. We enjoyed a cool 76° and mountain lake views. We even threw snowballs during the ride! The ride was about 80 miles round trip and we gained nearly a mile in elevation. It was well worth the trip. We had a great time, and we would love to see more people come and enjoy the events with us. It is a great opportunity to bring the family for a mini vacation.

I would also like to congratulate the recipients of scholarships this year. It is a great thing we do, helping to provide financial assistance to our younger generation as they try to navigate their way into the working world through higher education. It is important to remember the importance of helping these kids to afford the high price of college these days.

Regarding the scholarships, I would also like to remind everyone that the Mountain States Groundwater Association plans to raffle off another ATV at the annual conference in February. All proceeds from this are distributed evenly between the 5 states that make up the association and allocated entirely to the scholarship fund. We generally don't see many attendees from Utah at the MSGW show mainly because it comes on the heels of our own annual conference in Mesquite. But I would like to encourage our members to try to attend. It is a great show with quite a few vendor booths and a great opportunity to mingle with our friends in neighboring states. The MSGW Association plans to start selling raffle tickets ahead of time, so even if you aren't able to be present at that conference, you can still win the ATV! Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

I close with a reminder to stay safe and stay healthy.

Your President,

Casey Curtis, c Curtis@hydroresources.com

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Thanks to the support of our membership, we were able to award 4 scholarships.

We wish the best to all of our students!

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son of Jim Goddard

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daughter of Matt Johnson

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daughter of Jason Lamb

Sydney Miller
granddaughter of Conrad Miller

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For More Information Contact: admin@utahgroundwater.org or 801.541.7259



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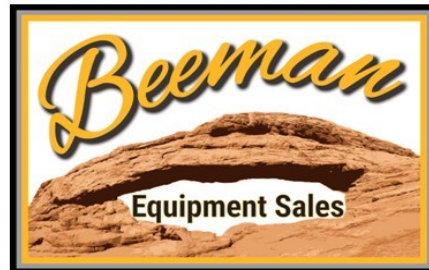


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Need Continuing Education Credits?

If you need continuing education (CE) credits to maintain your driller and/or pump installer license and are not sure what to do since the Mesquite 2021 UGWA convention has been cancelled, there are numerous other opportunities to get CE credits.

Due to the pandemic, Jim Goddard and the Utah Division of Water Rights DWR are more flexible in accepting applicable online training for CE credits. The DWR has numerous training videos that are accessible from their website www.waterrights.utah.gov, the direct link to the videos on their You Tube channel is here: www.youtube.com/channel/UCLhX3rovw8Do_oU-AIybtWA).

If these videos don't interest you, there are other online trainings that are approved by the DWR. You can contact [Jim Goddard](#) directly for help and any questions you may have.






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News from the State Engineer's Office

NOTICE OF CHANGE TO UTAH WELL STATUTE AND RULE REGARDING SHALLOW WATER WELLS

House Bill 177 Water Well Amendments passed the 2022 legislative session. This bill updated [Section 73-2-1 of the Utah Code](#), which gives the State Engineer authority to make rules for the construction of wells and the licensing of well drillers. This section was updated by the passage of HB177 to require the State Engineer to regulate all water wells regardless of depth (Prior to this, water wells 30-feet deep or less were exempt from licensing/construction regulation). The changes to this section of statute went into effect on May 10, 2022. In order to accommodate this statute change, the administrative rules for wells ([R655-4 UAC](#)) were revised and will become effective at the end of July 2022. Essentially, the exemption for the regulation of construction of wells 30 feet deep or less was removed from the Rules in order to allow the State Engineer to regulate all water wells. Therefore, shallow water wells, and regulated activities associated with shallow water wells, must now be completed by a licensed driller or licensed shallow water well constructor and the administrative and construction requirements in R655-4 followed. It is important to note that none of the revisions described above change the need to have a valid water right in place up front in order to construct a shallow water well and beneficially use the groundwater from that well. This has always been the case and will not change with these revisions.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW REGARDING THE REGULATION OF SHALLOW WATER WELLS:

A shallow water well owner must have a valid water right to beneficially use groundwater from a shallow water well prior to well construction. Beneficial uses can include domestic, irrigation, and stockwater among others. This requirement is not new and has always been in place since the inception of Utah water right law. A Start Card is issued upon approval of the water right, which is essentially the permit to construct the well.

Shallow water wells must be constructed by a licensed well driller or licensed shallow water well constructor. Shallow Water Well Constructor is a new licensing category to accommodate those that dig/excavate shallow water wells. To obtain this license, an applicant must file an application/fee and pass an exam on the well rules. See the [License and Registration](#) link on the Water Rights website for forms and instructions for obtaining a license. A shallow water well constructor cannot construct or work on water wells deeper than 30 feet. A well owner can drill their own shallow water well if they have a valid water right and obtain a shallow water well constructor license.

Licensees shall obtain the start card (proof of authorization to construct a well) from the well owner, and then file it with the Division before constructing or working on a shallow water well in accordance with the Rules.

After completion of regulated well activity (e.g., construction, renovation, deepening, abandonment, and pump work), the licensee shall submit a log (e.g., well log, pump log, abandonment log as applicable) to the Division detailing the work performed on the well.

The licensee shall follow the construction requirements for shallow water wells found in Section R655-4-17 of the Rules, which sets forth requirements focused on the safety and protection of the public and groundwater resource.

OTHER INCIDENTAL RULE REVISIONS

Since we were required by statute to revise the rules to accommodate the shallow water well issue, several clarifications and fixes to the well rules were also included. These revisions are as follows:

R655-4-2 Definition of Neat Cement Grout

ASTM C150 for neat cement is not always available in Utah cement batch plants, so the statement allowing an equivalent standard was added.

R655-4-3.3 Drill Rig Operator Registration

This revision clarifies that a drill rig operator can be in responsible charge of a regulated well activity on site when a licensed driller is not on site. It further clarifies that a registered operator must be affiliated with a licensed driller, and the registration cannot be standalone.

R655-4-3.5 Pump Rig Operator Registration

This revision clarifies that a drill rig operator can be in responsible charge of a regulated well activity on site when a licensed driller is not on site. It further clarifies that a registered operator must be affiliated with a licensed driller, and the registration cannot be standalone.

R655-4-4.2.1 Submitting Start Cards Online

This revision adds the option of submitting start cards online as an acceptable method of notification. The online start card option was developed and activated in June of 2020. Changes to this section also set forth that the shallow water well constructor file start cards in the same manner as a well driller. Also in various places throughout section R655-4-4, change licensed well driller to licensee to account for the fact that a licensed well driller and licensed shallow well constructor have the same requirements.

R655-4-10.2.2 Drilling at approved location

This revision clarifies that a driller must check the approved location on the start card against the actual well location on the ground before commencement of drilling to ensure it matches. If it does not match, the driller must notify the well owner and the State Engineer's Office. Drilling at an unapproved location is a violation of the rules.

R655-4-11.1 Public Supply Well Standards

Added subsection 11.1.2 to this section to clarify that additional construction rules and requirements exist for public supply wells, and that public supply wells are also regulated by the Division of Drinking Water.

R655-4-11.2.3 Steel Casing Standards

A statement was added to clarify that steel well casing or combinations of steel casing and screen that do not conform to this section must be approved by the State Engineer on a case by case basis. Also, this revision adds steel casing standard ASTM A606 Type 4 (high strength – low alloy) to the list of acceptable steel casing standards.

R655-11.2.4.2 PVC casing well thickness requirements

This section clarifies the difference of wall thickness requirements between non-production wells and water production wells. All water production wells must meet or exceed the wall thickness standard of SDR17 or Sch80. Non-production wells that are 4-inches or less can be SDR21 or Sch40. Non-production wells larger than 4-inch must meet or exceed the standard of SDR17 or Sch80.

R655-11.3.2 Steel Joint Requirements

This section clarifies that state engineer approval must be obtained to use steel joint types not specified such as splined or dielectric couplings.

R655-4-11.4.2.2 Bentonite Grout Mixing Recipe in Vadose Zone

This revision clarifies the amount of needed sand added to the bentonite grout mix per amount of bentonite. That is, for 20% solids bentonite grout, 100 pounds of sand shall be mixed per 50 pounds of bentonite. For 30% solids bentonite grout, 50 pounds of sand shall be mixed per 50 pounds of bentonite.

R655-4-11.6.1 Lost Circulation Material Requirements

This revision clarifies that certain organic materials such as paper, wood, brans, hulls, grains, starches, hay, straw, and proteins are unacceptable and not allowed.

R655-4-15.2.5 Monitoring Well Sealing

This section revises the seal depth requirement from 50 feet to 30 feet, which is consistent with other sealing requirements in the rules. This is a needed change that has been missed and overlooked since the 2001 rule revision.



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