

NGWA Announces the Development of Water Well Construction Standards

With the direction of the executive board, National Ground Water Association is opening a new chapter in it's commitment to advancing the experience of all ground water professionals. NGWA is developing a well construction standard. Using the existing *Manual of Water Well Construction Practices*, the newly appointed Standards Development Oversight Committee will form task groups to review the contents of each chapter of the manual. These chapters cover topics of well siting, testing, and sampling; methods of well construction; casing selection and installation; grouting; screens and intakes; filter construction; plumbness and alignment; well development; testing for performance; disinfection; water sampling and analysis; and permanent well and test hole decommissioning (abandonment).

Each task group will be charged with reviewing the material published in the current *Manual of Water Well Construction Practices* and updating, adding or revising where needed. Each task group will be provided with a sample document which has the text from the manual, any state or local regulations regarding the specific area, articles published in that area, a sampling of published books dealing with that area and any other standards that have been developed by other organizations that deal with the area. These samples will be used when considering the text from the *Manual of Water Well Construction Practices*. The samples collected will be from both NGWA and non-NGWA published materials.

The Standards Development Oversight Committee is comprised of the following members: John Pitz (Chairman), N L Pitz Inc, Batavia, IL; Ed Anderson, Baroid Industrial Drilling Products, Spring, TX; Jim Goddard, Utah Division of Water Rights, Salt Lake City, UT; Mark Hiddleston, Hiddleston & Son Inc, Mountain Home, ID; David Landino, Landino Drilling Company, Davenport, CA; and Jim Paulhus, Blake Equipment Company, Bloomfield, CT. The committee is looking for participants that have an expertise or interest in one of the listed areas. Volunteers should have the ability to attend and participate in all task group meeting. Volunteers do not have to be a member of NGWA to be considered for appointment to a task group.

The task groups are planned to set up and hold their meeting via online teleconferences. This will allow all volunteers to participate in the meetings but not have to travel or be away from work. Most meetings are anticipated to occur starting at 8 p.m. ET., 5 p.m. PT. This will allow volunteers the opportunity to participate in the meeting outside of regularly scheduled work hours. The meetings are anticipated to occur one or two times a month in 60 or 90 minute blocks.

In order for the finished document to be recognized as an industry standard, NGWA is working with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to become accredited as a Standard Developer Organization (SDO). ANSI has set procedural requirements that NGWA must follow in order to obtain and maintain the SDO accreditation. Once finished, the proposed standard will be submitted to ANSI for

review. ANSI will not review the document on technical merit but instead review the procedures used to develop the document. The following areas are vital for the development of the standard, openness, balance, consensus, transparency and due process.

Updates on the standards development process can be found on NGWA's web site at <http://www.ngwa.org/wellstandard/main.cfm>. Here you will be able to keep track of the progress as well as find information on how to volunteer to serve on one of the task groups. Here you will find answers to frequently ask questions about the standards development process.

NGWA looks forward to the opportunity to work with industry professionals on this project that will continue to promote the advancement and education of all ground water professionals. We urge you to consider volunteering for one of the task groups being developed. Appointments to tasks groups will be done by the Standards Development Oversight Committee. If you are interested, please email Joe Benes at jbenes@ngwa.org with your comments.

Author box – Joe Benes is the Standards Administrator for National Ground Water Association. He has worked for NGWA for seven years, most recently as the operations manager. He took over the newly formed Standards Administrator position in July of 2006. His contact information is, p: 800 551.7379 ext.501, e-mail jbenes@ngwa.org