As far back as the 1970’s the NMGWA has worked to implement a Pump Installer License under the Office of the State Engineer; the office adamantly opposes a license under their jurisdiction; even today.

The biggest concern that lead to the pump installer license efforts was that without a license, if a homeowner was injured due to a bad installation by a pump installer there would be a knee jerk reaction that could be very harmful to pump installers.

In 1996 Construction Industries Division (CID) issued an Inter-Agency Memo to the Office of the State Engineer stating that a licensed Well Driller was not allowed to perform any electrical work beyond setting the pump and running wire to the top of the casing. This was widely ignored by the majority of well drillers and pump installers throughout the state and CID was sporadic about enforcing it.

Through the early 2000’s the Board of Directors continued efforts to get a pump installer license under the State Engineer, through legislative measures and were shot down at every angle.

In 2008 the association was ramping up efforts to get the legislature to acknowledge that a pump installer license was necessary when a well driller was cited by Construction Industries Division for working without a Contractors License for the same work being performed by well drillers and pump installers everyday.

The Board took this very seriously and aggressively looked at every possible option. One option was taking CID to court in hopes of getting a ruling that wording in statute allowed us to work outside of CID regulations. Our attorney thought this was a long shot given shaky previous Attorney General opinions, it could have taken years and it could have cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The most logical option was to go to CID and work to get a Pump Installer License issued under their jurisdiction since they already had pump installers in their sites. The Board took a very detailed proposal to CID that encompassed both the hydraulic and electrical side of pump work and would have utilized the NGWA Certified Pump Installer Testing.

The Mechanical Bureau refused to look at water well equipment installations. As such the Board worked extremely hard to get a scope of work for plumbing in the Memo of Understanding for well drillers as well as getting it included in the Specialty License for pump installers.

This left working with the Electrical Bureau, and the Board worked diligently for the next 3 1/2 years to get a specialty license implemented.

Using the NGWA Certification testing platform was shot down early on. It also became apparent that the efforts by CID were only going to focus on electrical wiring and safety and there would be no chance of getting pump related questions implemented.

At first the Electrical Bureau had wanted to limit the installations to 5 HP Single Phase only. Realizing this was not an option for the majority of the membership, the Board went back to the Bureau and pushed until we were able to get 2 license options; “residential” allowing up to 15 HP Single phase and the “commercial” license that would allow up to 600 Volts, unlimited horsepower, single and 3 phase.
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Page 2
The Board is very much aware that many of you are not happy with the license and is the first to acknowledge the testing is not ideal, and that the license and testing are not relevant to pump installations. What Pump Installers have to acknowledge is that you have been doing electrical work without a Contractors License for years and CID was at a point that it was no longer going to be allowed.

The NMGWA stepped up and took action to at least have some say in the license structure. The amount of work and dedication put forth by the Board to stick with the process will allow pump installers to continue working, given they put forth the effort to obtain the license. Had the NMGWA sat idle, a full blown electrical license would be needed for pump installers to wire their systems.

There are a lot of folks who had no idea that we were even working on the pump installer license even though over the last 5 years updates have been published in the newsletter, talked about at every Drillers CEU session, General Membership Meeting and included in Members Only updates. The Board had asked for input, help, pictures, and letters with very little response.

There are folks that think that we opened the door for electricians to take the pump installation work away. Licensed Electricians have always been licensed to work on pump wiring, the specialty license changes nothing with that.

Other folks feel that all pump installers should have been grandfathered in to the license. Since they were working without a license to start with, CID flat out said don’t even ask to be grandfathered.

Some are sure this will put them out of business. This is just not a reality, at this point a pump installer has a few choices;

1. Get the License and be compliant.
2. Don’t get the License and hire a Licensed Pump Installer or Electrician to complete electrical portions of the installations.
3. Continue working as an Unlicensed Contractor and hope you don’t get caught.

This should be viewed as an opportunity to strengthen your business, the industry and provide safer installations for the well owners and pump installers.

**CLASSES**

The classes are being provided to help prepare installers for the test. There is a great deal of information to go through and we have had a lot of positive feedback on the instructor.

It is important the everyone understands that it is 100% voluntary and is not required in order to take the test.

The cost is high, please understand that the fee encompasses the cost of the books (what you would pay if you bought on your own), the cost of the instructor, the cost for the venue/meals and an small administrative fee for the amount of work it takes to organize the class.

All testing is done through PSI and will not be done as part of the class.

**TESTING INFORMATION**

Contractor/Qualifying Party: The business owner or a designated peson will be required to become a Qualifying Party, must pass the Business and Law test or take the 2 day video class to be exempt from the test and must take the Contractor Exam either for the ES-10 or the ES-10R. At the time of application, the Contractor may request a Journeyman card.

Technicians: That will be working in the field without a journeyman on site will be required to take the Journeyman version of the ES-10 or ES-10R.

PSI testing centers are located in:

- Albuquerque
- Amarillo
- Farmington
- Las Cruces
- Santa Fe
- Roswell

More information can be found at http://www.public.psideams.com/index_login.jsp.

If you are a member of the NMGWA you can find additional information and links related to the licensing in the Members Only section of the website (nmgwa.org). If you need your login and password call or email Robin; 505-867-9500 or info@nmgwa.org.
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The NMGWA held 2 very successful fundraising events this year.

The Golf Tournament raised $2,043.20 for the Scholarship Fund.

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The Fall Dinner, Auction and Dance was also a great event. We had a super fun auctioneer and a great live band that helped make it a great evening.

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The Auction raised $10,055.00 for the General Fund.

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Executive Secretary**
Robin Irwin
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505-867-9500 Phone
505-867-0733 Fax

**TAX NOTICE**
The NMGWA is a 501(e) 6 Non-Profit Organization with Political Expenditures. As such, Member Dues and Donations are not tax deductible.
DOMESTIC WATER WELLS

Domestic Water Wells continue to get a bad wrap and it doesn’t look like that is going to change anytime soon.

In late August, Marvin Magee, Robin Irwin and our lobbyist Allison Smith, traveled to Farmington to give a presentation to the Water and Natural Resources Drought Committee about the importance of domestic water wells.

Focus was placed on antiquated public water supply systems as communities all over New Mexico are struggling to repair and maintain their systems. As we have all seen in the news this summer, several communities have not had water or placed extreme restrictions on water use. In addition leaks in public water supply systems account for billions of gallons of unaccounted for, wasted water.

Many of these communities then rely on state and federal funding in order to correct the deficiencies. Whether caused by lack of maintenance, lack of planning or just bad luck, public water supply systems are going to continue to be an issue. The American Water Works Association reported to Congress in 2012 that the funding gap for needed drinking water infrastructure over the next 2 decades will be 900 billion dollars.

The logical solution for providing viable, affordable drinking water is through domestic water wells. The Water Well Trust, a non-profit organization provides low interest loans to those in need of clean drinking water to drill wells. The following numbers form 2 of their completed projects show just how affordable domestic wells are compared to Public Water Supply options:

- 5 Wells for 6 Families included treatment systems for sulfar. Completed Project Cost $52,067. The County estimate to run public water lines 1.2 Million.

- 14 Households on a failing Public Water Supply, each had a well drilled and equipped for $6600 per well. for a total project cost of $92,400 The County estimated $600,000 to repair existing water lines and meters.

It became clear very quickly that while domestic wells are one of the lowest ground water users in the state and they can fill the need affordably, limiting or eliminating the use of domestic wells is on the minds of many legislators.

Several bills were introduced in 2013 that the NMGWA opposed. However we were alone in our opposition to SB 479, SB 480 and SM 083. These bills were supported by other groups that will be negatively impacted by them.

Moving forward, simply opposing these bills through our lobbyist and a few who can make it to the committee meetings will not be adequate. Rallying support from the members to call their legislators or go to Santa Fe is going to be crucial.

Since 2014 is a budget session, it is not expected that there will be any negative bills introduced, however we can never let our guard down.

Gearing up for 2015 is going to be very important as we know that the bills to limit or eliminate domestic wells will be coming at a fast pace. If we can educate law makers and other interested parties in the meantime, we stand a better chance of fighting off those bills that will harm the industry.

LOCAL RESTRICTIONS

In addition to state legislation, local municipalities and county commissions are implementing subdivision restrictions that will have impacts on drilling domestic wells.

Lincoln County passed an ordinance in August that a subdivider would have to purchase water rights for any development.

In July, Chavez County passed a 6 month moratorium on new subdivision approvals in order for the commission to develop an ordinance to protect the county’s water supply.

The NMGWA has a power point presentation and PDF packet available in the Members Only section of the website to take to local commissions and councils.

If necessary we can have our lobbyist Allison attend the meetings, however in the local fights it is best if the local well drillers and pump installers that are residents attend as they will carry much more weight than an “outsider” would.

Please let us know if your area is facing similar issues.
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School: Freshman, Tarleton State University

2014-15 BOARD SEATS

There will be 2 Contractor seats and 2 Member at Large (Supplier, Manufacturer, Technical) seats open for the 2014-2015 term.

If you are interested in running for a board seat, please contact Steve Kuckelman to get your name on the ballot in January.

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Several years ago, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (NMOSE) solicited comments from the New Mexico Ground Water Association (NMGWA) regarding revising the current well driller licensing regulations (19.27.4 NMAC). Those revisions never made it into regulation. We are revisiting those regulations now.

Once we have finished the revisions and have reviewed them internally, we will set a schedule for promulgating these rules, including a period for public meeting and input.

As we were proactive in gaining comments from the NMGWA (the largest group of stakeholders) at the onset, we feel this process will go smoothly.

Several drillers have been inquiring if we will ever be able to accept well records online. The short answer is yes, but the process is much longer than the answer. Our director has tasked our IT department with formulating a plan to incorporate this feature into our new water rights database and well driller licensing software that is being developed. Beyond that our IT department has plans to further automate the process for everyone. We are hopeful that this will bring us into the technology age with a bang, or as T.S. Elliot wrote, “This is the way the world ends, not with a bang but a whimper.”

Jerri Trujillo
~Well Driller License Coordinator, for the Office of the State Engineer
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REGISTRATION PACKETS WILL BE MAILED 60 DAYS PRIOR TO EVENT

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Marriott Pyramid
Pump Installer Test Prep 16th -17th
Well Driller CEU’s 18th

FEB 28 -MARCH 1 * LAS CRUCES
Location To Be Determined
Pump Installer Test Prep

MARCH 7-8 * CLOVIS
Days Inn
Pump Installer Test Prep

SEPTEMBER 19 * TAOS
Sagebrush Inn & Conference Center
Well Driller CEU’s
Fundraiser Dinner, Auction, Live Band

SEPTEMBER 20
Golf Tournament - Taos Country Club