



UNDERGROUND NEWS | NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Providing information to the well water, underground injection control (UIC) and underground hydrocarbon storage (UHS) industries in Kansas and other partners interested in these operations, the environment, water resources and energy.

NEWS

Hello all, Due to the ever increasing COVID-19 cases in Kansas, KDHE Geology and Well Technology Staff will be working from home and our field gear will go back into hibernation.

As we advised in the Spring, for regulatory and permit required monitoring and reporting; please follow all permit conditions and regulatory requirements as written. If for some reason your facility can not maintain reporting or inspection schedules due to staffing or other unforeseen issues, please be proactive and contact us; myself as well as the appropriate program manager. We will evaluate requests to accommodate operational compliance issues on a case by case basis. We will renew this blanket statement; all UIC or UHS well work that is required in the coming 6 months, can be done at any point during 2021. I know many facilities have restricted access which may impact MIT or other regulatory work going forward. We want to work with you on scheduling or extending deadlines with that as much as possible.

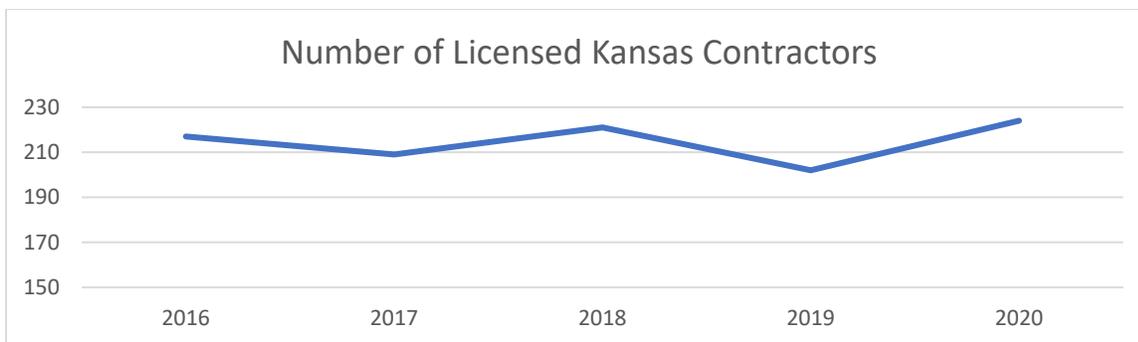
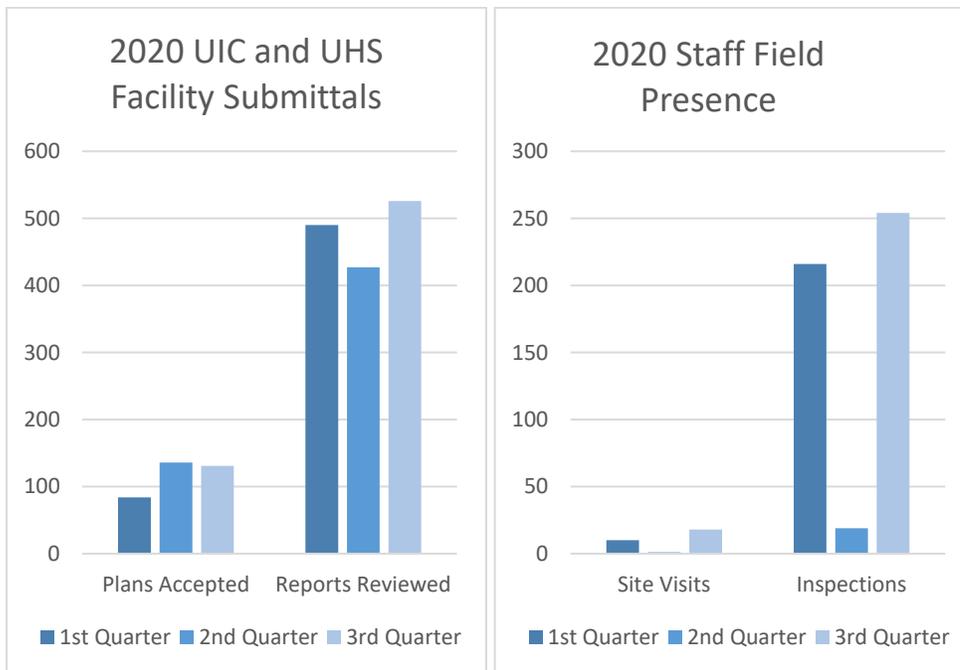
Since we will be in the office on a very limited basis, if you rely completely on hard copy mail for submission of required paperwork, please make all efforts to move to electronic submittals if possible. I know for some logs, that could be challenging, but please let us know if you have no other option but to send us documents via post/UPS/etc. If you are currently working with KOLAR or sending documents via email, please continue to do so. For our water well contractors, we have moved license renewals online and all currently licensed contractors have an account, this provides a good opportunity to move your submittals of water well records online. As this situation continues to evolve, I will reach out to keep you updated.

Stay home, stay safe, and wear a mask.

*Carrie Ridley, PG
Geology & Well Technology Unit Chief*

Geology and Well Technology by the numbers

- We didn't let COVID get us down in 2020, staff has been very responsive to our stakeholders needs and worked to get plans reviewed and accepted so operations can continue without regulatory delays.
- While we didn't get in the field as much as we would have liked to, we still had great success in keeping up with our inspection schedule. Though it is hard to see, staff made over 30 trips into the field in 2020.
- Currently KDHE has 224 Water Well Contractors licensed for the 2020-2021 season. This appears to be on an uptick. We are moving to an ever-increasing electronic world, keep on the lookout for additional forms and information moving to KOLAR. Using KOLAR not only decreases time spent by KDHE and KGS staff in handling reports and forms but improves the quality of the data as well.



Geology & Well Technology ^{Virtual} 25th Annual Seminar

Due to Covid-19 this year, we decided to move our Annual Geology and Well Technology Seminar online. This was a new experience for KDHE staff but exciting. The speakers provided presentations with audio and/or video using .mp4 or .pptx and then were on hand for live Questions and Answers from the attendees. The 2020 agenda and PDFs of the presentations are available on our website <http://kdheks.gov/geo/>.

We registered over 200 attendees for the seminar, and there were many comments on how well the audience liked the presentations and found several extremely interesting. The overall consensus was that while they still preferred "LIVE" seminars, they felt like we did a good job on our "VIRTUAL" seminar. If we are in the same circumstance next year, we will work on using your feedback to improve.

We want to extend a BIG THANK YOU to our sponsors this year - **Burns and McDonnell and Strata provided \$25 meal delivery vouchers from GrubHub to each paid attendee and speakers.** A lot of "sure was good" and, "my tummy is full", as many appreciated the thoughtfulness of this gesture.

We also want to thank our door prize sponsors this year. Carrie hosted "SPIN THE WHEEL" to select the door prize winners. Here is a list of our sponsors and winners:

Lonquist (4) \$50.00 Visa Gift Cards

Kris Blevins
Mel Karst
Seth Nelson
Jason Garnsey

MFG & Operating, Inc. (1) \$100 Visa Gift Card

Tadd Busch

Kansas Water Technologies (1) Pig In! Pig Out! BBQ Package; \$50 dine in/eat out, Sauce and T-shirt

Mike Britton

GHD (1) Blue-Tooth Speaker

Mike Cochran

KDHE

(2) (\$50 Amazon Gift Cards

Michael Douglas
Brent Clarke

(2) \$50.00 Lowes Gift Cards

Alan Raupe
Ian Bosmeijer

(2) \$50 Brass Pro Gift Cards

Keith Pfannenstiel
Brad Johnson

(3) Wireless Headphones

Lance Shephard
Darren Dick
Doug Lane

Our IT Department and our attendees showed their support and patience while we tried to bring our audience the best VIRTUAL SEMINAR possible. See you next year, one way or another!!!

Deb Biester
Public Service Administrator

KOLAR Enhancements

KDHE and KGS continue to work together to expand and improve the Kansas On-Line Automated Reporting system, known as KOLAR. The most recent work has involved the water well program, but the other Geology programs have received improvements since the last newsletter. Highlights are as follows:

UIC Class I	All facilities that report in KOLAR now have templates linked to their summary page. Fields are locked so it is easier to tab through the form, completing the information. Using the new templates will reduce errors on constituent names and units.
UHS	The uploading process in KOLAR for UHS documents was streamlined in the spring to allow easier submittal. The number of documents uploaded, submitted and approved as of today: 130.
Water Well- Contractor Renewal	Water well contractor renewals moved to KOLAR in the spring, and with the exception of online payment, renewals went well. The online payment process is in place, and is ready for the 2021 renewals.
Water Well- WWC-5	Overhauling the WWC-5 form in KOLAR began this fall, with the conversion of the payment vendor from KanPay to Paylt. Improvements being planned include more interactive mapping and improved lithology reporting.
Water Well- Contractor Application	Work has begun on incorporating the water well contractor application process into the KOLAR system.

Please pass along any KOLAR suggestions to the respective Program Manager.

Sue Ann Funk
Compliance/Regulatory Specialist

PROGRAM UPDATES

Underground Injection Control (UIC)

2020 Groundwater Protection Council Virtual Annual Forum

On September 29-October 1 the Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC) held its annual fall conference online. The conference was well attended virtually by many people, including federal regulators, multiple agencies representing at least 16 states, industry consultants and academic researchers. The agenda included several technical sessions primarily on Tuesday and Wednesday and included a variety of subjects including UIC issues, carbon capture and Class VI,

Class II, seismicity, produced water, and aquifer storage and recovery. During the Class I injection Session, Carrie Ridley, KDHE and Lindsey Taliaferro, Ohio EPA presented a discussion of Class I issues which included horizontal injection control considerations, Perfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS, very stable man-made chemicals that repel water and oil) and Class I disposal, aging infrastructure of Class I facilities, annulus monitoring and well integrity, video witnessing capability and COVID related issues. The Annual GWPC Conference is always an excellent meeting for our staff to attend, network with other UIC regulators from across the country and share ideas and experiences. For those not able to attend during the conference, the presentations are now posted on the GWPC website.

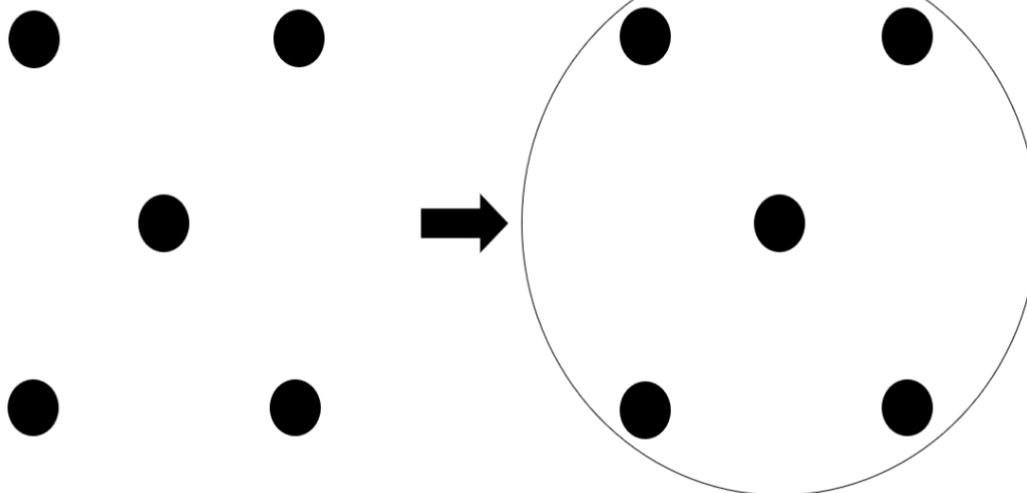
Ken Brooks, PG
Class I Program Manager

UIC Class III Wells Move to Area Permits

Prior to Fall 2019, all UIC Class III wells in the state of Kansas had been issued as individual permits per well. Towards the end of 2019, the Geology and Well Technology Unit of KDHE decided to issue all new permits and all repermits in the form of an area permit. An area permit can be applied to all wells in a single gallery versus each well possessing its own permit. Therefore, area permits condense all operating and reporting requirements for each well of the gallery into a single permit making them easier to track.

Individual Permits : one permit per well in a gallery

Area Permits : one permit per gallery



Lauren Haga, Geology Specialist
Class III Program Manager

Class V News

For remediation projects that involve injection in Kansas, there are currently two different UIC Class V applications, based on the planned remediation effort. The Application for Authorization to Inject Remedial Compounds and the Application for Authorization to Operate Air Sparging Wells are separate forms but ask many of the same questions. Going forward these will be combined into one online fillable form.

In addition to the current information required, the new form will include listing the regulatory agency providing primary oversight of the remediation project and the project ID number. A comment box will also be included to provide additional information. The new form should be posted on the website by the end of the year and will eliminate the multi-page narrative which is typically submitted for a Class V remedial project.

Sue Ann Funk
Environmental Compliance/Regulatory Specialist

Underground Hydrocarbon Storage (UHS)

SMRI Highlights

The Solution Mining Research Institute (SMRI) typically hosts two conferences per year, one in North America in the spring and one in Europe in the fall. This year the spring conference was scheduled to occur in Detroit, Michigan. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, both conferences were combined and went virtual in the fall from September 21—23. Since the fall meeting was hosted in Europe, virtual presentations were viewed worldwide across multiple time zones in both North America and Europe. Three staff members were able to attend the SMRI Fall 2020 Virtual Conference. Topics that were of interest to staff included research on geomechanical modeling, regional geology specific salt mining, site selection of salt caverns, long-term downhole pressure and temperature data acquisition, micro-seismic surveillance for management of salt caverns, modeling of solution mining, and prediction of sinkholes. Staff also participated in the online trivia game. The SMRI Spring 2021 in-person conference has already been cancelled and is scheduled to occur virtually from April 19—23, 2021.

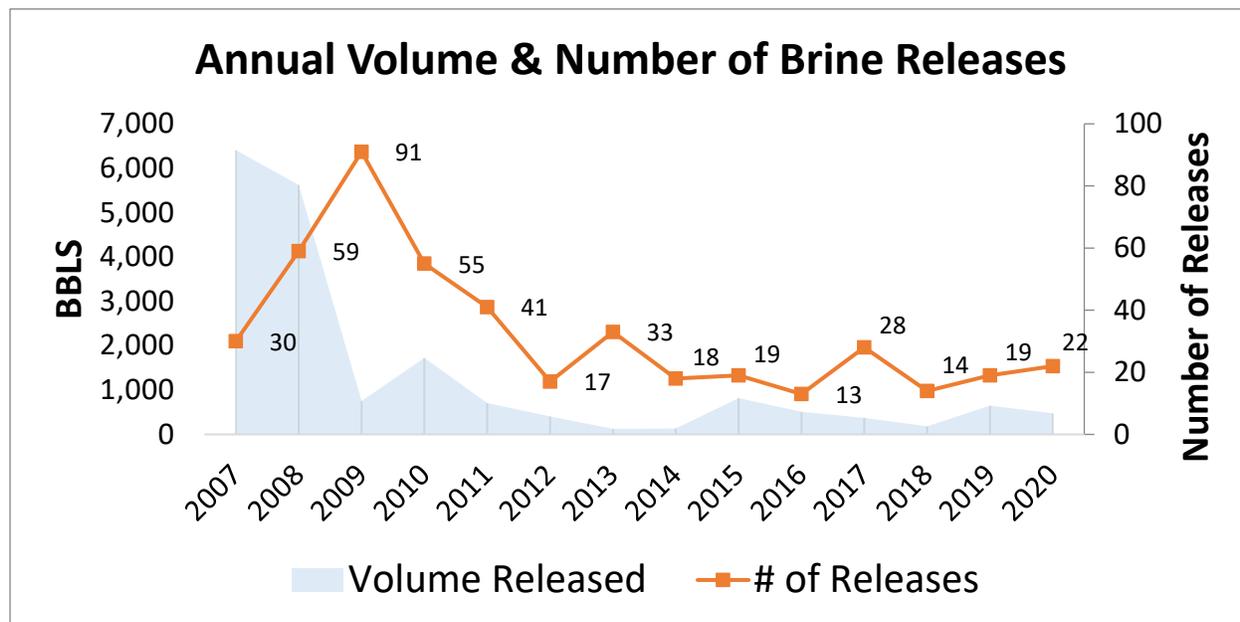
Allie Lane, Geology Specialist
Program Manager UHS

Other conferences or training recently attended by staff

Virtual Event	Staff Members	Dates
Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas	Carrie, Sue, Allie	Nov. 9-10
Underground Injection Control (UIC) Inspector Training hosted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Allie, Lauren, Chelsea, Ken	Oct. 6-8 and Oct. 13-15
Private Water Well Class Series	Pam	5 events in 2020

Field Operations, Permitting, and Compliance

Brine Spills Summary



The Geology and Well Technology Unit and Underground Hydrocarbon Storage (UHS) Program regulates the storage of liquid and liquefied hydrocarbons in underground caverns developed in the Hutchinson Salt. The transfer of product into and out of each cavern requires the use of saturated brine and an extensive network of brine and product pipelines for operation. Due to individual facility operations, age of infrastructure, and/or corrosivity of saturated brine, brine releases can occur.

In the year 2000, executive order 00-04, signed by Governor Bill Graves, ordered for KDHE to identify all known sources of existing and potential pollution of the Equus beds aquifer and to collect, compile and maintain a public reporting of information regarding such existing and potential pollution. This later led to the implementation of regulations for groundwater monitoring at UHS facilities, effective 2003 (Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) 28-45-17). In 2004, the Bureau of Environmental Remediation (BER) created a policy that acted as a guidance for the investigation and remediation of salt/chloride impacted water (BER Policy # BER-RS-13A).

In 2007, the Bureau of Water (BOW) started a tracking system to follow the remedial progress at reported spills. This organizational method helps both KDHE and the facilities record the brine release volumes and incidents that occur throughout the years.

Overall, both the amount of brine released, and the number of brine release events have steadily decreased since 2007 to the year 2020. As years progress, BOW anticipates that the decreasing trends in brine volume released and number of brine release events continues to decline.

To learn more visit:

Bill Graves, Executive order 00-04: <https://kslib.info/DocumentCenter/View/349/EO-00-04?bidId=>

Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.) 28-45:

<https://www.kdheks.gov/uhs/download/lpg.pdf>

BER Policy # BER-RS-13A: https://www.kdheks.gov/ber/policies/BER_RS_013A.pdf

Chelsea Veryser, Geology Specialist

Program Manager Field Operations, Permitting, and Compliance

Water Well Program

CEU Opportunities and Kansas Water Well Contractor Licensure Exam & Review During COVID-19

Cancellation of the Kansas Ground Water Association (KGWA) Spring Seminar & Demonstration in late April 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, resulted in the offering of a deferral to some Kansas licensed water well contractors for some or all of the required eight (8) annual continuing education units (CEUs) for renewal of their license in June 2020. Those who took advantage of the deferral signed an agreement with the KGWA to complete the remaining 2019-2020 CEUs in addition to the eight (8) required for license renewal in June 2021. The KGWA administers the CEU program under a memorandum of understanding with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

So far, many water well contractors have been able to take advantage of the KGWA Seminar & Demonstration that was finally held October 2nd in-person in Salina, KS, thanks to the event host, Geoprobe Systems. Prior to the event, 12 individuals were able to participate in the Kansas water well contractor's licensure exam and review, one of four possible opportunities during the year for persons to participate in the review and take the exam.

In addition, many contractors were also able to participate in the Geology & Well Technology Unit (GWTU) Annual Fall Seminar that was held virtually using an opening "Kick Off" session on October 20th, a closing session with Q&A opportunities with the 13 presenters on October 27th, and pre-recorded presentations made available for more than one week, allowing individual and contractors to view them at their convenience.

Upcoming opportunities to obtain CEUs at in-person venues will obviously be dependent on local COVID-19 restrictions, and some such traditional venues have had to go virtual. Known opportunities are listed below, but one must check in advance to ensure the venue details, restrictions, and any last-minute changes.

Remember, CEUs must be processed through the KGWA. Information is available on their website at <https://kgwa.org/> under the **Information** tab. Contact Dale Hayse, KGWA Executive Director, at 620-548-2669 or at ksgroundwater@gmail.com.

KDHE and the KGWA will work together during this difficult and uncertain time to be pragmatic and creative in order to assist KS licensed water well contractors in obtaining the CEUs required for renewal of their license in the 2020-2021 licensure period.

CEU Opportunities

The **National Groundwater Association (NGWA) Groundwater and Public Health Symposium** will be held virtually on December 7, 2020. It is designed to share fundamental information about the groundwater resource, residential well construction and maintenance, and current issues of public concern. Registration and details are at:

<https://www.ngwa.org/detail/event/2020/12/07/default-calendar/20dec5075>.

NGWA's Groundwater Summit will be a virtual conference held December 8-10, 2020. Registration and details are at: <https://groundwatersummit.com/register>.

NGWA's Groundwater Week will also be a virtual event held December 8-11, 2020. Registration and details are at: <https://groundwaterweek.com/register/>.

Tentatively KDHE will hold, the **Kansas water well contractor's licensure exam and review** on Wednesday January 20, 2021. Some CEUs are awarded to persons who sit through the review. This opportunity for the exam and review will tentatively be held in conjunction with the **KGWA's 73rd Annual Convention and Trade Show**, scheduled for January 21-21, 2021 at the Kansas Star Event Center near Mulvane, KS.

NGWA regularly provides updates on upcoming groundwater events and educational opportunities. Visit the following link on their website: <https://www.ngwa.org/events-and-education/ngwa's-event-calendar>.

NGWA's WellOwner.org website contains well owner resources at: <https://wellowner.org/resources/>.

The Private Well Class features upcoming & recorded webinars at: <http://privatewellclass.org/calendar>.

Links to information on surrounding state groundwater association activities include:

Oklahoma: <https://okgroundwater.org/>

Colorado: <https://cgwa.co/>

Nebraska: <https://www.nebraskawelldrillers.org/>, and

Missouri: <http://www.missouriwaterwellassociation.com/>

Pam Chaffee, PG
Program Manager Water Well
And Technical Support

Water Well Contractor Renewals

KDHE with the help of the Kansas Geological Survey (KGS) and the Kansas Groundwater Association (KGWA) implemented a new Kansas Contractor License Renewal process for the licensure year 2020-2021 allowing contractors to process their renewal applications online using the Kansas On-line Automated Reporting System (KOLAR). KOLAR simplifies the renewal process by auto filling in your application with the information supplied when registered. This information is stored in KOLAR and the contractor is able to update the information corrections as needed. Another plus is a quicker turn-a-round time for the contractor receiving their license(s). Instead of 6-8 weeks, the turn-a-round time is less than 4 weeks. KOLAR is open June 1 through July 1 annually for renewal applications.

During this new renewal process, here are some things we learned:

- Make sure the person who registers in KOLAR is the designated person and is marked as the as the group administrator and as the primary contact for KDHE forms submittal.
- Keep your information updated in KOLAR to help this process run efficiently.

After submitting your renewals, check your emails daily. You will be receiving an email with this subject line: Subject: KOLAR: Water Well Contractor License Renewal (WWC1R) Accepted by KDHE. It will explain how to print your license(s).

Although there were a few hiccups this year, regarding the payment system, it went very well. There was a total of 224 contractors and the majority commented on how easy and quick the process was and they were glad it was implemented. The online payment system, PayIt, system is up and running thus enhancing the renewal process even more.

Contractors were registered into KOLAR to use the online license renewal process. Now that they are all registered, they can submit WWC-5 and WWC-5P forms online. This submittal process is more efficient and reduces mistakes allowing KDHE and KGS to have the well information entered and uploaded to the web quicker for use. KDHE would like to thank all the contractors for their patience during this new process and hope you find it beneficial and enjoy it even more next year.

Deb Biester
Public Service Administrator



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