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## WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at OWRD home page, under *Agency Spotlight* > *Well Said Newsletter*.

Please share with others at your organization.

*Well Said* is a production of the OWRD Well Construction Section and is designed to inform the drilling industry and the public about program activities and other items of interest.

Questions or suggestions about this newsletter may be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 991-2470 or email at [Kristopher.R.Byrd@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@water.oregon.gov)



## MEET BYRON EBNER: NEW SC REGION WELL INSPECTOR

Please join the Oregon Water Resources Dept (OWRD) in welcoming Byron Ebner as the second South Central Region Well Inspector out of the Bend office. Byron is from Lafayette, Louisiana, where he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette studying geology and some paleontology. While he was an undergraduate student, he was fortunate enough to be a paleontological lab assistant for the university in the local science museum.

Following graduation, an opportunity came up

for him to participate in a fossil expedition in Christmas Valley, Oregon, where they found an articulated Miocene aged specimen called a *Megatylopus* (a tall giraffe-like camel). It was during this trip that Byron fell in love with Central Oregon. Following the fossil expedition, he returned to Louisiana and earned a master's degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, studying oceanography and coastal sciences focusing on biogeochemistry of the benthic layer and flux into the water column in the Gulf of Mexico.

After graduating from LSU, he worked for three years at the Louisiana Dept of Natural Resources Office of Conservation, Injection, and Mining Division, in Baton Rouge, where he completed technical reviews of permit applications for Class IV Injection Wells and conducted routine well inspections. In his free time, he likes to walk with his dogs, ride his bike, hike trails, read, and watch Netflix. Byron may be contacted at [Byron.C.Ebner@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Byron.C.Ebner@water.oregon.gov) or (971) 719-3420.

## NEW VIDEO TUTORIAL: HOW TO E-FILE START CARDS

The Well Construction Section is excited to announce that a new video has been added to the video tutorial collection: How to E-File Start Cards.

To view the video collection, please visit the website: <https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WCC/resourcesforwellconstructors/Pages/Well%20Construction%20Program%20Video%20Tutorials.aspx>

The link to the Start Card video may also be found on the OWRD homepage under "Agency Spotlight".

### Agency Spotlight

Topic

100-Year Water Vision

Well Said Newsletter

How to e-file a Start Card (video tutorial)



Serving the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management.

If you have suggestions for video tutorials that you would like to see on the website, please contact Buffy Madrigal-Adams, Well Licensing Specialist, at (971) 287-8305 or [Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov).

# RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Oregon Water Resources Dept (OWRD) held the first Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting to review House Bill (HB) 3030, HB 2145, HB 4061, and Senate Bill (SB) 688 on December 13, 2022. The meeting was a hybrid meeting with some folks attending via Zoom and others attending at the OWRD Salem office.

The rulemaking process consists of:

- Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Draft Rules and Statement of Need / Fiscal Impact
- Rulemaking Advisory Committee
- Public Comment Period and Hearing(s) Staff Recommendation and Commission Decision

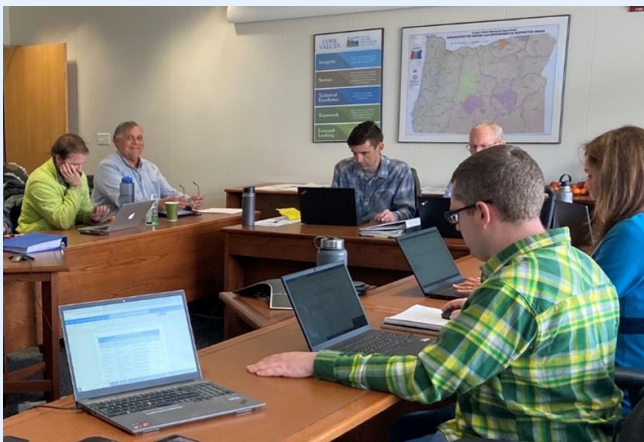
The next RAC meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, **January 11, 2023, 1pm-4pm.**

Members for the RAC have been chosen; however, anyone is invited to attend the meetings as a member of the public.

For more information regarding rule making, please visit the OWRD website here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/policylawandrules/OARS/Pages/Well-Construction.aspx>

Rulemaking questions may also be directed to Laura Hartt, Water Policy Analyst/Rules Coordinator, at (971) 720-0963 or [Laura.A.Hartt@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Laura.A.Hartt@water.oregon.gov).



## HOUSE BILL 2145 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

House Bill (HB) 2145 was passed during the 2021 legislative session to (a) modernize and increase efficiency within the well construction program to prevent well deficiencies that can lead to contamination or waste of groundwater, (b) better protect groundwater resources for Oregonians, and (c) give the well construction industry timely assurance that their work is being performed in a manner that is consistent with State requirements. Changes are being implemented in phases as required by the new law from January 1, 2022, through July 1, 2024.

### Completed Changes

**Phase 1:** Implementation of the Start Card fee increase was accomplished on schedule in January 2022. The transition of the exempt use fee and map from well owner to driller was also successfully completed.

**Phase 2:** The Department began conducting technical reviews of 100% of the well reports submitted starting July 2022, in compliance with the requirements in HB 2145. These reviews ensure the well report is complete and, based on information contained in the well report, that the well appears to have been constructed in accordance with minimum well construction standards.

Well constructors should verify that their email address is up to date with OWRD to ensure they can easily be notified regarding well report evaluations. Email addresses and other contact information may be updated by clicking "Update Contact Information" under Resources for Well Constructors on the WRD homepage at [www.oregon.gov/owrd](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd).

### Upcoming Changes

**Phase 3:** On July 1, 2023, OWRD will implement the following requirements:

- Completion of arc welding training, professional certification, or proficiency test to obtain a new well constructor license (both water supply and monitoring well licenses)
- Start Cards shall be submitted between 60 days to no later than 72 hours before work begins on a well. Start Cards expire if work does not begin within 60 days of submission
- GPS location shall be recorded on Start Cards
- Proposed construction start and end dates and an estimate of the seal placement date will be required on all Start Cards
- The bonded well constructor shall include helper information on the submitted well report

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## HB 2145 Update, Cont'd

**Phase 4:** On July 1, 2024, OWRD will implement the requirement that Start Cards and well reports be submitted by electronic means.

For more information regarding HB 2145, please visit our website: <https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WCC/Pages/HouseBill-2145.aspx>. Questions about implementation of the bill should be directed to Travis Kelly, Well Construction Compliance Coordinator, at (971) 304-5079 or [Travis.N.Kelly@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Travis.N.Kelly@water.oregon.gov).

## KLAMATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE WELL DRILLING CURRICULUM

Historically, Klamath County has declared drought emergencies more than any other county in the state. The Klamath Basin water scarcity includes existing wells running dry, leading to the need for deepening of wells, new well construction, and well abandonment work.

Collaborating with the Klamath Basin stakeholders, Klamath Community College (KCC) has proposed the development and implementation of a well drilling curriculum. The current shortage of well constructors makes the well drilling program at KCC a welcome addition. Along with well construction, the curriculum will include welding certification with a focus on pipe-welding, construction jobsite safety training, as well as laws regarding water well drilling. The Emergency Board authorized \$975,000 to support the establishment of the program; this includes \$25,000 for curriculum development, and \$950,000 for a well drilling rig. Klamath Community College plans to launch the program starting Winter term, January 13, 2023.

Questions about the KCC well drilling program should be directed to the college:  
<https://www.klamathcc.edu>.

Questions regarding changes to license requirements as mandated by House Bill 2145, should be directed to Buffy Madrigal-Adams, Well Licensing Specialist at [Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov) or (971) 287-8305.

## UPDATED E-FILE WELL REPORT APPLICATION

### Well Report Entry and Management

#### Menu

File Well Reports  
Review Completed Well Report Status  
Display Map of My Wells

#### References

Update Contact Information  
Start Card E-Filing  
Well Report Query  
Well Report Mapping Display  
Resources for Well Constructors  
Water Rights Mapping Display  
OAR Oregon Administrative Rules  
ORS Oregon Revised Statutes  
Well Report Fees sent to Collections

#### Account

License Number: 9999  
Name: Well Driller  
Company: Well Drilling Co  
Mailing Address: 1234 Main Street

Outstanding Payments: 0  
Reviews Waiting Action: 0

#### Contacts:

- [Buffy Madrigal-Adams](mailto:Buffy.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov): Well Licensing Program Specialist
- [Linda Walker](mailto:Linda.Walker@water.oregon.gov): Well Report Review Program Coordinator

The Department is happy to announce updates to the E-file Well Report Application that will allow well constructors to have a comprehensive view of their well reports, including groundwater use recording fee payment information and technical well report review status. The new application is scheduled to be available to well constructors in early January 2023, so please keep an eye out for these exciting changes. Also, stay tuned for the Oregon Ground Water Association's (OGWA) Spring Technical continuing education conference for a presentation of the application's new functionalities.

{E-Filing Landing Page}

Welcome Well Driller (9999) [Logout](#) | [Update Contact Information](#)

Owner Last Name:  Invoice Nbr:  Outstanding Payment:  Action Status:  Complete Date:  to

Records per Page:

Well Log	Type of Log	Start Card	Label	Pay Invoice	Invoice Nbr	Passcode	Invoice Amount	Invoice Amount Due	Ecommerce Batch Nbr	Complete Date	Owner
<a href="#">EFF 582</a>	W	85139						0		5/27/1995	DARYL KENNY
<a href="#">DOUG 10138</a>	W	50643						0		9/9/1995	JACK LEES
<a href="#">DESC 10113</a>	W	79182	111217					0		9/5/1995	RICHARD QUINN
<a href="#">WASH 13946</a>	M	81121						0		9/1/1995	SHADRELL
<a href="#">LANE 24268</a>	W							0		8/26/1995	SAFETY KLEEN
<a href="#">DESC 10092</a>	W	76803	52910					0		8/9/1995	RHONDA FAITH OLSON
<a href="#">LINN 14262</a>	W	73493						0		7/29/1995	KAY E THRASH
<a href="#">CURR 1777</a>	W	80689						0		7/29/1995	ROBERT J HUNTER
<a href="#">LINN 14266</a>	W	73492						0		7/26/1995	DAN L NOFZIGER
<a href="#">COLU 3842</a>	W	80440						0		7/22/1995	DANIEL TITUS

{Technical Report Review Status Page}

For questions regarding e-filing, please contact Buffy Madrigal-Adams, Well Licensing Specialist, at (971) 287-8305 or [Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov).

For questions regarding the OGWA spring technical conference, please contact Nancy Sippel at (503) 390-7088 or by email at [nancy@ogwa.org](mailto:nancy@ogwa.org).

## FREE WELL WATER TESTING IN SOUTHERN DESCHUTES COUNTY

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is offering free well water testing in southern Deschutes County as part of a groundwater quality study. DEQ will test between 60 and 100 wells in the spring and fall of 2023. Testing will be done for nitrate, bacteria, arsenic, pesticides, and other contaminants. Sample results will be publicly available, but land-owner information will not be included in the public database. Property owners will receive their individual results.

The area has porous, volcanic soil and many shallow groundwater aquifers, both of which allow the potential for contamination. Possible sources of contamination include failing septic systems, current or prior application of fertilizers and pesticides, and leaking underground fuel tanks. DEQ will provide information to the study participants on proper well maintenance, the health effects of common contaminants, and options for water treatment.

Southern Deschutes County is the seventh geographic area DEQ has studied as part of its Statewide Groundwater Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates the current condition of Oregon's groundwater. DEQ selected the area because existing groundwater data shows elevated nitrate levels in some water samples, shallow and vulnerable aquifers, and a lack of robust data in the basin over time. The area was last sampled by DEQ back in 2014.

Interested well users can contact DEQ at: (503) 693-5736 or [groundwater.monitoring@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:groundwater.monitoring@deq.oregon.gov) to be considered for the study.

More information about participating in the study can be found at <https://ordeq.org/groundwater>.

## METHANE IN OREGON WELLS

While uncommon in Oregon, methane gases may be encountered in water supply wells. Methane in wells has been documented in the coastal range outside of Corvallis, up north in Vernonia, in the Blue Mountains area near Baker, and in Central Oregon south of Bend.

Naturally occurring methane is widespread beneath the Earth's surface and can be produced through biologic decomposition of organic matter, or derived over millions of years by high pressure and high temperature processes. Colorless, odorless, and tasteless, natural methane is considered non-toxic; however, it can pose hazards due to combustibility, or as an asphyxiant in confined spaces.

It is possible for methane to enter a well from both above and below the water level. Because methane is lighter than air, any gas entering the well above the water level will quickly rise to the top. While methane

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## Methane in Oregon Wells, Cont'd

entering the well below the water level can remain dissolved in the water then released as groundwater is pumped to the surface. In these cases, proper venting of the well bore should be considered. Additionally, treatment systems are available that will remove dissolved methane from the water.

It's important to test the well if you think methane is present. Testing can be accomplished by using a hand-held methane gas detector that will identify gasses escaping the well bore. Another option is to apply a flame to the off-gasses from a sealed water sample, which will help quickly determine if flammable gas is present.

For methane gas concerns, please contact Tommy Laird, Well Construction Program Coordinator, who can instruct you on next steps. Mr. Laird may be reached at [Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov) or (503) 302-8618.

## DOG RESCUED FROM DUG WELL

Hank the dog was really surprised when, as he ran and played on his owners' property, he fell into an old dug well. Fortunately for Hank, once his owners could not see or hear him anymore, they searched the property, finally discovering that he had fallen into a 12-foot deep dug well, in six feet of water. Luckily for everyone involved, the Newport Fire Department came to the rescue, getting Hank out of the well and back to his family where he belonged.

In order to prevent this type of event from happening again, the Oregon Water Resources Dept worked with the landowner to properly cover the dug well until it can be permanently abandoned. Improperly abandoned dug wells are a threat to landowners, their families, friends, and their beloved pets.

Contact Tommy Laird, Well Construction Program Coordinator, at [Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov) or (503) 302-8618 for questions related to dug well abandonment.

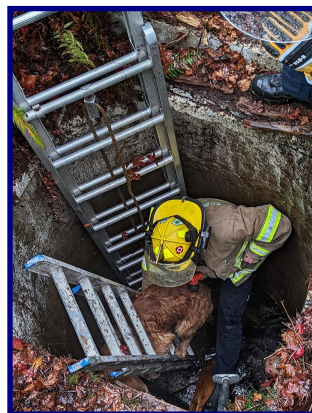


Photo credit: Tillamook Headlight Herald



Hank shows his appreciation

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Inspector taking a static water level measurement



A new well in North Central Oregon



Inspecting a temporary dewatering well



Snowy well in Eastern Oregon



**WELL CONSTRUCTION SECTION**  
**OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
725 SUMMER ST NE, SUITE A  
SALEM, OR 97301

## WELL SAID NEWSLETTER - Oregon Water Resources Dept

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WCC Section Fax: (503) 986-0902

### Region Office Directory

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Fax: (541) 774-6187

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