

## WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1 House Bill 2145 Update
- 2 New NW Well Inspector  
New SC Well Inspectors  
Well Inspector Duties
- 3 Start Card Expiration  
License Renewals & Exam
- 4 WARRF: One Year Later  
Free Drinking Water  
Assessment
- 5 Well Report Requirements  
Abandonment of Old  
Wells
- 6 Boy Rescued From Well
- 7 Photos From the Field

## 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)



*Serving the public by practicing  
and promoting responsible water  
management.*

## 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.

Following the adoption of administrative rules by the Water Resources Commission on June 16, 2023, the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) implemented the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of HB 2145, which includes the following requirements that became effective on July 1:



- Evidence of welding proficiency required for licensure.
- Start Cards shall be submitted not earlier than **60 days** and not later than **three (3) calendar days** (72 hours) before beginning construction, alteration, conversion, or abandonment work on any water supply well or monitoring well **and a start card expires** if construction, alteration, abandonment or conversion of a well does not begin **on or before 60 days** after submission of the Start Card.
- Proposed construction **Start** and **End** dates, and an estimate of day on which **seal placement** will commence to be included on all Start Cards.
- On the day that work commences, driller to provide notice to OWRD **prior to commencement of work.**
- Driller to provide notice to OWRD **four (4) hours prior to seal placement** if seal placement date is different than that provided on the Start Card.
- **GPS location** shall be reported on the Start Card and Well Report.
- The bonded well constructor shall include all **helpers** on the Well Report.

For more information regarding HB 2145 please visit our website: <https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WCC/Pages/HouseBill-2145.aspx>.

Well constructors should verify that their email address is up to date with the Department to ensure that they can easily be notified regarding well report evaluations. Email addresses, along with other contact information, may be updated by clicking Resources for Well Constructors on the WRD homepage, then choosing "[Update Contact Information](#)" in the left menu.

For questions about the implementation of HB 2145, please contact Travis Kelly, Well Construction Compliance Coordinator, at (971) 304-5079 or [Travis.N.Kelly@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Travis.N.Kelly@water.oregon.gov).

# MEET JOSH LUCAS: NEW NW REGION WELL INSPECTOR

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is excited to announce that a second well inspector has been hired to work out of the Salem office. Josh Lucas has joined the well inspector group and will be sharing the Northwest Region with Ryan Pillsbury. Josh hails from Salem, Oregon, and graduated from Western Oregon University (WOU) with a bachelor's degree in Earth Science. During his time at WOU, Josh had the opportunity to intern at GeoDesign, a geotechnical consulting company in Wilsonville, as a Geotechnical Field Technician. In this role, he documented and analyzed earthwork/construction for various projects in the Portland-metro area. After graduation, Josh worked for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) as a Traffic Data Analyst. While working there, he tested for and obtained his Geologist-In-Training (GIT) certification.

Following his time at ODOT, Josh joined OWRD as an assistant watermaster where he dealt with cannabis-focused water rights issues, and then eagerly jumped on the opportunity get back into geology-related field work by accepting the second NW Region Well Inspector position.

In his free time, Josh enjoys hiking, rock-hounding, woodworking, and playing retro video games. Josh may be contacted at (971) 428-7192 or [Josh.C.Lucas@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Josh.C.Lucas@water.oregon.gov).



## NEW SOUTH CENTRAL REGION WELL INSPECTORS

Please join the Oregon Water Resources Dept (OWRD) in welcoming two new well inspectors to the South Central Region.

Both Alyssa Witt, who's first day was May 1, 2023, and Dusten Lish, who began on July 17, 2023, will work out of the Bend office, inspecting wells as well as reviewing Well Reports and responding to customer calls and e-mails. Expect to see Alyssa and Dusten around your drill sites this summer as they familiarize themselves with the region.

For questions about wells or well inspections in the South Central Region, contact Alyssa at [Alyssa.N.Witt@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Alyssa.N.Witt@water.oregon.gov) or (971) 375-6919, or Dusten at [Dusten.L.Lish@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Dusten.L.Lish@water.oregon.gov) or (503) 798-3196.

## WELL INSPECTOR DUTIES

OWRD has seven well inspectors available across the state to inspect wells, as well as to assist the well drilling community. These inspectors, who are stationed in Salem, Pendleton, Baker City, Bend, and Medford, are also tasked with a number of other duties that are necessary in order to keep the well construction program (WCC) functioning efficiently.

These additional duties include:

- Observing well seal placements
- Inspecting every new water right well in their region
- Reviewing Well Reports
- Resolving well construction and well report deficiencies
- Videoing wells when needed

Contact information for the regional inspectors is available on the OWRD website, on the Resources for Well Constructors page.

For information regarding the well construction program, contact Tommy Laird at (503) 302-8618 or [Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov).

# START CARD EXPIRATION

Beginning July 1, 2023, Start Cards must be submitted not earlier than **60 days** and not later than **three (3) calendar days** (72 hours) before beginning construction, alteration, conversion or abandonment work on any water supply or monitoring well. In addition, **start cards expire if work on the well does not begin on or before 60 days** after submission, although there is an opportunity for a **one-time 30-day extension** in exigent circumstances that have been self-certified by the licensed driller.

Along with this change, a **day of drilling notification** must be submitted on the day that construction actually begins, but it also must be received by the Department prior to the Start Card expiration date. Please note that construction may take as long as necessary after beginning, as long as the initial day of drilling notification was timely filed. One thing to remember, is that **if the commencement of work notification is not submitted within 60 calendar days, the Start Card expires and a well report cannot be submitted using the expired Start Card**. Commencement of work notification may be submitted electronically on the OWRD website, or on a Well Constructor Notification Form, available on the Resources for Well Constructors page on the Department's website.

Along with the notification requirements detailed above, well constructors should also be aware that **Start Cards submitted on or after July 1, 2023, will not be eligible for refunds**, however, the fee may be transferred to a new Start Card. Start Cards with no associated fees, such as alterations and abandonments, are eligible to be voided. It is also important to note that **expired Start Cards are ineligible for fee transfers**. If the Start Card expires, a new one must be submitted as no well may be constructed, deepened, altered, abandoned, or converted without an active Start Card.

Questions about Start Card changes and notification requirements 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).

## LICENSE RENEWALS AND THE OCTOBER EXAM



During the most recent licensing cycle ending on June 30, 2023, **143** well constructor licenses were up for renewal. Presently, **126** of those licenses have been renewed by submitting the \$150.00 license fee and providing documentation of having a minimum of **14** continuing education credits (CECs).

If you haven't renewed your license that expired on **June 30, 2023**, please be sure to send in the late fee of **\$100.00** along with your license fee, renewal paperwork, and CEC documents. As a reminder, if a person fails to renew a license within **12 months** after expiration, the person must comply with the requirements for a new well constructor's license to maintain licensure. This means **re-taking the license exam** and providing evidence of drilling experience.

The next well constructor license exam is scheduled for 9:00 am on October 9, 2023, at the Salem office of the Water Resources Department. For those interested in sitting for the exam, please submit the application and exam fee of **\$20.00 prior to exam day** to secure a seat. As a reminder, if you choose to pay the exam fee on the day of the exam, the Department will accept only a check, money order, or cash. The Department does not accept debit or credit cards or make change for bills larger than \$20.00.

For questions regarding license renewal or the licensing exam, please contact Buffy Madrigal-Adams at (971) 287-8305 or [Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov).

# WELL ABANDONMENT, REPAIR, AND REPLACEMENT FUND (WARRF): ONE YEAR LATER

The Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund (WARRF) began accepting applications in June 2022 to provide financial assistance to Oregon residents to permanently abandon, repair, or replace a water well used for household purposes. The Department received approximately **\$5.4 million dollars** for the Fund, with **\$2 million** of this funding coming from the American Rescue Plan Act and **\$3.4 million** from the State of Oregon General Fund. Applicants to the WARRF program must be from low-to-moderate income households with domestic wells in areas recently impacted by drought or wildfire.

During the program's first year, OWRD received approximately **245** applications for WARRF funding. Of those applications, **142** were approved for grant agreements. The regional well inspectors assist with the program by completing pre and post inspections of the wells. A total of **152** pre-inspections and **93** post-inspections were completed by the inspector group in the first year of the program. Well inspectors must visit the property to inspect the completed well while also ensuring the well meets current minimum construction standards.

The Department continues to accept grant applications and has about **\$1.4M** available to award. Additional information and WARRF-related documents are available on the OWRD website at [www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WARRF/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/WARRF/Pages/default.aspx). Interested individuals may also e-mail [OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov](mailto:OWRD.Well.Funding@water.oregon.gov), or call (503) 779-5763.

## FREE DRINKING WATER ASSESSMENT

More than 43 million people in the United States rely on private water wells as their sole drinking water source according to a national research study by the U.S. Geological Survey. The study also found that more than one out of the five wells contained one or more contaminants at concentrations above the safe human health benchmark. The **Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC)**, a non-profit organization, is offering private well owners free well assessments and water quality screening for nitrate.

The Individual Well Program is carried out as part of the US Environmental Protection Agency/Rural Community Assistance Partnership "Improving Water Quality through Training & Technical Assistance to Private Well Owners" Project. Well assessments and free testing will be **available within a 60-mile radius of Corvallis and Medford**. The well assessment will include:

- On-site inspection of the well system to identify potential well vulnerabilities
- Identification of potential well contamination sources near the well site
- Well construction inspection relative to state standards to note any potential concerns
- Water quality screening for nitrate, commonly associated with wastewater contamination
- Completed well assessment report with recommendations of possible needed repairs and water treatment options

To register for the well assessment, landowners can either:

- ⇒ Register online at <http://www.rcac.org/environmental/individual-well-program/> or
- ⇒ Contact Rodney Page (Medford): (530) 782-0339 or by email [rpage@rcac.org](mailto:rpage@rcac.org) or
- ⇒ Quinn Andrea (Corvallis): (541) 452-1127 or by email [qandreas@rcac.org](mailto:qandreas@rcac.org).

## WELL REPORT REQUIREMENTS: BOREHOLE DIAMETERS, LINERS, AND WATER BEARING ZONES

The Department would like to remind well constructors that when reporting **borehole diameters** on a well report, drillers should report the **outside diameter of the bit** they are using for each section of the borehole. This means that if you are using an under-reaming bit, that you report the outside diameter of the bit when the wings are engaged, and that if the wings are not engaged, then that is the diameter that is reported. These details will help both the Well Construction Section and the well inspectors to better understand the construction of each well as they perform a review of every well report that is submitted.

In addition to accurately reporting a well's borehole diameter, it is also important to accurately **indicate if a piece of pipe is casing or liner**. If the inner tubing, pipe, or conduit that is installed inside a well casing or lower well bore is used to protect against caving formations and is **not permanently affixed** to the drillhole wall or casing, then **it is liner**. If it is **permanently fixed** to a well casing or borehole wall using packers or grout, then **it is casing**. It does not matter if the pipe is steel or PVC, *the only thing that matters is how the pipe is installed, and if it is removeable.*

Finally, the reporting of **water bearing zones** on well reports is not only a nice thing to do, it is required in both statute and rule. The information provided offers valuable data to not only the Well Construction Section, but also to the Department's groundwater scientists, and others. One thing to keep in mind when considering what to report, is that **there is no minimum discharge amount** that would exempt a water bearing zone from being reported.

Questions about well report form completion requirements should be directed to Tommy Laird, Well Construction Program Coordinator, at [Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov) or (503) 302-8618.

## ABANDONMENT OF OLD WATER SUPPLY WELLS

Landowners should consider the benefits of properly abandoning old wells on their property when they are replaced by new wells. As an example, if not properly maintained, a well can become a conduit for contamination, affecting sources of drinking water used by families, pets, and livestock. In addition, if an old well is no longer used, it can easily be forgotten and left to deteriorate. In some instances, property transactions can also lead to unused wells being forgotten, buried or damaged, and once a well is compromised at or near the surface, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizers, automotive fluids or other household chemicals can enter the groundwater through the well.

Some well owners believe that simply placing a cap on a well is a permanent abandonment. However, this is simply the act of taking a well out of production so that it is temporarily unused. If an old well is really going to be permanently abandoned, then a licensed well constructor should be involved so that the work is performed and reported properly.

Property owners that have questions about well abandonments or the abandonment process are encouraged to reach out to the Department for answers. If the property owner's specific situation does not allow for permanent abandonment according to the requirements, then special standards may be requested.

For questions about well abandonments or other well related issues, please contact Tommy Laird, Well Construction Program Coordinator, at (503) 302-8618 or [Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov).

## 12-YEAR-OLD BOY RESCUED FROM WELL

When children go to school, most families believe that their kid's day will be filled with reading, writing, and arithmetic, however, that is not always the case. Just imagine the thoughts running through the minds of one family when they heard that their 12-year-old son had fallen 20 feet into a well at recess. The incident occurred when a boy in Washington was standing on a well's concrete lid during recess and it partially collapsed, causing him to plummet into the well.

Fortunately, it was not long before the Marysville Fire District responded and found the boy clinging to a plastic pipe in the well to keep himself above water as he was unable to touch the bottom. Luckily, the boy was conscious and able to follow commands as he was clinging to the plastic pipe. When the fire department arrived, they lowered a helmet and life vest to the boy to wear during the rescue operation. A harness was also lowered, so that the boy could slide it onto his body. Once the boy was secured, the remaining concrete lid was removed so that it would not fall into the well on top of him. After that, the firefighters were able to lower a ladder down into the well, allowing the young man to climb out on his own. Thankfully, the child only suffered minor lacerations to his head and was taken to the hospital for treatment and observation.



Photo credit: Marysville Fire Dept

The Well Construction Section shares this event to convey the danger imposed by either an improperly abandoned or neglected well.

If you become aware of a dug well that is a potential safety hazard and needs to be properly abandoned, please contact Tommy Laird at [Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov) or (503) 302-8618.



# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



New industrial well in NW Region



Landowner well in SC Region



New observation well in NC Region



New well in East Region



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

## WELL SAID NEWSLETTER - Oregon Water Resources Dept

Jul 2023 - Issue 72

### Well Construction Section Staff Directory

Kristopher Byrd, Manager  
[Kristopher.R.Byrd@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@water.oregon.gov)  
(503) 991-2470

Travis Kelly, Well Construction  
Compliance Coordinator  
[Travis.N.Kelly@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Travis.N.Kelly@water.oregon.gov)  
(971) 304-5079

Tommy Laird, Well Construction  
Program Coordinator  
[Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Tommy.K.Laird@water.oregon.gov)  
(503) 302-8618

Buffy Madrigal-Adams, License and  
Compliance Specialist  
[Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Buffy.M.Madrigal-Adams@water.oregon.gov)  
(971) 287-8305

Ladeena Ashley, Well ID Program  
Coordinator  
[Ladeena.K.Ashley@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Ladeena.K.Ashley@water.oregon.gov)  
(971) 287-8218

Linda Walker, Well Report Review  
Coordinator  
[Linda.K.Walker@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Linda.K.Walker@water.oregon.gov)  
(971) 287-8201

Scott Kudlemyer, Well Program  
Specialist  
[Scott.B.Kudlemyer@water.oregon.gov](mailto:Scott.B.Kudlemyer@water.oregon.gov)  
(971) 287-8360

WCC Section Fax: (503) 986-0902

#### Region Office Directory

Western  
Phone: (503) 986-0900  
Fax: (503) 986-0903

Southwest  
Phone: (541) 774-6880  
Fax: (541) 774-6187

South Central  
Phone: (541) 306-6885  
Fax: (541) 388-5101

North Central  
Phone: (541) 278-5456  
Fax: (541) 278-0287

Eastern  
Phone: (541) 523-8224 x231  
Fax: (541) 550-3898

