

Well Said

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News from the Water Resources Department's Well Construction Program

Department Offers Administrative Training

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Well Said

Oregon Water Resources Department

"Well Said" is a production of the Oregon Water Resources Department's Well Construction Program and is designed to inform the public about program activities and other items of interest.

Questions or suggestions concerning this newsletter can be directed to Rob Carter at (503) 378-8455 x283, or by e-mail: Robert.L.Carter@wrdd.state.or.us.

The Water Resources Department will be offering a free one-day training session tailored to help well constructors and their staff become more familiar with start card and well report filing requirements. **The training will be held at the Department's Salem office from 9:00am to 2:00pm on May 20, 1998,** and will focus on the following questions:

- What are the start card submittal requirements?
- Which set of standards (water supply well, monitoring well or geotechnical hole) applies to which type of hole?
- What information is required on a start card and well report?
- What happens to the documents once they reach the Department?

The training is specifically designed to answer questions about paperwork issues and to lessen the return of incomplete documents from the Department. All constructors and office staff who fill out paperwork can gain from this opportunity. If you are interested in registering for this session or would like additional information, please call Tracy Eichenlaub at (503) 378-8455 x218.

Community / Public Water Supply Wells

True or False? The Water Resources Department is the only state agency that needs to be contacted when drilling a well for a community or public water system.

False. While WRD does have jurisdiction over well construction and water right issues, another state agency is actively involved in the design and installation of community and public water supply wells. The Oregon Health Division's Drinking Water Program works with water suppliers prior to construction to ensure that the delivery system is adequate. This process is known as "plan review." It is very important that the review be done prior to construction of the well or delivery system to avoid costly changes. If you are contracted by a community or public water system to drill a well, please inquire as to whether or not they have completed their plan review. If not, refer them to Tom Charbonneau of the Drinking Water Program at (503) 731-4010.

New Consumer's Guide Available

The Department has recently updated the "Consumer's Guide to Water Well Construction, Maintenance and Abandonment" brochure. This brochure provides landowners with basic well-related information so that they may better understand the drilling process. The brochure is available to constructors should you desire to distribute them to customers. If you would like to have copies sent to you, please contact Lisa Juul at (503) 378-8455 x260. In addition, you can access this document on the web at: <http://www.wrd.state.or.us/groundwater/index.html>.

Constructing Permanent Monitoring Wells using Push-Probe Systems

Push-probe systems are becoming more common in the environmental assessment field due to the minimal waste they generate, their ease of access and their cost savings over conventional drilling technology. In the past, this type of system has typically been used for one-time sampling and abandonment application. Recently, however, the Department has been receiving more and more requests to construct permanent (life span of greater than 72 hours) monitoring wells using push-probe systems.

If you anticipate constructing a permanent well using this technology, there are several things you need to address prior to proceeding. Since the annular space will be less than required by rule, all permanent push-probe wells must be constructed under special standard approval. When processing each special standard, the Department considers the following:

- What type of geologic material is likely to be encountered?
- How deep will the seal interval be?
- Does the well potentially interconnect two or more aquifers?
- What will the anticipated life of the well be?

If the answers to the above questions are favorable, the Department may grant a special standard. However, it is very important to consult with the appropriate Department of Environmental Quality staff person to ensure that they will accept samples collected from this type of well.

Pop Quiz

A tax-lot map shows a legal description as "12S 3E 14AB." The "AB" translates to what quarter-quarter section on the well report?

- A. NWNE
- B. NENW
- C. SWSE
- D. What's a quarter-quarter?

Answer to follow...

1997 Well Construction Information

Overall, new well construction was down in 1997. The number of new well reports dropped from 6,274 in 1996 to 5,782 in 1997. The following chart shows the number of new well reports submitted in 1997 and 1996 for each county. The third number shows the change in well activity from 1996 to 1997.

County	1997	1996	97-96
Clackamas	524	442	82
Marion	512	354	158
Lane	492	661	-169
Deschutes	400	400	0
Jackson	355	386	-31
Josephine	321	382	-61
Multnomah	304	329	-25
Washington	302	376	-74
Linn	272	356	-84
Klamath	250	272	-22
Douglas	227	243	-16
Yamhill	175	216	-41
Coos	147	176	-29
Columbia	138	184	-46
Umatilla	136	184	-44
Crook	132	93	39
Benton	122	130	-8
Polk	99	91	8
Malheur	95	87	8
Lincoln	86	108	-22
Curry	78	93	-15
Union	73	49	24
Harney	71	43	28
Baker	60	66	-6
Clatsop	60	46	14
Lake	58	81	-23
Tillamook	57	85	-28

County	1997	1996	97-96
Wasco	57	58	-1
Jefferson	49	101	-52
Wallowa	33	56	-23
Grant	30	44	-14
Morrow	28	38	-10
Wheeler	16	21	-5
Hood River	14	17	-3
Sherman	6	4	2
Gilliam	3	2	1

Staffing Update

As of April 1, 1998, Tracy Eichenlaub replaces Juno Trump as the Department's Licensing and Compliance officer. Tracy moves to the position from the Northwest Region where she was a well inspector. Juno has taken a promotion within the Department. We welcome Tracy to the section and wish Juno well.

Address Changes

Have you, your business, or one of your employees moved recently? If so, please call Tracy Eichenlaub at (503) 378-8455 x218 so that we may update our records. This will allow us to send all correspondence, such as license renewal information, to you in a timely fashion.

Pop Quiz Answer

The correct answer to our quiz is A. When translating from the tax-lot quarter-quarter to the well report, you must switch the quarters around. The AB description defines the largest quarter first (A or NE) and then gets smaller (B or NW). The NWNE description defines the smaller quarter first and then gets larger (read as the "NW quarter of the NE quarter). Thus AB becomes NWNE.

The Water Resources Department circulates this newsletter to all Oregon licensed and bonded well constructors. Please feel free to share this information with your employees.