

# Well Said



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News from the Water Resources Department's Enforcement Section

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Photos

Available on the web at  
[www.wrd.state.or.us/groundwater](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/groundwater)

Please share with others at your  
organization.



**Well Said**

Oregon Water Resources Department

*"Well Said" is a production of the Oregon Water Resources Department's Enforcement Section and is designed to inform the drilling industry and the public about program activities and other items of interest.*

Questions or suggestions concerning this newsletter can be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503)986-0851, or by e-mail: [Kristopher.R.Byrd@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@wrд.state.or.us).

**WALDO LOWE**

The Department wishes to express its sincerest sympathy to the family of Waldo Lowe, Water Well Constructor License #1399. Mr. Lowe passed away in a drilling accident on October 17, 2005. He had been a licensed driller in Oregon for many years. He will be missed.

**ONE LICENSE**

Senate Bill (SB) 579, passed by the 2001 Legislature requires the Water Resources Department to adopt one license with endorsements by July 1, 2006. Drillers who currently carry two licenses, Monitoring and or Water Supply Well, will only need to carry one license with applicable endorsement(s). Implementing SB 579 also eliminates the need for two bonds. Bonded well constructors with both endorsements will only need to carry one bond. The hearing draft of the proposed rules (Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Divisions 200, 205, 2320, 225 and 240) are available on our website. A public hearing is scheduled for February 22, 2006, Water Resources Department, 275 NE Summer Street, Suite A, Salem, Oregon. The written comment period closes on March 8, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. For more information contact Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851.

**LICENSING EXAMS GOING EAST!**

The Water Resources Department will be offering the well constructor licensing exams in Pendleton on May 17, 2006. Potential applicants should submit the examination fee and application to the Salem Office

of the Water Resources Department. If you have any questions about the Pendleton exams or want to sign up contact Brian Mayer, Well Inspector, (541) 278-5456.

**WRD SPONSORED CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES - 2006**

This year the Department is offering classes at five locations around the state. The locations and dates are as follows:

Salem	March 15 & 16
Baker City	March 22
Wilsonville	March 28 & 29
Bend	April 6 & 7
Pendleton	May 17

Salem, Wilsonville and Bend classes are two days with a total of 14 credits available. There is a large variety of classes being offered this year so "come on down". The Department will be introducing the "On Line Submittal of Well Logs". If you have office staff who assist in submitting well reports, they will benefit from this class and are encouraged to attend. These Department sponsored courses are FREE and are open to anyone interested in attending. Course schedules were mailed to all licensed drillers earlier but are also available on our website along with upcoming and on-going course schedules. Please contact Tracy Eichenlaub at (503) 986-0856 for more information



## HOUSE BILL 2083

House Bill 2083, which was passed by the 2005 Legislative Session, eliminates the requirement of recording of the Well Information Form on property deed records. The statute change became effective January 1, 2006, and is part of the Department's effort to streamline regulations.

## DEQ'S UIC PROGRAM

In September 2001, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) updated the Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program rules based on EPA modifications to the Safe Drinking Water Act. The program focuses on protecting domestic and municipal sources of drinking water from UIC activities and potential contamination from underground injection systems. The revised rules require all UIC systems to be registered and be either: 1) rule authorized, 2) under a state permit, or 3) closed. All new and existing underground injection systems are affected by these requirements. Types of underground injection systems that are affected by these rules include stormwater drywell/drill holes, sewage drill holes, large cesspools, large onsite wastewater treatment systems, geothermal heat pumps, aquifer storage and recovery (ASR), industrial waste disposal and process water discharge, and aquifer remediation systems.

Closure of UIC systems requires submission of a pre-closure form with information on the proposed sampling and method of closure (e.g. excavate out or seal in place) for DEQ approval. EPA has placed a national priority on the closure of "motor vehicle" floor drains and other UIC's that receive

discharges from motor vehicles (e.g. gas stations, detail shops and repair shops). Installation of new sewage drill holes is prohibited under Oregon Administrative Rule Chapter 340 Division 044. Existing sewage drill holes, when found, should be closed and replaced with another wastewater treatment system which provides adequate treatment (e.g. nitrogen and solids removal) to protect drinking water sources.

If a prospective client or customer has not received an authorization letter for installation or closure, remember this is a federal and state requirement. Failure to register new and existing UIC systems with DEQ may result in enforcement actions including potential civil penalties. Prohibited closures with no sampling data submitted can place a site on the state cleanup list for further action and potential enforcement actions. Owners who have existing UIC systems and voluntarily register, sample (depending upon the type/use) and retrofit to meet requirements are not subject to enforcement actions.

For DEQ registration or closure forms, information about the program, or access to the statewide UIC data base please see the UIC Web page at: [www.deq.state.or.us/wq/groundwa/uichome.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/groundwa/uichome.htm) or you may contact Ms. Barbara Priest at (503) 229-5945.

## ANSWERS TO THOSE QUESTIONS

The last issue of the *Well Said* included questions we frequently receive. This issue contains the answers to those questions.

Q - I am putting in several hundred feet of trench that I need to dewater. Is there anyway I can install dewatering wells and not pay Start

Card fees for each well?

A- Dewatering wells are a type of water well and must be installed by a licensed Water Supply Well Constructor or by a landowner with a Landowner's Permit and Bond. Since dewatering wells are "wells" Start Cards, Start Card fees and Well Logs are required.

Q - I have an old well on my property that the city wants me to abandon. Can I just fill it up with dirt?

A- No, wells must be abandoned according to the minimum well construction standards and filling up a well with dirt does not comply with the minimum well construction standards.

Q - My pump went out and the pump person needs information on my well, but we cannot find any information. Can you come out and locate the well for me?

A- The Department does not have any information as to where a well is located physically on a particular piece of property. You should contact a well constructor.

Q - I have a piece of property where the setbacks for a new well can be met, however, I believe the only available water will be within 35 feet from my drain field. Can I just drill near my drain field?

A- To drill a well closer than 100 feet from a drain field requires a Special Standard. Although, we do issue special standards for wells to be constructed closer than 100 feet from drain fields, we would not issue a Special Standard if there is room on the property to meet the setback.

Q - I am going to be building a shop on my property and the footprint of the building will be encompassing my well. Is this ok?

A- The property owner should maintain a minimum five-foot separation distance between the well and any permanent structure.

Q - Is there any way I can determine where on my property I can find water before I have a well drilled? I do not want to pay for a dry hole.

A- The best and most reliable method to determine depth water may be found is based on existing well reports.

**ORMAP**

ORMAP is a website where you can obtain free tax lot maps of properties in Oregon. The website address is <http://www.ormap.org/>. Once you are on the home page, click on the "maps online" link on left side of the page. From there you can search for the scanned tax lot maps. For more information about ORMAP contact Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

The Technical Committee on Drilling Standards has completed its hard work on the "new" well log form. The Technical Committee is now going to begin work on an "abandonment well report". The goal is to create a form that will be just for well abandonments. If you have any questions or comments regarding an exclusive "abandonment log", please send them to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851.

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**WANTED**

If you have topics or articles you want to appear in the next *Well Said*, please contact Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851 or

[kristopher.r.byrd@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:kristopher.r.byrd@wrд.state.or.us)

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**REGION OFFICE PHONE NUMBERS**

Northwest ph (503) 986-0900  
fax (503) 986-0904

Southwest ph (541) 471-2886  
fax (541) 471-2876

South Central ph (541) 388-6669  
fax (541) 388-5101

North Central ph (541) 278-5456  
fax (541) 278-0287

East ph (541) 523-8224  
fax (866) 214-3493

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**ENFORCEMENT STAFF DIRECTORY**

Juno Pandian, Manager

[juno.g.pandian@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:juno.g.pandian@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0852

Kristopher Byrd, Well

Construction Program Coordinator

[kristopher.r.byrd@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:kristopher.r.byrd@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0851

Tracy Eichenlaub, License and Compliance Officer

[tracy.l.eichenlaub@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:tracy.l.eichenlaub@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0856

Laurie Norton, Well Log Review

[laurie.k.norton@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:laurie.k.norton@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0850

Codi Holmes, Well Identification Program

[codi.n.holmes@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:codi.n.holmes@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0854

Enforcement Section Fax

(503) 986-0902





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The well identification number is not permanently affixed to the wellhead and is not easily readable (OAR 690-200-0048).

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Casing and fittings destroyed by corrosive environment.

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Above - Hand dug well filled with debris. It has since been abandoned.

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Left - Casing damaged during construction.

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