

Well Said



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*Available on the web at
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@wrdr.state.or.us.

STAFF CHANGES

Ken Wilcke, the NW Region Water Well Inspector, has accepted a job rotation opportunity as the Watermaster for District 16 out of Salem. Ken's job rotation is scheduled to last through June 30, 2006.

Joel Jeffery, who was most recently the NW Region Monitoring Well Inspector has taken over the Water Well Inspector position vacated by Ken.

The new Monitoring Well Inspector for the NW Region is John Unger. John comes to us from the Department's Water Right Section and is scheduled to stay in his current position through June 30, 2006.

LEGISLATIVE FOLLOW UP

Regulatory streamlining was the main focus of the Department's 2005 legislative efforts. Working with the Governor's Office of Regulatory Streamlining, the Department was able to eliminate several existing statutory provisions that are burdensome or obsolete. These regulatory streamlining efforts included passage of House Bill 2083 which eliminates the provision under ORS 537.330(2) that requires a "seller" to notify the Department of a real estate transaction. This bill also eliminates the requirement to record a well identification tag in the deed records. These statutory changes take effect in January 2006.

The Department also worked with the Governor's office to introduce legislation to allow the Department to process requests to change the place of use, type of use, and point of appropriation for pre-1955 ground

water uses (ground water registrations). Under House Bill 2123, the Water Resources Commission is directed to adopt rules for processing these requests. The bill was effective immediately, and the Department hopes to initiate rule making to implement the bill before the end of the year. House Bill 2123 also provides greater flexibility for transfers from a surface water diversion to a ground water well. Generally, a ground water use must affect a surface source "similarly" and must be from an "unconfined" aquifer. The bill deleted "unconfined" to provide greater flexibility for these types of transfers.

Senate Bill 179, effective in January 2006, allows the Commission to reduce fees for material submitted in a digital format, and the Department is interested in pursuing a pilot program related to electronic submittal of Start Cards.

This provides a brief overview of water bills passed this session. The Department is developing a full summary of water bills passed in the 2005 session and will be posting it on its website. In the meantime, questions can be directed to Debbie Colbert at (503) 986-0878.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON DRILLING STANDARDS

The Technical Committee is making progress on changes to the Water Supply Well Report form. There has been a great deal of discussion about the current format. The committee is trying to fit all of the required information on the form as well as adding and enlarging some fields. Work will continue on the form until this project is complete. The

changes made to the water well report form will also be incorporated into other well report forms. The technical committee consists of water well drillers, monitor well drillers, consultants, geologists and Department staff. The next meeting of the committee is tentatively scheduled for October 12, 2005, from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Salem office of the Water Resources Department. Committee meetings are open to the public. For more information contact Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851.

LICENSE EXAMS

The Department will be providing Well Constructor Licensing Exams on the east side of the State, specifically Pendleton. However, the date and time are dependent upon the requests received. Please contact Tracy Eichenlaub, if you are interested in taking the exam in Pendleton.

If you cannot make the regularly scheduled exam dates in Salem, contact Tracy at 503-986-0856 to make alternate arrangements.

LICENSE RENEWALS

This was the first year continuing education credits were required to renew drillers' licenses. Overall, the license renewal process went quite well because some of the anticipated concerns were addressed early providing timely issuance of new licenses.

During this licensing cycle 79 drillers' licenses expired on June 30. Some of these drillers did not obtain any continuing education credits. Others acquired a few credits while some, although they had acquired the 14 credits, chose not to renew their respective licenses.

Are you looking for classes to attend? Check the Department's website for upcoming classes. This site is updated continually.

Questions concerning continuing education credits should be directed to Tracy at (503) 986-0856 or check our website at:

<http://oregon.gov/OWRD/>

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Department gets a lot of questions regarding ground water and wells in general. I have included a few of the questions that have come in since the last issue of the *Well Said*.

Q - I am putting in several hundred feet of trench and I need to dewater.

Is there any way I can install dewatering wells where I don't need to pay a Start Card fee for each well?

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

Q - My pump went out and the pump person needs information on my well, but we can't find it. Can you come out and show me where my well is?

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?

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?

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

Answers to these questions will be provided in the next *Well Said*.

SAFETY FIRST

The following accident information is included to highlight safety.

Case one: *The following information is from an incident bulletin at:*

<http://www.worksafebc.com/>.

A young man was fatally injured when his fall protection lanyard was caught and wrapped around the rotating kelly bar on a drilling rig. He had completed some work in the derrick using a full body harness with a lanyard attached to the back dorsal D-ring of the harness.

After climbing down, he detached the lanyard from the anchor line and, without removing the harness or the lanyard, began walking across the rig floor, in close proximity to the rotating kelly. The lanyard contacted and wrapped around the kelly bar and pulled him into the rotating bushing.

Case two: *The following information is from a press release Dated March 23, 2000 by the Washington Department of Ecology:*

Two men drowned when they fell into a pit at a drilling site. According to reports, one man fell into a pit of foam and water, which are used to clear out the inside of a well. Another man apparently attempted to rescue the first man when he too fell in and drowned.

Case three: *The following information is from an article at:*

<http://cms.firehouse.com:>

This drill rig rolled over on a highway in Connecticut. The driver remained conscious, but was seriously trapped.



FLY ASH???

Some batch plants use fly ash in cement grout. Fly ash changes the weight of the grout and set times. Fly ash can also change cement's strength and permeability. The best way to find out what is in a mix is to ask the vendor.

Cement grout standards can be found in OAR 690-210-0310.

PITLESS ADAPTERS

A pitless adapter is a commercially manufactured unit designed to attach to a well casing in order to allow water service pipes to pass through the wall of the well casing or extension and prevent entrance of contaminants into the well and the groundwater.

Most pitless adapters are used on the east side of the state because of the freezing conditions. Regardless of what part of the state you are in, here are a couple of points to keep in mind. Through the course of installation, the sealing material would have to be removed prior to installing the pitless adapter. Only unhydrated bentonite can be used in this interval bringing the seal back up to land surface. Cement grout or concrete is not allowed.

Pitless adapters and units are addressed in OAR 690-210-0270.

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GUEST COLUMN

This article is printed at the request of Greg and Malia Kupillas, Pacific Hydro-Geology Inc. It does not represent the Department's interpretation of "tax lot number".

WHAT IS A TAX LOT NUMBER (AND WHY SHOULD YOU CARE)?

By Greg and Malia Kupillas, Pacific Hydro-Geology Inc.

OAR 690-205-0210(7)(c) requires drillers to report the tax lot number for the location of the well on the State

Water Well Report. The question has been raised about what constitutes the tax lot number. The tax lot number is defined by the Oregon Department of Revenue in their Manual of Cadastral Map Standards, Concepts, and Cartographic Procedures. According to the manual, every tax lot number has a map number and a parcel number or unit ownership number.

The map number consists of two parts. The first part is the section, township, and range numbers of the U.S. Rectangular Survey. For example, a tax map number for Section 27 in Township 4 South, Range 1 West would be: 4 1W 27 (there is no "S" for south because all townships in this county are south of the meridian). The second part of the tax map number is the letter or number designation for the subdivision of the sections and ¼ sections (e.g., A for the NE ¼, AB for the NW ¼ of the NE ¼, etc.). If an entire section is shown on one tax assessor's map, then there will be no subdivision designation.

The parcel number is called a two-zero number, because the numbers are in order of hundreds beginning with 100. The parcel number combined with the tax map number forms the standard tax lot number. Using the example from above, the complete tax lot number for parcel 200 in the northeast subdivision of Section 27 in Township 4 South, Range 1 West would be: 4 1W 27A 00100.

Because the tax map number includes the section, township, and range numbers, the Oregon Water Resource Department (OWRD) has, until now, only required the parcel number for tax lot. However, as discussed above, the tax map number also contains the letter or number designation for the subdivision of the sections into ¼ or ¼ ¼ sections. A person could argue that the ¼ ¼ designations on the State Water Well Report would correlate with the letter designation on the tax map, and this is often the case. However, many parcel boundaries cross section and quarter-section boundary lines. As a result, a parcel may be shown on a tax assessor's map having a map number that differs from the actual township, range, or section where the well was drilled.

Complicating matters worse, in cities and rural residential areas, sections are often divided into many different maps, each with its own subdivision letter

designation. Each separate tax map within a given section starts over again with numbering of parcels, beginning at 100. Consequently, within a section which has been divided into a large number of tax maps, there could be just as many lots having the same parcel numbers. For example, if a section has been divided into 16 tax maps, there could be 16 parcels within that section having parcel number 100. This illustrates the importance of listing the subdivision designation with the tax map number (and parcel number, of course).

Here comes the "why should you care?" part. Why is the tax lot number important? Well logs provide the best information available about the geologic and hydrogeologic conditions in the subsurface. However, this information is useful only if the logs can be tied to the correct location. The tax lot number is the quickest source of information to identify the property (parcel) where a well has been drilled. The tax lot number is used by drillers, county planners, real estate agents, land owners, water right examiners, and geologists, to name a few, for the purpose of locating wells for a wide variety of studies. Having the correct (complete) tax lot number for a well allows one to quickly and easily determine the location of a well with a level of precision that is sufficient for most purposes.

Some drillers have expressed a concern that obtaining the tax map number will require too much additional time and effort. In reality, the tax map number and parcel number can easily be obtained at the same time. Most sources that can provide the parcel number can also include the map number. Various sources for tax lot information are discussed below:

1. The county tax assessor can usually provide the complete tax lot number (tax map and parcel numbers) on the telephone, given the site address or the name of the land owner and the street.
2. Tax maps for the entire state are available on the internet at www.ormap.org/index.cfm?opt=mapsonline, or they can be obtained by county at the county tax assessor's office.
3. Tax lot numbers can be obtained from information on a client's tax records. The complete tax

lot number is usually shown somewhere on the property tax statement. In some counties, the tax lot number is also used as the tax account number. One just needs to know what to look for and how to decipher the numbers.

- 4. For the Portland Metro area, there is a web site where tax lot information can be obtained by typing in the address of the property in question. The web site address is <http://topaz.metro-region.org/metromap/metromap.cfm>.

The bottom line is, if you are already going to the effort of obtaining the parcel number, with little or no additional effort, you can also obtain the tax map number. Providing the complete tax lot number on your well logs will make it possible for those who work with the information to easily and accurately locate the wells.

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WANTED

If you have a topic that you would like addressed in the *Well Said* then please call Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851 or send an e-mail with your suggestion to

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PHOTOS



Damaged well hit by excavator.



Wall built over a hand dug well.

PHOTOS

