

News from the Water Resources Department's Well Construction and Compliance Section

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.wrd.state.or.us

Renew Your License On-Line

There is a new web page to renew well constructor's licenses electronically. Drillers are able to e-file and pay for their renewals on-line on the Department's web site. Drillers will receive more information regarding e-filing license renewals within the next several weeks. Contact Tracy at (503) 986-0856 for your e-filing password.



Staff Changes

Please welcome Kim French to the Well Construction and Compliance Section. Kim comes to us from the Water Rights Section where she processed extension of time for water right permits. Some of Kim's responsibilities include reviewing Well Identification Application Forms for completeness and reviewing Start Cards. Kim can be reached at (503) 986-0854.

Current Legislation

On February 22, the "Agricultural and Community Water Act" (ACWA), also known as Senate Bill 1069, passed both the Oregon House and Senate with unanimous support. The Bill directs the Oregon Water Resources Department to set up a state-wide grant program that will help communities pay for feasibility studies for water conservation, re-use, and storage projects. These feasibility studies are required as a first step in the construction of new water supply projects and are often the most difficult step for communities to fund.

The Bill also addresses an immediate and critical need, directing the Department to conduct a detailed aquifer recharge feasibility study in the Umatilla Basin. This feasibility analysis would investigate the potential for withdrawing surface water from the Columbia and Umatilla Rivers when it's available during the winter months, and delivering that water for storage in below-ground aquifers for use during the irrigation season. The Umatilla Basin feasibility study would identify any already-existing infrastructure, as well as new infrastructure, necessary to implement such a project. Phase III of the study will actually pilot test potential underground storage sites, under a limited license from the Water Resources Department.

An accompanying bill, Senate Bill 5556, provides the actual funding, for a total of \$2.5 million—\$1.75 million for

the grant program and \$750,000 for the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery project. Both bills have an emergency clause so they take effect on the date of their signature into law.

Well Constructor Resources

The Department has created a new website that brings information important to well constructors into one location. The site provides links for electronic filing of start cards, well logs, and license renewals. Drillers will also find links to order supplies, like well identification tags, well log forms and start card forms. There are also links to databases, continuing education information as well as other organizations or websites of interest. The site can be accessed directly from our home page or by visiting <http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/GW/resources-well-constructors.shtml>.

Access Ports and Temporary Abandonment

Drillers that temporarily abandon a water supply well and weld a metal plate on top of the casing are still required to provide the ½ inch access port. The access port provides staff and the landowner access to the well in order to obtain static water level measurements. If a well is temporarily abandoned and no access port installed in the metal plate, you may be contacted by the Department to install the ½ inch access port. Questions about temporary abandonment requirements should be

directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851.

Buried Wells

The Department continues to work with local governments, landowners and contractors to abandon wells as property is being developed. Recently, a housing development in Salem buried five wells. Joel Jeffery, NW Region Well Inspector, is working with the landowner to locate the wells to have them properly abandoned. So far, four of the wells have been uncovered and the landowner is working on finding the fifth well.

At a site in Ontario, Bob Maynard, the East Regional Well Inspector, recently discovered two buried wells. The landowner was notified two years ago that the wells should be abandoned prior to excavation work on site. The wells were never abandoned to standard, but have disappeared. Bob is working with the landowner to locate these wells and have them properly abandoned. Improper well abandonment is a direct conduit for contamination to enter the aquifer. If you are aware of potential construction sites or wells that are buried, please contact Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851.

Eola Hills and Pete's Mountain Rule Making

The Water Resources Department is proposing

administrative rules that establish special area standards for well construction and maintenance in the Eola Hills Ground Water Limited Area of Polk and Yamhill Counties and in the Petes Mountain Area in Clackamas County. For both areas, the proposed rules require the installation of a minimum ¾-inch dedicated measuring tube in all water supply wells at the time of pump installation, pump repair, and/or pump replacement to provide an unobstructed conduit for lowering devices that measure water levels. The water levels recorded by the measuring devices provide essential data for determining the stability of the ground water resources in these areas. Additionally, the rules propose that new water supply wells and newly deepened water supply wells in the Eola Hills Ground Water Limited area be cased and sealed to within 100 feet of the bottom of the well for the purpose of eliminating movement of water in the well from shallow aquifers to deeper aquifers. The written comment period for these proposed rules closed at 5pm, Monday, March 10th, 2008. The Water Resources Commission is currently scheduled to consider the proposed rules at its meeting on May 29, and 30, 2008.



The Eastern Region is the Department's largest region encompassing approximately 29,744 square miles. The region includes Willamette, Union, Baker, Malheur and Harney, Counties. Major river basins include the Grande Ronde, Powder, Burnt, Malheur, Owyhee and Harney drainage basins. The Regional Well Inspector for the area is Bob Maynard. Bob was born in Ontario in Malheur County. Bob went to school in Grant County and did not make it to Portland for the first time until he was 6 years old. When he was just 10 years old he started helping his father dig wells by hand. As a teenager, he started fighting fires in the summer time and in his early 20's he drove a semi. He did not drill wells until he was 24 years old. This time he used a drilling machine. After approximately 20 years drilling wells, Bob again switched careers and applied for and landed a job with the Water Resources Department as the Regional Well Inspector stationed in Baker City. Since becoming the regional well inspector, Bob has inspected over 2,490 wells. He also serves as a member of the Driller's Technical Committee and has been active in training new inspectors. He is an asset to the Department and is sharing his knowledge of the drilling industry with the public and Department staff. If you drill wells in the Eastern Region

Well Said Newsletter

Available on the web at www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/GW/forms.shtml.

Please share with others at your organization.

Well Said is a production of the Oregon Water Resources Department's Well Construction and Compliance 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 can be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503)986-0851 or Kristopher.R.BYRD@wrds.state.or.us.

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

and you have not met Bob, you probably will. As busy as he is inspecting wells, he still finds time to do other things. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, white water rafting and riding his Harley Davidson. Bob can be reached at (541) 523-8224 Ext. 22.

E-filing

In 2007, approximately 33 percent of the well reports were filed electronically. The built-in error check and the verification that the document was submitted provides driller's the assurance that the Department received the documents. Contact Tracy at (503) 986-0856 for your e-filing password.

projects.

Salmon plate purchasers pay an extra \$30 every two years above regular passenger vehicle registration fees. Half the fee goes directly to fix road-related impacts to salmon and trout streams by improving water quality, fish habitat and fish passage through OWEB grants. The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department invests the other half in salmon habitat and related projects in state parks.

For more information about salmon license plates, visit the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds website at www.oregon-plan.org.

e-file Start Cards

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OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

HELP LINE (503) 986-0900



Put a Salmon on Your Plate!

Purchase a salmon license plate and join thousands of Oregonians who support abundant salmon populations, clean water and state park salmon



Damaged and buried well at a construction site. The landowner uncovered the well and abandoned it to standards.



House being built on top of a well. The owner abandoned this well.



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This well was buried several feet below land surface. It is under the bucket (See photo below).



It was abandoned to standards.



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Region Office Directory

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

Southwest

Phone: (541)471-2886
Fax: (541)471-2876

South Central

Phone: (541)388-6669
Fax: (541)388-5101

North Central

Phone: (541)278-5456
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Eastern

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