

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

## Articles

### Page 1

Start Card Fee Increase  
Geotechnical Hole Data  
Entry Fees  
New Exempt Use Well  
Requirements  
Renew Your License On-  
Line

### Page 2

The Horse With No Name  
Water Storage Sites In  
Oregon

### Page 3

Bentonite Size Matters  
Remember To Look Up

### Page 4

Photos

### Page 5

Region Office Directory  
Well Construction and  
Compliance Staff  
Directory

*Celebrating 100 Years  
of the Oregon Water  
Code*



## Start Card Fee Increase

The start card fee increased from \$125 to \$225 on July 1st. The Department uses start card fees to support the well inspection program through inspection of both new and existing wells, issuance of well tags, well report data entry, and enforcement of well construction standards. The last fee increase in this program was in 2003. Well inspection is an important activity that helps protect our groundwater resources.

## Geotechnical Hole Data Entry Fees

Geotechnical holes are constructed to collect or evaluate subsurface data. The Department has required geotechnical hole reports since 1995, whenever geotechnical holes are greater than 18 feet deep, within 50 feet of a water supply or monitoring well, used to determine water quality and open less than 72 hours, or drilled in an area of known or suspected contamination. The Department receives and posts these data on-line, and manages a database with more than 89,000 records. This on-line database receives about 175 "hits" each day. HB 2232 authorizes the assessment of a new fee for processing the reports and maintaining the information online. Starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, a

recording fee of \$25 is required for the first geotechnical hole report at a project site. There is a reduced fee of \$10 for each additional report on a project site for holes constructed within a seven-day period. The information on these reports is used by consultants, private entities, local communities, state and federal agencies to design remediation efforts, monitor clean-up operations and make regulatory decisions.

## New Exempt Use Well Requirements

The legislature also passed a bill related to exempt groundwater. SB 788 requires that landowners of property on which a well is drilled for an exempt use purpose provide the Department with a map showing the location of the well on their property, and pay a one-time recording fee of \$300 recording the exempt use within 30 days after construction of the well is completed. The fee will be used to evaluate groundwater supplies, conduct groundwater studies, carry out groundwater monitoring, and process groundwater data. Wells with an existing water right (permit or certificate) are not required to pay this fee. A water right permit is required before drilling a well for a use that is not exempt.

Exempt uses by statute include:

- Group or single domestic use, up to 15,000 gallons per day;
- Irrigation of lawn and/or non-commercial garden of one-half acre or less;
- Single industrial or commercial purpose not to exceed 5,000 gallons per day;
- Irrigation of school property up to 10 acres in critical ground water areas;
- Stock water;
- Down-hole heat exchange;

## Renew Your License On- Line

Driller's licenses that expire on June 30, 2009, need to have 14 continuing education credits (CECs). You are encouraged to renew your license online. License renewals are \$250 which includes a \$100 late fee. Go to the Department's website at <http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/GW/resources-well-constructors.shtml>, under "Online Services" click on "Renew Your License

Online”, enter your license number and password then follow the step-by-step instructions. If you need assistance in setting up a password or have other questions, contact Tracy Fox at (503) 986-0856.

## The Horse With No Name

In January 2009, the town of Wonder, Oregon, lived up to its name when a horse with no name fell into a dug well. People thought that it was a “wonder” that the horse was not seriously injured while others “wonder” why the old well was still there in the first place. The well was 3 ½ feet in diameter and was about eight feet deep. The landowner kept the well covered with boards and the area was fenced off. The horse found his way to the well and was discovered wedged in the dug well by his owner. It took a tractor and rope to gently remove the 900 pound animal from the well. Thankfully, he was not seriously hurt.

In many of Oregon’s rural communities there are old wells that were “abandoned” by placing a piece of plywood over the opening and covering it with soil. Over time these old wells are forgotten until a small child or an animal falls into the well. Many of the homes where these wells are located were built in the early 1900’s. Most landowners do not know

these wells exist. Landowners are encouraged to permanently abandon these old wells because of the potential safety and health risks. Landowners may contact a licensed Water Supply Well Constructor or questions about abandoning wells should be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851. Some visual signs indicating an old well exists on the property may be:

1. A dead spot in the yard. The spot may be square or round. The size generally ranges from several inches to several feet in diameter.
2. A pump house, out building or a small addition off the side of the home that may have housed pump or well equipment.
3. Wiring or markings in a fuse box that indicate a connection for a well pump.
4. A vent pipe sticking up out of the ground that doesn’t appear to be connected to anything.
5. An old water supply line that leads out into the yard away from the house, but doesn’t appear to surface anywhere.

## Water Storage Sites in Oregon

Staff at the Water Resources Department has constructed an inventory of both above and below-ground potential water storage site opportunities in Oregon. In the first phase of the project, the Department’s team collected as much existing information as possible so that they can serve as a clearinghouse for storage information. No attempt was made, at this point, to assess the ecological or economic feasibility of the projects. The information that has been gathered will also help the state identify and prioritize possible future storage projects. So far, the Department has mapped the location of more than 1,200 potential above-ground storage sites. This information came from staff, other state, local, and federal agencies, and the general public. The Department has marked each site and linked all available information to the project, including capacity curves, reservoir inundation areas, and site maps. Information about above ground storage sites can be found by using the search tool on the Department’s web site that lists locations by county and or basin. You can also see them on a map along with detailed information and associated documents.

### Well Said Newsletter

Available on the web at [www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/GW/forms.shtml](http://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@ wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Kristopher.R.BYRD@ wrd.state.or.us).

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

The Department has also compiled hydro geologic data and extent estimates for more than 70 geologic units for below ground storage. This data represents the major aquifers across the state. Information was collected from state and federal technical publications, staff, databases and private sector studies. After reviewing the data about the aquifers ability to accept water into storage, the Department presents an analysis of below ground storage potential. The data sources, data quality and evaluation results are linked to each potential location on the Department's web site and can be reviewed using the below ground storage search tool. The tool allows you to list sites by county and or basin, view them on a map, see detailed information about the site, and view associated documents such as maps, studies, graphs and more. For more information go to the Department's website at [http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/owsci\\_info.shtml](http://www.wrd.state.or.us/OWRD/LAW/owsci_info.shtml). Questions about potential storage sites should be directed to Jen Woody at (503) 986-0855.

## Bentonite Size Matters

Since the new water supply well bentonite abandonment standards went into effect in January 2009, well inspectors have been out observing abandonment of water supply wells using unhydrated bentonite. Our observations show the size of bentonite used in the abandonment process does seem to matter. When 3/8-inch bentonite was used there was much more settling and a lot more fine grained material (fines) in the bag. The “fines” could create bridging problems if the bentonite is not properly screened out during the abandonment process. The “fines” tend to settle on top of the static water level during the pour. This may cause bridging if the material is not closely watched. Some drillers prefer using 3/4-inch bentonite because there is less settling in the bags and the material is easier to screen. Questions about the use of bentonite to abandon wells should be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851.

## Remember To Look Up

It was a normal day in the field when a driller and his helper finished work on a well before returning to the shop. After returning to the shop, the driller was told to move the rig out to a new

site and set up to drill another well. The driller and his helper were having trouble locating the new well site. After a lot of looking and turning around on country roads, they called the office. The office help told them where the property was located and that they should not start drilling until the company owner arrived.

The landowner finally arrives at the well site so they decide to set up. They back the drill rig about 150 feet down a narrow roadway to access the well site. Once near the site, they moved the rig at a 45 degree angle to the well site identified by the landowner. The driller goes to the rear of the rig and stepped up on the platform to raise the mast. While the mast was being raised, the helper saw smoke coming from the rig's tires. As soon as this happened, the driller tried to enter the cab to shut the rig down. When he touched the door, his body created an electrical path from the overhead power lines because the mast had accidentally touched overhead lines. The driller was electrocuted which killed him. This accident happened in Virginia about 10 years ago but it could have happened anywhere. Be careful and look up before raising the mast. For more information about safety and safety related matters visit the Oregon OSHA web site at <http://www.orosha.org/> or contact them by phone at (503)378-3272.



**Region Office Directory**

Western

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  
Fax: (541)278-0287

Eastern

Phone: (541)523-8224  
Fax: (866)214-3493

**Well Construction and Compliance Section Staff Directory**

Juno Pandian, Manager  
[juno.g.pandian@wrdd.state.or.us](mailto:juno.g.pandian@wrdd.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0852

Kristopher Byrd,  
Coordinator  
Well Construction Program  
[kristopher.r.byrd@wrdd.state.or.us](mailto:kristopher.r.byrd@wrdd.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0851

Tracy Fox, Well Licensing  
Program Specialist  
[tracy.l.fox@wrdd.state.or.us](mailto:tracy.l.fox@wrdd.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0856

Codi Holmes, Well ID  
Program Coordinator  
[codi.n.holmes@wrdd.state.or.us](mailto:codi.n.holmes@wrdd.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0854

Laurie Norton, Well Log  
Review Coordinator  
[laurie.k.norton@wrdd.state.or.us](mailto:laurie.k.norton@wrdd.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0850

Well Construction and Compliance Section Fax  
(503) 986-0902



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

