

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



NEW DIRECTOR

NEW DIRECTOR FOR OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

The Well Construction and Compliance Section would like to welcome Tom Byler as the new Director of the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). Tom replaces Phil Ward who is now the Oregon State Executive Director of the U.S. Dept of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency after serving 10 years as the Director for OWRD. Tom is a fifth generation Oregonian born and raised in Pendleton. He is a graduate of Willamette University and the University of Oregon, School of Law. Tom's previous experience includes serving nine years as the Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). Before OWEB, Tom served as a Natural Resources Policy Advisor for both Governor Kulongoski and Governor Kitzhaber. Prior to his time in the Governor's office, he worked on legislative and policy issues for OWRD. Tom began working on water policy issues in 1995, as a legislative assistant for Oregon State Representative Charles R. "Chuck" Norris of Hermiston, who chaired the House Water Policy Committee. Mr. Byler's previous experience makes him a valuable asset to our agency. Tom, his wife, and three children live in Salem.

CURRENT RULEMAKING

UPDATE

The Water Resources Department has recently undertaken rulemaking efforts related to wells and well construction. The efforts included convening a Rules Advisory Committee, that was comprised of individuals from six drilling companies, consultants, representatives of the Oregon Health Authority, Department of Environmental Quality and the Water Resources Department. All of the committee members had valuable insight and were instrumental in the development of the proposed rules that are being put forward for adoption. The proposed rule changes include the following:



- Allowing un-hydrated bentonite to be used to 200 feet and through up to 50 feet of standing water to seal water supply wells.
- Requiring un-hydrated bentonite to be screened during placement through water; testing water quality and describing when bentonite cannot be used.
- Clarifying that the quality of water cannot interfere with the proper hydration of bentonite in closed loop installations and in water well installations.
- Requiring Well Constructors to calculate and report the amount of sealing material required and the amount actually used when placing an annular seal.
- Clarifying the requirements when deepening an existing well and requiring a copy of the original well report or original county well log number to be submitted with the deepening well report.
- Correcting a rule reference error in the Geotechnical Hole rules.
- Changing the classification of a sparge well from a geotechnical hole to a monitoring well.

The proposed rules will be presented for adoption before the Water Resources Commission in November. The public comment period closed on October 3, 2014. Questions about the proposed rules should be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851 or by e-mail at Kristopher.R.Byrd@wrdd.state.or.us

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SAVE PAPER & TIME: E-AMEND!

At WRD there is an ongoing effort to streamline the flow of documents and to save paper by communicating with well drillers via email regarding Start Cards and Well Logs. Those of you with email addresses on file at OWRD may have already received notifications of duplicate tag numbers from Well ID Specialist Ladeena Bell, or Well Log correction requests from Buffy Gillis. So far, the feedback we've received has been positive, as it saves both the agency and well drillers time and postage.

Many well drillers have transitioned to e-filing Start Cards and Well Logs, and while we hope more will follow, we realize that this option may not work for all folks. If you have a working email that you check periodically – whether or not you currently e-file – please consider updating your email address with Water Resources. Some tips to help make this work include:

- Please be sure to include the Start Card / Well Log number, driller name and license number on all correspondence (easy to do in your subject line).
- If you email a copy, please use the “cleanest” one you have – a copy that will still be legible once scanned. When in doubt, mail it out!
- In your email, detail what needs to be changed or added. For more complicated amendments, please mail in a hard copy instead, making sure to mark it as “amended”.
- Add our email addresses to your contact list, so our emails stay out of your spam folder.

We like to use electronic communication when possible, but if you prefer to opt-out of e-correspondence, let us know and we will continue to send you a hard copy. Your email will be on file as a secondary point of contact only. The Well Construction and Compliance Section appreciates all of your help and feedback!

For information regarding the Well ID Program, contact Ladeena Bell at (503) 986-0854 or by e-mail at Ladeena.K.Bell@wrd.state.or.us. For information regarding well log corrections or updates, contact Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0850 or by e-mail at Buffym.Gillis@wrd.state.or.us.

WELL LOCATIONS



In order to help land owners quickly and accurately generate a map for the wells on their property, we are asking licensed well constructors to please be cautious when filling out location information on well reports. The correct information will make it a lot easier for owners to produce a well location map. The information that is most critical is the township, range, section, quarter-quarter and tax lot. For individuals that feel it would be helpful, “cheat sheets” are available to help determine which section and quarter-quarter a well is in. Just call Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856 or send an e-mail to Laurie.K.Norton@wrd.state.or.us and a sheet will be provided.

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 & 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 may be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851 or Kristopher.R.Byrd@wrd.state.or.us



For Well Construction & Compliance resources, log onto http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/gw/wcc_index.aspx

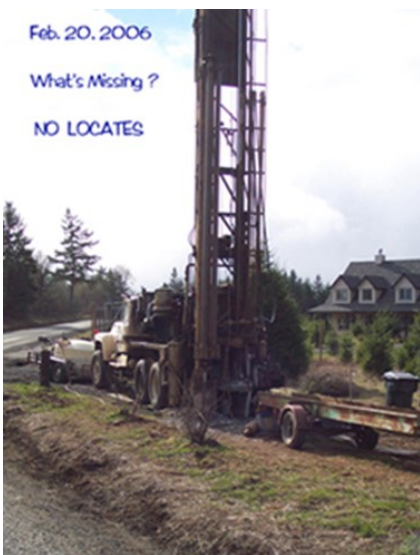
CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



Know what's below.
Call before you dig

In 1995 the Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) was created. Their mission is to "operate and maintain a state-of-the art one-call system for the State of Oregon to reduce damage to underground facilities and promote public safety related to excavation issues." To achieve this goal, Oregon law requires a call to the One Call Center prior to digging on private property or any public right-of-way. After the call is received, the One Call Center will notify all affected operators. The Operators then have two business days to locate and accurately mark their underground facilities using color-coded paint.

To request locates for proposed excavations, you may call the locate center by dialing 811 or 1-800-332-2344. Locates can also be requested on their website at www.digsafelyoregon.com. The Oregon Utility Notification Center is there to help you protect your employees' safety and also to protect yourself from the liability of thousands of dollars of damage to facilities in the event of a dig-in accident.

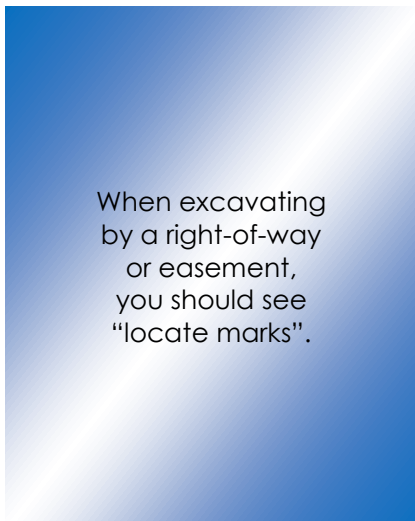


See the following scenario from the OUNC:

Shortly after a licensed well constructor had commenced drilling, the homeowner asked the driller if he had made the call for locates. Because the contract had specified that the homeowner is required to make the call, the driller had not done so.

The call was immediately made by the driller. After completion of the underground utility locates, it was discovered that a buried electric line (a primary conductor) was located between the drill rig's tires and the edge of the road. Although this story has a happy ending, it may have had an entirely different ending had that call never been made.

Questions about the "Call Before You Dig" program should be directed to the Oregon Utility Notification Center at 1-800-332-2344 or visit their website at www.digsafelyoregon.com.



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





OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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