

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



## NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR — DOUG WOODCOCK

The Water Resources Department (WRD) is pleased to announce an important change in the Director's Office. Director Tom Byler recently appointed Doug Woodcock as the Department's new Deputy Director. Doug has been with the Department for 25 years and brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the position. His background includes managing the Department's Groundwater Section and most recently serving as Administrator of the Field Services Division. Doug started in his new position on October 1.

## OGWA FALL CONVENTION

## GEOLOGY

The Oregon Ground Water Association's Fall Convention will be at the Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond on Friday, October 23, and Saturday, October 24, 2015. Ken Lite, Senior Hydrogeologist, from the Water Resources Department, will give a presentation on "Mosier Geology and Special Area Well Construction Standards" on Friday from 9:00 am to 10:00 am. One continuing education credit in the rules category is proposed to be assigned to the documented attendees of Ken's presentation. A total of two continuing education credits in the rules category are required during each two-year licensing period.

Questions about the continuing education program should be directed to Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Laurie.K.Norton@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Laurie.K.Norton@wrd.state.or.us).

## G R O U N D W A T E R

### UPDATED PDF WELL LOG FORM

Recently it was discovered that the PDF Well Log form available from the WRD website was incorrectly estimating the calculated volume of seal material when the construction included a split seal. This error has since been corrected. If you saved a version of this document prior to July 1, 2015, please replace that form.

The updated Well log can be found here:

<http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/GW/docs/WaterFormReaderEnabled.pdf>.



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## RECORDING FEE: INVOICING

Landowner addresses indicated on the start card and well report determine where our office sends the Exempt Use Water Well Recording Fee invoice. At this time, roughly one-third of all mailings related to exempt use wells sent out by Well Construction and Compliance are *returned* for **incorrect mailing addresses** (e.g. no mail receptacle, no such street, etc.). Please confirm with your clients the correct mailing address as this may not always be the same as the street address of the well.

If you discover an error has been made after turning in the start card, please contact Ladeena Bell, Well ID Specialist, at (503) 986-0854 or by e-mail at [Ladeena.K.Bell@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Ladeena.K.Bell@wrd.state.or.us). If you would like to make an amendment to a well log, you may contact Buffy Gillis, Well Log Review Coordinator, at (503) 986-0850 or by e-mail at [Buffym.Gillis@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Buffym.Gillis@wrd.state.or.us).



## COVERED & BURIED WELLS

The Department often receives requests to assist landowners in locating existing wells that have been covered up or buried during construction, landscaping, or paving activity. Most recently, OWRD received a call regarding old monitoring wells that had not been maintained at a commercial fueling station. In addition to identifying the three damaged monitoring wells mentioned in the complaint, Department staff also identified five additional monitoring wells from site plan maps created for previous environmental monitoring and remediation activities. The five additional monitoring wells had been covered by concrete pavement. The WRD is currently working with the property owner to get all of the wells abandoned.

Lost and buried wells are a potential liability for the landowner. Many times the caps fail, or the wells get damaged and they become a direct conduit for contamination. When a well is lost, landowners are required to find the well and have it properly repaired or permanently abandoned by a licensed and bonded well constructor.

If you suspect there may be buried monitoring wells on your project site, some of the resources available include: the Department's well log database, site plan maps, environmental investigation reports, remediation reports (available at the DEQ), historic aerial or site photos, and City and County property records. Field techniques used to locate buried wells include soil probes, shovels, hand-held metal detectors, ground penetrating radar and excavators. When used with site maps and aerial photos, these techniques are very effective.

Questions about lost wells should be directed to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by email at [Joel.W.Jeffery@wrd.state.or.us](mailto:Joel.W.Jeffery@wrd.state.or.us).

### WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at [www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/gw/forms.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/gw/forms.aspx). 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](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@wrd.state.or.us)



For Well Construction & Compliance resources, log onto [http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/gw/wcc\\_index.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/gw/wcc_index.aspx)



## WILDFIRES VS. WELLS

2015 wildland fires in Oregon affected areas where people rely on well water for their homes, ranches, and farms. For the nearly one-quarter of Oregonians who rely on well water, there are a number of factors to keep in mind if a water well has sustained fire damage. Well owners can visually check for:

- Damaged and melted or exposed electrical wiring
- Debris such as ash and sediment entering uncovered wells
- Old dug wells with wood covers, which can become a safety threat
- Damaged and melted PVC casing, liner or pipes
- Damaged well houses and pressure tanks

Exposed electrical wiring to the well poses a significant electrical safety hazard with the potential for an electrical short to the metal casing. If the electrical wiring is damaged by fire, well owners should not handle the wiring or touch the casing. The area around the well casing should be flagged so as to warn others of a possible safety risk.

A dug well, where the well cover has been damaged by fire, poses a significant hazard to public safety. It is possible that the well cover may be damaged to such an extent that the cover may drop into the well or be so unstable that walking on it could cause a collapse. Landowners who discover what appears to be a sinkhole or an open hole should clearly flag or barricade the area.

Landowners with wells damaged by fire should contact a local licensed and bonded well constructor to determine the extent of the damages and what must be done to either repair or decommission the well. If a landowner thinks a fire may have damaged their water supply, it is important to remind them to acquire enough potable water to last until the well can be properly examined.

The WRD *Well Owner's Handbook* provides valuable information to well owners with questions about how to maintain their water supply well. The handbook is available on the Department's website at: [http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/PUBS/docs/Well\\_Water\\_Handbook.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd/PUBS/docs/Well_Water_Handbook.pdf).

If you have additional questions, please contact Joel Jeffery, Well Construction Program Coordinator, at (503) 986-0852 or by email at [Joel.W.Jeffery@wrdd.state.or.us](mailto:Joel.W.Jeffery@wrdd.state.or.us).

### WELL CONSTRUCTOR LICENSE EXAM — RESERVE YOUR SPOT

If you are interested in taking the written examination required under ORS 537.747 for a well constructor's license, please remember to submit the application form and exam fee prior to the exam in order to reserve your seat. Separate examinations are administered for each license endorsement. The Department schedules the open book examinations on the second Monday during the months of January, April, July and October.

Examinees must be at least 18 years old, submit a completed application and pay a \$20.00 exam fee. Applicants who fail an exam may retake it after three months and the payment of another exam fee.

If special physical, language or other accommodations are needed, please let our office know at least two business days in advance. These requests may be directed to Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Laurie.K.Norton@wrdd.state.or.us](mailto:Laurie.K.Norton@wrdd.state.or.us).



## SAFETY REMINDER

The following article was published in the Occupational Safety & Health Administration's (OSHA) *QuickTakes* Newsletter in regard to a fatal well related accident in Utah. It is a good reminder on how to be safe.



On August 16, 2012, three employees were working on a water well pump. Two coworkers were removing bolts from the pump while another was raising the boom to put into position. Because they were busy with what they were doing, they did not notice the overhead power lines. As the boom got close to the power lines, an arcing effect occurred, energizing the truck. Once that occurred, the employees heard a popping sound which startled them, causing them to run in different directions. Two of the coworkers ran to safety in open areas, however, the third ran to where the truck was parked. When he came into contact with the truck, he received a severe electrical shock and was electrocuted. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The following table presents the Minimum Clearance Distances for Power Line Safety (up to 350 kV) – equipment operations, as presented by OSHA Safety and Health Regulations for Cranes & Derricks in Construction (1926.1408).

Voltage (nominal, kV, alternating current)	Minimum clearance distance (feet)
Up to 50	10
Over 50 to 200	15
Over 200 to 350	20
Over 350 to 500	25
Over 500 to 750	35
Over 750 to 1,000	45

(Minimum clearance figures as established by the utility owner/operator or registered professional engineer who is a qualified person with respect to electrical power transmission and distribution).

**Note:**  
The value that follows "to" is up to and includes that value. For example, over 50 to 200 means up to and including 200kV.

[75 FR 48142, August 9, 2010]



"Otter do it safely"

# Safety FIRST!



WCC: "Protecting water resources through appropriate prevention and enforcement."



# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



An injection system connected to a single remediation well.



This brick lined dug well was improperly filled with debris during initial grading activities at a construction site. Dug wells must be abandoned by a licensed and bonded driller, or a landowner, utilizing methods approved by the Department.



Flowing artesian well without a petcock valve, dead-end line or pressure gauge. The well was subsequently repaired by the driller.



This dewatering well was discovered on a construction site by a regional well inspector. Dewatering wells are water supply wells and must be installed and abandoned by a licensed and bonded driller.



WELL CONSTRUCTION & COMPLIANCE SECTION  
OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
725 SUMMER ST NE, SUITE A  
SALEM, OR 97301

### Well Construction & Compliance Staff Directory

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

Joel Jeffery, Coordinator,  
Well Construction Program  
[joel.w.jeffery@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:joel.w.jeffery@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0852

Laurie Norton, License and  
Compliance Specialist  
[laurie.k.norton@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:laurie.k.norton@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0856

Ladeena Bell, Well ID  
Program Coordinator  
[ladeena.k.bell@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:ladeena.k.bell@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0854

Buffy Gillis, Well Log  
Review Coordinator  
[buffy.m.gillis@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:buffy.m.gillis@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0850

Scott Kudlemyer, Exempt Use  
Program Coordinator  
[scott.b.kudlemyer@wrд.state.or.us](mailto:scott.b.kudlemyer@wrд.state.or.us)  
(503) 986-0861

Enforcement Section Fax  
(503) 986-0902

### Region Office Directory

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

Southwest  
Phone: (541) 774-6880  
Fax: (541) 774-6187

South Central  
Phone: (541) 306-6885  
Fax: (541) 388-5101

North Central  
Phone: (541) 278-5456  
Fax: (541) 278-0287

Eastern  
Phone: (541) 523-8224 x231  
Fax: (866) 214-3493