

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

NEW SC REGION WELL INSPECTOR

Welcome to OWRD!



The Water Resources Department would like to welcome Bill Nashem, RG, as the new South Central (SC) Region Well Inspector. Bill brings with him many years of geotechnical and geologic experience. He has nearly 20 years of experience as a Project Geologist and Project Manager. His specialties include the acquisition and interpretation of subsurface data; and the evaluation of landslides and slope stability of soil and rock. He has experience in geologic and geotechnical evaluations for large highway, powerline and rail line corridor projects; and mapping, site characterization, and landslide evaluations for small and large residential and commercial developments. Bill worked for Shannon and Wilson in Seattle for 17 years and most recently as an independent geotechnical consultant in Bend. Bill holds a bachelor of arts degree in geology from Whitman College and completed all course work for his masters in geophysics at Oregon State University. When not working, Bill spends his time mountain biking the vast trails in Bend with his wife and two sons, ages 10 and 12 years.

Questions about well construction in the SC Region can be directed to Bill at (541) 306-6885, or by e-mail at bill.d.nashem@wrd.state.or.us.

Promotion!



NEW OWRD GROUNDWATER MANAGER

The Department is pleased to welcome Justin Iverson as the new Groundwater Section Manager. Justin brings a strong background in groundwater project management in both the public and private sectors here in Oregon. Justin worked for 13 years as a consulting hydrogeologist before returning to public service with the State, during which time he managed groundwater supply projects for municipal, mining, industrial, agricultural, government, and tribal clients.

Justin began his new role on April 1st, taking the place of Ivan Gall, who has moved into his new position as Field Services Administrator.



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NEW RULES FOR GREATER HARNEY COUNTY GROUNDWATER STUDY AREA

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is conducting a groundwater study in the Greater Harney Valley that will provide additional information about the aquifer system and whether there is opportunity for new groundwater development in some parts of the study area. The Department expects to complete the study by the end of the year 2020.

OWRD has been working with members of the community to build awareness of the groundwater situation, to seek input, and to initiate efforts to address water needs for the area. The Oregon Water Resources Commission adopted amendments to the Malheur Lake Basin Program (OAR 690-512) on April 13, which provide guidance for processing pending groundwater applications. Permits issued under the new rules will include conditions requiring construction of a dedicated observation well at a location determined by the Department, to the same depth as the production well, within 6 months of permit issuance. The rules also require any well authorized under the new permits to be located more than 1,320 feet from any existing senior exempt, permitted or certificated well(s) not owned by the permit holder. In addition, they outline a process to plan and conduct the groundwater study in coordination with an advisory committee.

For more information about the groundwater study, please contact Justin Iverson, Groundwater Section Manager, at (503) 986-0933, or by e-mail at justin.t.iverson@wrd.state.or.us.

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES STRATEGY

IWRS

The Water Resources Department and its sister agencies are gearing up for a review and update of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). Adopted in August 2012 by the Water Resources Commission, the IWRS contains more than 40 recommended actions, one of which is aimed at encouraging place-based approaches to integrated water resources planning. The state of Oregon has developed guidelines that can facilitate place-based planning within Oregon communities, with the ultimate goal of meeting current and future water needs – instream and out-of-stream, including water quantity, water quality and ecosystem needs.

For the 2017 update, the IWRS Project Team will focus on reporting progress towards implementation, exploring key topic areas that require further attention or resources, and identifying any new recommended actions that are needed. Governor Brown, through Executive Order 15-09, has directed state agencies to address drought, including long term resiliency planning, in Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The Department will be seeking the public's input on actions taken and lessons learned from Oregon's 2015 drought.

Questions about Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy should be directed to Alyssa Mucken at (503) 986-0911 or by e-mail at alyssa.m.mucken@wrd.state.or.us.

WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at 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



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



2016 LICENSE RENEWALS

Well Constructor License renewals for 2016 are coming soon. Licenses are issued for two year periods, so licenses issued in 2014 will expire June 30, 2016.

To renew your license, a minimum of fourteen (14) continuing education credits (CEC'S) are required. Of the fourteen (14) credits, a minimum of two (2) of those credits must be in Oregon Rules and Regulations regarding well construction, which are now available online and can be accessed on the Department's website. Only four (4) CEC's are allowed for Safety/First Aid/CPR courses; and only four (4) CEC's are allowed for Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) courses.

Accessing your continuing education credit information on the Department's website is easy. Just follow the links. **Please do not wait until the last minute** to obtain your credits, or to send in your documentation. An inadvertent delay in the issuance of your license may occur.

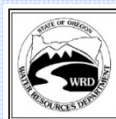
Questions about license renewals, or continuing education credits, should be directed to Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856, or by e-mail at laurie.k.norton@wrdd.state.or.us.

GROUNDWATER USE FEE POSTCARD TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH

In order to better serve our Spanish speaking customers, the Water Resources Department recently worked with local Spanish language translation firms to translate our Groundwater Use Fee postcard into Spanish.

The translated postcard offers the same valuable information as the English language postcard, and is meant to help provide useful information to the public regarding the program.

The information from the postcard will also soon be available on the Department's website.



NOTIFICACION IMPORTANTE ESTA NO ES UNA FACTURA

La legislación dictada en 2009 exige que los propietarios de terrenos que Construyan un pozo con uso exento en su propiedad deben enviar un mappa en el que se muestre la ubicación del pozo y pagar la tarifa de registro de \$300 al Water Resources Department (Departamento de Recursos Hídricos)

Se le enviará una facturá que exigira el mapa y la tarifa después de que el Water Resources department reciba el registro del pozo de su perforador. Esto puede demorar hasta 90 días

Si tiene alguna pregunta, llame al (503) 986-0861 para ponerse en contacto con el Coordinador de Programas de Pozos con Uso Exteno.

Questions about the Exempt Groundwater Use Recording Program should be directed to Scott Kudlemyer at (503) 986-0861 or by e-mail at scott.b.kudlemyer@wrdd.state.or.us.

G R O U N D W A T E R

OSHA ISSUES FINAL RULE ON SILICA EXPOSURE

On March 25, 2016 the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) published its final silica rule in the Federal Register. Specifically, the rule addresses and lowers the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable ("of particles in the air") crystalline silica on job sites. The silica dust exposure is decreased from 250 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over 8 hours (established in 1971), to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over 8 hours. The new rule also requires employers to use engineering controls to limit worker exposure, to provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately protect workers, to limit worker access, develop a written exposure plan, and train workers on silica risks. In addition, the new rule requires employers to provide medical exams to monitor highly exposed workers and provide information to the worker about lung health.



Worker exposed to Silica dust.

The final rule will be issued as two separate standards, one for general industry and maritime (including hydraulic fracturing) and one for construction. The rule will take effect on June 23, 2016, after which the industries have one to five years to comply.

Contact Oregon OSHA for more information regarding the new standards. The phone number for general OSHA information is: (503) 378-3272, or visit their web site at: <http://www.orosha.org/>.

CHANGES TO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FALL-PROTECTION RULES

Oregon OSHA is lowering the construction industry's current 10-foot general fall-protection trigger height to six feet and prohibiting the use of slide guards as a sole or primary fall-protection system. The changes, which affect only the requirements in Subdivision 3/M (Fall-Protection) and Subdivision 3/E (Personal Protective and Life Saving Equipment), will take effect in 2017. The six-foot fall-protection requirement will become effective Jan. 1, 2017. Slide guards will no longer be allowed as a primary fall-protection system starting Oct. 1, 2017.

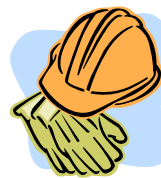


In October 2015, federal OSHA formally notified Oregon OSHA that the 10-foot fall-protection requirement, and the option to use slide guards as a primary fall-protection system, were not as effective as federal OSHA's requirements. Based on this information, Oregon OSHA formed an advisory group of stakeholders in commercial and residential construction and asked for input in drafting changes to the existing rules over a series of meetings during the summer of 2015. The advisory group felt that the changes would primarily affect employers who build single-level homes and employers who work on roofs that have potential fall distances less than 10 feet above the ground. They did not feel that lowering the fall-protection height to six feet would have a significant fiscal impact on Oregon's construction industry as a whole. Following the meetings, Oregon OSHA held five public hearings throughout the state to explain the changes.

For more information about the proposed changes, contact the following individuals with Oregon OSHA: Tom Bozicevic at (503) 947-7431, or Jeff Wilson at (503) 947-7421.



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Dug well filled in with debris on construction site.

Landowner's pet encountered during well inspection.



Abandoning a Monitoring Well with a vacuum truck.

Drilling a Water Supply Well on a slope.



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





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WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

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