

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



MEET DATA TECHNICIAN SHAWN ORTIZ-TURNER

A recent feature of the *Well Said Newsletter* has focused on providing brief biographies of the staff here at Oregon Water Resources Department. In this issue, we are happy to introduce Shawn Ortiz-Turner.

Shawn is a water right data technician in Information Services (Technical Services). If you are a well constructor who prefers submitting hard-copy well logs rather than e-filing, Shawn is one of the folks who scans those logs into the system and inputs the data before the logs are routed over to Well Construction and Compliance for review.

In addition to well logs (water, monitoring & geotechnical), Shawn also assists in processing hard-copy start cards, water rights (including applications, permits, certificates, and transfers) and mapping.

Before becoming a data technician, Shawn worked as an assistant hydrographer here at OWRD. His previous state agency experience includes working in Oregon Housing and Community Services where he assisted with the Oregon Homeownership Stabilization Initiative.

When Shawn is not busy at work, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing with his two dogs Harley and Haley, and volunteering with various non-profit agencies. Shawn's passion and desire to help others has also led him to assist with several OWRD charity drives including Toys for Tots and the Governor's State Employee Food Drive. His motivation to help others and his skill set in Information services make him a valuable asset to the agency.

ELECTRONIC EXEMPT USE AND GEOTECHNICAL HOLE PAYMENTS

In the last edition of the *Well Said Newsletter* we proudly announced that OWRD now accepts on-line payments using a debit or credit card for exempt use and geotechnical hole fees. Since that time, some well constructors have taken advantage of this opportunity to make the exempt use fee a line item on their customer invoices and pay Oregon Water Resources directly.

In order to pay an invoice on-line you will need an invoice passcode, which is available from the Department.

**ONLINE
PAYMENTS**

If this is something that interests you, please contact Scott Kudlemyer, Exempt Use Fee Coordinator at (503) 986-0861 or by e-mail at scott.b.kudlemyer@oregon.gov.

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RULES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Department has recently convened a Well Construction Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) to review and update the rules regarding Down Well Continuous Water Treatment and Back-Siphon Prevention Devices.



An update is necessary due to the increasing number of irrigators using groundwater irrigation systems to add chemicals or fertilizer directly into the water supply system.

The Department invited a variety of professionals involved with groundwater to participate on the RAC. All of the members have knowledge and experience that is useful while discussing and crafting proposed updates and changes to the Oregon Administrative Rules.

Questions about the Committee or about the current standards should be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851 or by email at kristopher.r.byrd@oregon.gov.

OREGON OSHA ONLINE LICENSE RENEWAL CREDITS

The Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) online courses that had previously been reviewed and assigned credits by the Continuing Education Committee expired in December 2016. Course approval and assigned CEC credits are good for two years as long as the course remains the same. Oregon OSHA has been advised that the courses have expired.

The Department is currently working with Oregon OSHA on the submittal of updated course applications. As soon as applications are received, they will be reviewed by the continuing education committee and, if approved, will be added to the Department's list of approved courses on our website.

Questions regarding the continuing education program should be directed to Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at laurie.k.norton@oregon.gov.

WELL CONSTRUCTOR LICENSE EXAMS

PLAN AHEAD!

The Department would like to remind individuals who wish to take either the water supply well or monitoring well exam, that they are strongly encouraged to reserve their seat by sending in a completed water supply well or monitoring well constructor application with the \$20 exam fee *in advance of the test*.

There were no water supply well seats left for the April 10, 2017 exam and other recent exams have also been full. Exams are given quarterly and scheduled for the second Monday of January, April, July, and October. The next exam will be on July 10 in Salem. It is always a good idea to reserve a seat as soon as possible. Applicants who show up wanting to take the test without reservations risk being turned away due to space restrictions.

Questions about well constructor exams should be directed to Laurie Norton at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at laurie.k.norton@oregon.gov.



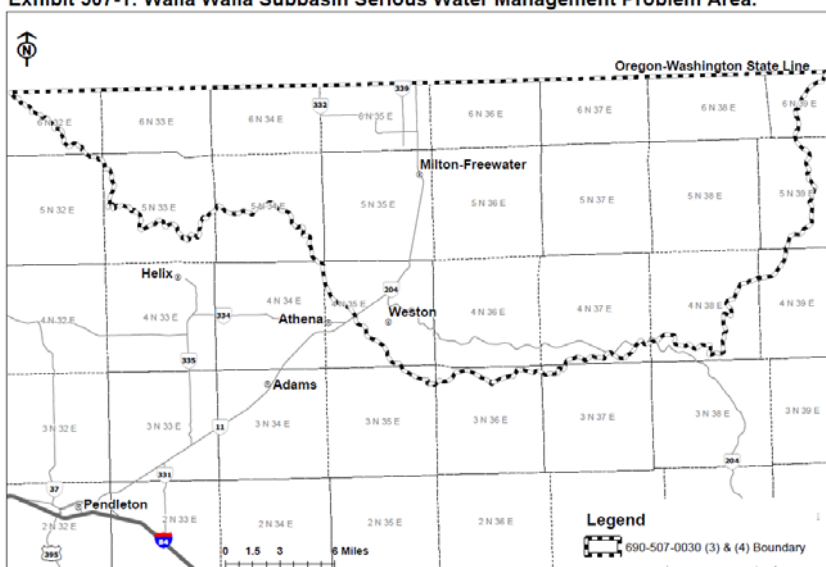
THE WALLA WALLA SUBBASIN GROUNDWATER LEVEL DECLINES

The Walla Walla Subbasin of the Umatilla Basin has experienced significant and ongoing groundwater level declines that have hampered the ability of senior groundwater right holders to appropriate their usual and accustomed amount of water. Because of this, the subbasin is currently the focus of a two-part rule-making.

Part 1 is nearly complete and seeks to classify future water allocations for domestic or "exempt" use only, in order not to exacerbate declining groundwater levels measured across the basin. This phase of rule-making also designates a "Serious Water Management Problem Area" (SWMPA) in the basin, requiring a group of about 80 permitted wells drawing water from basalt aquifers to install flowmeters, measure water use on a monthly basis, and report use to the Department on an annual basis.

OAR 690-507-0030

Exhibit 507-1: Walla Walla Subbasin Serious Water Management Problem Area.



Other, generally junior, permitted basalt wells inside the SWMPA boundary are already required to measure and report water use to the Department because of permit conditions. This water-use information will be critical for informing the second part of anticipated rule-making.

In this second, future rule-making, the Department will partner with the community to determine what set of water management policies and practices should be implemented to reduce the rate of water level declines in the basalt aquifer to a reasonably stable rate.

In order to inform the community about the ongoing groundwater level declines, the Department held a series of six public meetings in Milton-

Freewater between May and December of 2016. During the meetings, the Department presented groundwater data and the group discussed groundwater management options.

Following the community meetings, a rules advisory committee (RAC) was organized. The RAC met in December of 2016 and January of 2017, followed by a public hearing in March. Written comments regarding the proposed rules were submitted to the Department throughout the month of March and were reviewed after the close of the public comment period. In order for the proposed rules to take effect, they will need to be approved by the Water Resources Commission. They are scheduled to go in front of the Commission for consideration in May 2017.

Questions about the Walla Walla Subbasin rulemaking should be directed to Jen Woody at (503) 986-0855 or by e-mail at jennifer.l.woody@oregon.gov.

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@oregon.gov



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

OSHA TO DELAY ENFORCNG CRYSTALLINE SILICA STANDARD

On April 6, 2017, the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a delay in enforcement of the crystalline silica standard that applies to the construction industry. The delay will give OSHA time to conduct additional outreach and provide educational materials and guidance for employers.

The agency has determined that additional guidance is necessary due to the unique nature of the requirements in the construction standard. Originally scheduled to begin June 23, 2017, enforcement will now begin Sept. 23, 2017.

OSHA expects employers in the construction industry to continue to take steps either to come into compliance with the new permissible exposure limit, or to implement specific dust controls for certain operations as described in the standard. Construction employers should also continue to prepare to implement the standard's other requirements, including exposure assessment, medical surveillance and employee training.

Questions about OSHA's silica standard should be directed to Amy Louviere at (202) 693-9423 or by e-mail louviere.amy@dol.gov. (Information on <https://www.osha.gov/> - Release 17-415-NAT.)



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG. IT'S THE LAW

LOCATES

The Oregon Utility Notification Center (OUNC) is the state agency that administers the "One Call" system. This is the system associated with the *Call Before You Dig Program*.

The OUNC defines an excavation as "any operation in which earth, rock or other material on or below the ground is moved or otherwise displaced by any means, except sidewalk, road and ditch maintenance less than 12 inches in depth that does not lower the original grade or original ditch flow line. Excavation does not include the tilling of soil for agricultural purposes conducted on private property that is not within the boundaries of a recorded right-of-way or easement for underground facilities."

With very few exceptions for the private property owner, regardless of the depth you drill you are required by law to contact the OUNC and request locates for underground facilities. Failure to call can result in penalties up to \$10,000 dollars for each violation plus each day that the violation continues.

Information regarding the "One Call" system can be found on the OUNC website at <http://digsafelyoregon.com/> or by phone at (503) 232-1987.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Water supply well in a parking lot.



Temporary casing left in the ground.

Improperly decommissioned well.



Uncovered dug well on a construction site.



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





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