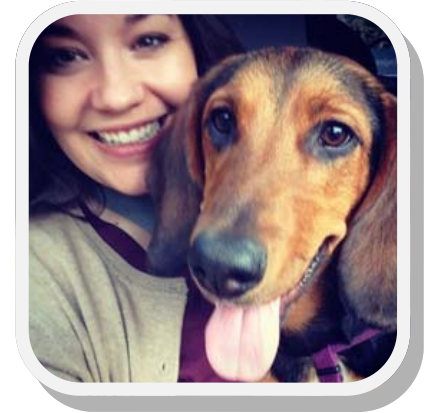


News from the Water Resources Department's Well Construction and Compliance Section

## NEW DISTRICT 2 WATERMASTER

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is pleased to introduce Lanaya Blakely as the new Watermaster for District 2 in the Eugene office. She replaces Michael Mattick who recently retired from this position. Ms. Blakely studied Environmental Science and Oceanography at Oregon State University and Marine Science at the University of South Alabama. The majority of her studies were focused on fisheries research and environmental monitoring. Lanaya first began working at OWRD in February 2014 as the Flow Restoration Technician in the Transfer and Conservation Section. She has also worked in other positions with the Water Resources Department including: Certificate Specialist, Transfer Specialist, Klamath Basin Water Right Analyst, and Drought Research Assistant for the Drought Task Force established by House Bill 4113. Ms. Blakely finds that assisting customers is the most rewarding aspect of her work. She also provides that she is fortunate to have co-workers who are eager to offer a helping hand and who are dedicated to the important work done here at OWRD.



Ms. Blakely's experience, enthusiasm, and dedication to ensuring sufficient and sustainable water supplies have made her a valuable resource to the Agency. When not busy getting acclimated to her new role, Lanaya enjoys several outdoor activities such as hiking, camping and walking her dogs. The District 2 Watermaster Office may be reached at (541) 682-3620 or by e-mail at [Lanaya.F.Blakely@oregon.gov](mailto:Lanaya.F.Blakely@oregon.gov).

## WELL CONSTRUCTION BONDS AND LANDOWNER PERMITS

The Oregon Legislature recently passed House Bill (HB) 2296. This Bill, which becomes effective January 1, 2018, includes several changes to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.753, including increasing the amount of a well constructor's surety bond from \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Although the bill is effective January 1, 2018, well constructors who are bonded as of January 1, are not required to submit an increased bond until they renew their well constructors license during the next renewal period. Newly bonded well constructors will need to submit the higher bond amount if they choose to become bonded after the January 1 effective date.

Along with the bond change, there are a few other modifications to the Statute. They include:

- Landowners that choose to construct their own well, on their own property, will see their bond amount increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The application fee will also increase from \$25 to \$500.
- Clarification about who must submit a Landowner Well Construction Permit Application, and under what conditions.

Questions about these changes should be directed to Kristopher Byrd at (503) 986-0851, or by e-mail at [Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov).

### ARTICLES

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## RULEMAKING **Treatment & Backflow Prevention**

At their August 18, 2017 meeting, Oregon Water Resources Commissioners adopted amendments to Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 690-215-0017. These rules relate to down well continuous water treatment and back-siphon (backflow) prevention devices for groundwater irrigation systems used to chemigate or fertigate. The amended rules include the following changes and additions:

- Clarifying the installation requirements for down well **water treatment systems**.
- Specifying the **requirements for chemicals used** to treat down well groundwater.
- Clarifying back-siphon prevention device options for irrigation wells with a mainline diameter **four inches or larger** when used to chemigate or fertigate.
- Clarifying back-siphon prevention device options for irrigation wells with a mainline diameter **less than four inches** when used to chemigate or fertigate.
- Clarifying the options for individuals that wish to utilize other methods to prevent backflow when applying chemicals or fertilizers through an irrigation system.
- Clarifying back-siphon prevention device **testing requirements**.
- Adding information regarding other agencies that also have backflow assembly requirements.
- Adding detailed requirements for **bypass piping** installed around approved back-siphon prevention devices.
- Specifying Department authority to require back-siphon prevention devices on **any** water supply well.

These rules were developed in conjunction with a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) that included water supply well constructors, consultants, and representatives from other natural resource agencies. Copies of the new rules are available on the Department's website. Questions about the new rules should be directed to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by e-mail at [Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov](mailto:Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov).

### **SEPTIC SYSTEM SETBACK REQUIREMENTS**

The Department has recently encountered a number of new water wells that were drilled too close to existing septic systems. In some cases, the constructor did not conduct the proper research prior to construction, and in others, the well constructor relied on the landowner's memory regarding the septic system location. In both of these cases, a well was completed in a manner that is not consistent with Oregon's well construction standards.

As a reminder, the minimum setback requirement from a septic tank is 50 feet, and the setback from a septic drain line or sewage disposal structure or facility is 100 feet. Septic System maps or drawings, can often be obtained through County Offices or the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ). If septic system maps are unavailable, then the septic system will need to be located using other methods prior to construction. One such method would be to use an existing system evaluator. A list of licensed existing system evaluators capable of locating on-site septic systems is available on the ODEQ website at: <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/FilterDocs/OSSinspectorlist.pdf>.

Questions about existing septic systems should be directed to the county sanitarian, or ODEQ. Well construction questions should be directed to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by email at [Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov](mailto:Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov).



## OREGON WATER LAW CONFERENCE

The Oregon Water Law Conference is coming to Portland on November 2 and 3. The conference will provide an update on legislative and OWRD administrative developments, along with discussions of the key issues driving water policy. The conference will feature experts from state government, nonprofits and private practice.

The Oregon Water Resources Department will be providing an update regarding the 2017 legislative session, the Walla Walla Basin groundwater protection rulemaking, and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) efforts to re-allocate stored water from the Willamette River. The conference will also include presentations on the pros and cons of groundwater studies, mandatory measurement, and water right fees. Other topics being covered include Oregon public records law, a look at the "Division 33" rules, flood waters, rights and duties, Deschutes Basin update, water resources modeling, the role of inchoate tribal rights in the prior appropriation doctrine, and due diligence for water right transactions.

The Governor's Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Ms. Lauri Aunan, will deliver a special presentation on the impact of federal changes on state natural resources programs.

Registration and pricing information, along with the full agenda, can be found at: <https://www.theseminargroup.net/>. The seminar will also be available via Live Webcast.



## GEOTECHNICAL HOLE REPORT REQUIREMENTS

The Water Resources Department would like to remind professionals responsible for the construction, alteration, conversion, or abandonment of geotechnical holes, that a report is required for each geotechnical hole that is:

- (a) Greater than **18 feet** deep; or
- (b) Within **50 feet** of a water supply or monitoring well; or
- (c) Used to make a determination of **water quality**; or
- (d) Constructed in an area of known or reasonably suspected **contamination**.

Geotechnical holes that do not meet any of the criteria spelled out above shall have a professional responsible for the construction and abandonment of the geotechnical hole, but do not require a geotechnical hole report to be filed.

Questions about geotechnical holes should be directed to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by email at [Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov](mailto:Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov).

### 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@oregon.gov](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov)



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)

# POWER LINE SAFETY



The following article is included as a reminder to be aware of the height of equipment when working in close proximity to overhead utility lines:

Two workers were recently electrocuted while attempting to set up a 36 foot tall aluminum scaffolding system to place siding on a building. The workers successfully set up the first scaffolding pole, but as they attempted to raise the second pole it tipped away from the building toward a set of 20,800-volt power lines. The two workers guiding the scaffolding pole from the ground were still in contact with the pole as it slid along the energized power lines and dropped into the nearby trees. One of the workers was severely burned on his hands and feet, while the other worker was electrocuted and killed.

The foreman on-site that day explained that he was aware of the Oregon OSHA rule that required the workers to keep the scaffolding at least 10 feet away from powerlines, but he thought that the lines were at least 20 feet away. The power lines were 23 feet from the front of the building, but the scaffolding poles were 36 feet and seven inches in length.

Source: Oregon OSHA, *Resource Newsletter*, August 2017. Copies of the Oregon OSHA newsletter can be found at: <http://osha.oregon.gov/pubs/newsletters/resource/Documents/2850-2017-08.pdf>.



"Otter do it safely"

# Safety FIRST!

# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Well casing damaged by water treatment chemicals.



A well too close to a septic tank.

A buried well head with a broken cap.



Measuring the leach line distance from a well.



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





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