

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

MEET COURTNEY WUETHRICH

Oregon Water Resources (OWRD) is proud to introduce Courtney Weuthrich (pronounced "with-rich"). Courtney began employment here at OWRD in May 2016 as the Executive Support Specialist for the Administrative Services Division. If you have had the opportunity to visit the Salem office, you may have met her at the reception desk as one of her many duties is coordinating front desk coverage. Most importantly, Ms. Wuethrich is the agency go-to person for various needs and services; she is prepared to tackle whatever comes her way. When asked about her favorite aspect of her work here at OWRD, Courtney responded that it is providing excellent customer service to our clients and the support, teamwork and appreciation she receives from her colleagues.



Courtney received a Bachelor's degree in Outdoor Recreation and Resource Management from Indiana University in Bloomington. Her positions prior to joining OWRD include Business Director for a Girl Scout camp in Virginia and seasonal park ranger in the Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota. Most recently, she worked in data entry for a logistics company also in North Dakota. Additionally, she had an incredibly rewarding experience as part of AmeriCorps, participating in community service events all along the west coast.

When Ms. Weuthrich is not busy in the office, she enjoys spending time with her family and basset hound, Buster, eating good food, and watching streaming television. During the summer months she prefers to forgo the indoor activities and spend her time fishing, camping and hiking. If you happen to see Courtney next time you are in the Salem office, please say hello.

STAFF UPDATES

WELL CONSTRUCTION - Laurie Norton, Well Licensing Program Specialist, retired at the end of November after working more than 20 years at the Oregon Water Resources Department. Ms. Norton's attention to detail, sense of humor, and strong work ethic will be greatly missed. The Well Construction and Compliance Section wishes her the best in her retirement. In order to provide continued service to our customers, Buffy Gillis will be temporarily responding to questions regarding the licensing program. Please feel free to contact Buffy at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov.

FIELD STAFF - Please join us in congratulating Scott Ceciliani on his recent promotion to assistant watermaster for the Southwest Region. Previous to his promotion, Scott was the well inspector in the Southwest region for 3 ½ years, and prior to that, he worked as a field geologist for Cornforth Consultants and interned with the US Geological Survey in Troy, New York. Scott's creative solutions to difficult problems and determination to provide high quality work will help him in his new position. Questions for Scott should be directed to (541) 770-3412 or by e-mail at Scott.C.Ceciliani@oregon.gov. Please direct any questions regarding well construction to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by e-mail at Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov.

ARTICLES

Page 1 Meet Courtney Wuethrich; Staff Updates

Page 3 Exempt Use Mapping Tool; Geotechnical Hole Reports

Page 2 Well Construction Bonds and Landowner Permits;
Social Security Numbers

Page 4 New Logo; Finger Amputated While Handling Drilling Rod

WELL CONSTRUCTION BONDS AND LANDOWNER PERMITS

During the 2017 legislative session, the Oregon Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 2296. This Bill, which became 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 was effective January 1, 2018, well constructors who were 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.



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, must now provide a **\$10,000 bond**, and pay an application fee of **\$500**.
- The statute also clarifies who must submit a landowner well construction permit application, and under what conditions.

Questions about these changes should be directed to Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0850, or by e-mail at Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS

Current law requires the Oregon Water Resources Department to obtain the social security numbers of licensed well constructors and well constructor applicants. In order to accomplish this, you will notice that on current applications and renewal forms, we ask those attempting to obtain a drilling license for their social security number. Providing these numbers is mandatory pursuant to ORS 305.385 and ORS 25.785, which allows the Oregon Department of Revenue (DOR) and the Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ) to require any agency which licenses persons to conduct a business, trade or profession to collect this information. Your social security number will be used by the DOR and DOJ in the administration, and collection of outstanding taxes and/or child support. Your social security number will be used only for these purposes and does not become a part of a public record. Failure to provide your social security number will prevent your well constructor's license from being renewed.

If you have any questions regarding this requirement, please call the Department's Well Licensing Program Specialist at (503) 986-0856.

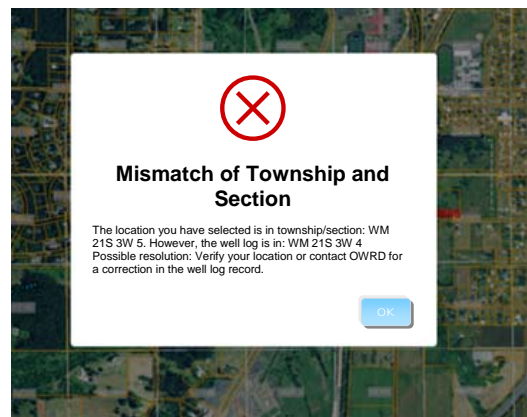


EXEMPT USE MAPPING TOOL

In order to help generate more accurate well location information, the department recently made changes to the Exempt Use Well Mapping Tool to notify users when their selected well locations do not match the information provided on the well log.

Problems captured by the tool include mismatched Township, Range, Section, or incorrect County. If any of the problems are encountered during the submittal process, an error message will be provided (see photo, at right).

In order to resolve the error, the map information simply needs to be verified or corrected before continuing. Persistent problems or questions should be directed to Scott Kudlemyer, the Groundwater Use Registration Coordinator, at (503) 986-0861 or by e-mail at Scott.B.Kudlemyer@oregon.gov.



GEOTECHNICAL HOLE REPORTS

A recent review of Geotechnical Hole Reports submitted to the Department has revealed that there may be some confusion in the industry regarding the proper timeline to submit these documents. In order to meet the minimum geotechnical hole requirements, reports associated with these holes must be submitted within 30 days of completion. Professionals constructing these holes have the option of submitting them electronically, or by mail, and of course, staff is available to answer questions if needed.

In addition to the report forms, the Department also noted discrepancies in the calculated grout quantities provided on the reports. This reported grout quantity is important data, as it provides information to the Department that indicates that work on the geotechnical hole was performed properly. If the hole was not constructed properly, then the professional may be responsible to return to the site for repair.

Questions about the geotechnical hole requirements should be directed to Joel Jeffery at (503) 986-0852 or by e-mail at Joel.W.Jeffery@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



NEW LOGO

Keep an eye out for the new logo representing the Oregon Water Resources Department. The new logo, created by a team of dedicated Department staff, will be incorporated into documents throughout 2018.

CAUTION!

FINGER AMPUTATED WHILE HANDLING DRILLING ROD

The following Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) reported injury underscores the importance of all persons working on or around drilling equipment to be aware of the dangers that exist on a construction site.

On April 16, 2017 a well constructor and his helper from Oregon were engaged in drilling horizontal dewatering wells. The drilling was part of a project to install drain pipe for the stabilization of a hillside adjacent to a roadway along the coast in California.

With the completion of each boring, the driller and helper would remove the drilling rod. While removing a drilling rod from one of the borings, the helper placed his right hand between the drill rig's derrick and the well head. In an instant, his hand became caught and severely crushed.

Needless to say, emergency services were called right away and the helper was transported to and admitted into the hospital. He was immediately treated for a crushed middle finger and an amputated ring finger (*Source: OSHA, Accident Report Detail*).

Accidents like this provide a good reminder to those individuals involved in the drilling industry to always exercise caution. Construction projects can move very quickly at times and it is easy to do your job without even thinking about it. When that occurs, it is a good idea to just slow down for a minute and mentally check to make sure that all safety practices and policies are being followed.

Safety FIRST!



PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



A dewatering well located on a construction site.



A dug well to be abandoned is cleaned out with a vacuum truck.

Water Resources Department staff performing a down-hole video inspection of a well.



A construction site with an old cased well to be abandoned.



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@oregon.gov
 (503) 986-0851

Joel Jeffery, Coordinator,
 Well Construction Program
Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov
 (503) 986-0852

[Vacant], License and
 Compliance Specialist
 (503) 986-0856

Ladeena Bell, Well ID
 Program Coordinator
Ladeena.K.Bell@oregon.gov
 (503) 986-0854

Buffy Gillis, Well Log
 Review Coordinator
Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov
 (503) 986-0850

Scott Kudlemyer, Groundwater Use
 Registration Coordinator
Scott.B.Kudlemyer@oregon.gov
 (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