

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



MEET LADEENA BELL

Ladeena has been serving as the Well Identification (ID) Program Coordinator in the Well Construction and Compliance Section for more than five years. Her main duties include assisting the public with finding well logs in our online database, providing well ID tags to well constructors and well owners, and reviewing Start Cards for completeness. Ladeena is also responsible for reviewing historical well logs to verify accuracy in the database as well as providing support to other programs.

Although Ladeena is an Oregon native, she has also lived in Washington State, where she studied Visual Communications at the Art Institute of Seattle before switching to full time work in retail and customer service. Eventually, Ladeena returned to Oregon, where she served as an office administrator and web designer for an online retail company. Here at OWRD, Ladeena enjoys using her design and desktop publishing skills to assemble the *Well Said Newsletter*.

When Ladeena is not at the office helping customers, she keeps busy by taking photographs, writing her blog, and sharing her poems at a local shelter for women and children. Some of her other hobbies include crafts, hiking, and bicycling. Ladeena also loves a wide variety of music, movies, and collects all things penguin!

For questions about the Well ID Label Program, or if you need to amend a Start Card or well ID number, please contact Ladeena at (503) 986-0854, or by e-mail at Ladeena.K.Bell@oregon.gov.

COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW CHAIR AND NEW MEMBERS

Governor Brown has appointed **Meg Reeves** of Corvallis as the new Chair of the Oregon Water Resources Commission, replacing outgoing Chair John Roberts on January 16. Reeves, a retired attorney, has been on the Commission since September 2016 and represents the West-Side-at-Large. Her term lasts through June 30, 2020.

In November 2017, the Oregon Senate confirmed **Michael Faught** of Medford as a new member of the Commission, representing the Southwest Region. Faught, a retired public works director, has spent 40 years in the public works field, with the last nine years as public works director of Ashland. His term began January 15 and lasts through June 30, 2021.

On February 12, the Oregon Senate confirmed Governor Brown's two additional appointees to the Oregon Water Resources Commission:

- **Kathy Kihara** of Bend will represent the East-Side-at-Large. Kihara is a civil engineer who spent 32 years with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, working with irrigation districts across Oregon. She worked on Reclamation projects in the Crooked River, Deschutes and Umatilla Basins. Her term began February 14, 2018 and runs through June 30, 2021. Kihara replaces Ray Williams.
- **Joe Moll** of Eugene represents the West Central Region. Moll is currently the executive director of the McKenzie River Trust, where he has served since 2005. The Trust works on conservation and restoration efforts in Lane and Douglas counties. Moll previously worked on natural resource issues in Montana. His term began February 14, 2018 and runs through June 30, 2021. Moll replaces Carol Whipple.

The Water Resources Commission is a seven-member citizen panel that sets water resources policy for the state. Commission members serve four-year terms, are appointed by the Governor and must be confirmed by the Oregon Senate. A Commission member is appointed from each of the five regional river basin areas, with two members selected for the West-Side and East-Side-at-Large. More information about the Commission is available at: www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/commis/index.aspx.

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COLUMBIA RIVER BASALTS IN THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

The North Central Region (NCR) in Eastern Oregon covers approximately 10,738 square miles and includes some of the most difficult drilling conditions in the state due to Columbia River Basalt (CRB) formations. Drilling into CRB in search of an aquifer can be tricky because of the presence of multiple aquifers. Typically, sealing into the basalts requires a standard annular seal in compliance with the well construction rules, however, in many cases well constructors will run into artesian conditions during drilling that require additional sealing in order to adequately prevent the well from commingling, leaking, or losing artesian pressure.



In addition, wells being constructed as part of a water right might have additional requirements that should be reviewed prior to construction. The Department might also be interested in running a video camera or geophysical equipment down the well prior to seal placement in order to observe inter-flow zones and verify the proper seal location.

Because of the complicated nature of drilling into the CRBs, well constructors who are completing wells into the CRBs are encouraged to call the NCR Well Inspector, Erik Thomasser, or Joel Jeffery, the Well Construction Program Coordinator, to talk over their project ahead of time. Often the Department has experience or guidance that can be helpful in the location where the well will be drilled.

Erik Thomasser can be reached by phone at (541) 278-5456 or by e-mail at Erik.A.Thomasser@oregon.gov.
Joel Jeffery can be reached by phone at (503) 986-0852 or by e-mail at Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov.

INCREASED BOND DUE AT LICENSE RENEWAL

The Well Construction and Compliance Section would like to remind bonded well constructors who are due to renew their license in 2018 that an increased bond is required to be submitted when they renew their license. With the passage of 2017 House Bill (HB) 2296, and the subsequent changes to Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.753, bonded well constructors are required to increase their bond from **\$10,000** to **\$20,000**. The Bill, which became effective January 1, 2018, also contained a few other modifications to the Statute. They include:

- Landowners who choose to construct their own well, on their own property, have a bond increase from **\$5,000** to **\$10,000**. The application fee also increased 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 Kris Byrd at (503) 986-0851, or by e-mail at Kristopher.R.Byrd@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 www.oregon.gov/owrd/Pages/gw/wcc_index.aspx

DEQ OFFERS FREE WELL WATER TEST

HARNEY COUNTY — SPRING AND FALL 2018



The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is testing groundwater in Harney County for nitrate, arsenic, pesticides, hardness, selected metals, coliform, *E. coli*, and perchlorate. In 2013, the Oregon legislature provided funds to the DEQ's groundwater protection program to monitor ground-water across Oregon. DEQ's Statewide Groundwater Monitoring Program seeks to identify areas of the state that are vulnerable to groundwater contamination. DEQ selected Harney County as a study area using data on vulnerable aquifers, information on geology and soils, data from historical real estate transactions, gaps in available water quality data, and input from local stakeholders.

Public water suppliers are required to test their water on a regular basis. However, homeowners who rely on well water are not required to test their water unless they transfer their property. For this reason, the DEQ is conducting its groundwater study to learn more about groundwater quality and communicate any health risks to homeowner's who rely on well water. DEQ will sample well water at a tap in the water supply system prior to any water treatment and filtration system and submit the sample to a laboratory for analysis.

The public is invited to participate in this testing effort by contacting DEQ's groundwater monitoring program at (503) 693-5736 or by e-mail at: Groundwater.Monitoring@deq.state.or.us. Participants will be selected based on location and well characteristics.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

In August 2017, the Water Resources Commission adopted amended rules that expand the existing backflow prevention requirements for groundwater irrigation systems that are used for the application of chemicals or fertilizers (please see OAR 690-215-0017). These systems are required to have backflow prevention equipment installed that prevents the backflow of chemicals or other fluids into the well if pressure is lost.

Since the rules were approved, the Department has received a number of calls related to the requirements, so in order to be helpful to those individuals interested in learning about the devices, we wanted to provide information about the type of training that is recommended for those people interested in checking the serviceability of the assemblies.

In order to properly understand the operation of the backflow assemblies associated with the expanded requirements, individuals should pursue training that addresses the following:

- Principles of backflow prevention devices
- Different assembly types
- Assembly design and function
- Testing procedures
- Troubleshooting methods
- Overview of basic hydraulics (helpful)

Copies of the backflow prevention rules are available on the Secretary of State's website at: <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayChapterRules.action?selectedChapter=183>.

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



SPECIAL STANDARDS



Individuals needing to construct or decommission a well that will not meet minimum well construction requirements must apply for special standards **prior** to beginning the work. Along with situations where the problem is known ahead of time, there may also be times when an unforeseen situation comes up during construction where special standards are required. In these cases, please remember to call the Department for consultation **prior** to continuing construction. In addition to calling, it is also very helpful to send documentation or photos related to the issue.

These items should be sent by e-mail to: Joel.W.Jeffery@oregon.gov, by text to (503) 302-8618, or by fax to (503) 986-0902, so that documentation can be reviewed prior to, or during, the call.

Special standard forms are available on the Department's website at: www.oregon.gov/owrd/pages/gw/forms.aspx. To contact Joel Jeffery by phone, call (503) 986-0852.

OREGON OSHA'S MOST VIOLATED RULES FOR 2017

In Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division's (OSHA) list of most violated rules for 2017, fall protection (construction) is at the top of the list. OSHA's general fall protection rule requires fall protection for workers who work at heights of six feet or higher. Citations for this rule carry high penalties because most falls kill workers or leave them seriously injured. In addition, one out of every four of the violations are repeat offenses, which is three times as many repeat offenses as any other rule violated.

On OSHA's most violated rules list, the combined number of violations for hazard communication, safety committees, and safety meetings, are almost one-half of the total violations for 2017. This is interesting because none of the three categories involve investment in equipment; they only include employee time.

Questions about Oregon OSHA's safety requirements should be directed to (503) 378-3272 or by e-mail at tech.web@oregon.gov.

Oregon OSHA's List of Most Violated Rules for 2017



Rule Name	Total Violations	Avg. Cost Per Violation
Fall protection (construction)	661	\$1,111.62
Rules for all workplaces	129	\$965.58
Ladders (construction)	173	\$660.00
General requirements for all machines	48	\$1,155.21
Control of hazardous energy	78	\$474.68
Hazard communication	959	\$51.47
Blood borne pathogens	74	\$196.62
Personal protective equipment	51	\$249.80
Respiratory protection	124	\$99.35
Medical services and first aid	71	\$132.68
Abrasive wheel machinery	46	\$150.00
Safety committees and safety meetings	639	\$42.21
Powered industrial trucks	91	\$92.14
Wiring methods, components, equipment	120	\$40.25
Portable fire extinguishers	73	\$9.86

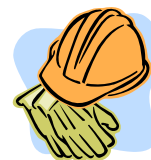
(Source; Health and Safety RESOURCE Publication, Oregon OSHA, February-March 2018, Volume 57)

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Digging up a buried well on a construction site.

Well constructor mixing cement grout for a well seal.



Insects inside a well casing.



Decommissioning a well on a construction site.



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