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## WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at OWRD home page, under *Agency Spotlight* >

*Well Said Newsletter*.

Please share with others at your organization.

*Well Said* is a production of the OWRD 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 e-mail at [Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov)



*Serving the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management.*



## MEET JOAN SMITH

Please welcome Joan Smith to the Well Construction and Compliance Section (WCC). Joan joins WCC as a Well Program Specialist in a job rotation position job-shadowing Joel Jeffery. Prior to joining the WCC, she was working as a Transfer Specialist in the Transfer & Conservation Section. Having worked at OWRD nearly 14 years, she brings valuable experience and knowledge to WCC.

Currently, Ms. Smith is working closely with Joel, attending meetings, and going into the field, while attempting to glean everything she can about the construction of wells in Oregon. She has also been busy studying the well construction rules and statutes while asking a lot of questions related to specific wells located around the state. If well constructors have not yet heard from Joan, then do not be surprised if you do, as she has been reaching out to individual well constructors with specific questions regarding their work.

Joan expresses that what she enjoys most about being a part of OWRD is the people with whom she works. Being surrounded by productive, positive-minded people who strive to do right by Oregonians has made working at OWRD a rewarding experience. When Joan isn't busy at work, she is very active in her church and owns a small business. With twin 10-year old boys and two teenage daughters, she is an energetic mom who enjoys watching her children play football, softball, volleyball, swimming and wrestling. As a third generation Oregonian, she enjoys camping, fishing and hiking in the great outdoors.

Joan Smith may be reached at (503) 986-0812 or [Joan.M.Smith@oregon.gov](mailto:Joan.M.Smith@oregon.gov).

## NEW REGIONAL WELL INSPECTOR

Please welcome Ben Thorpe to the Southwest (SW) Region Office in Medford as the new Well Inspector. He replaces Scott Ceciliani, who accepted a promotional opportunity as the new District 14 Watermaster stationed in Grants Pass.

While attending Oregon State University, Mr. Thorpe interned in their core lab, processing offshore pistons cores, and graduated with a degree in geology. For the next 3 years he worked as a logging geologist, primarily in Ohio and Texas. Ben comes to his new position by way of Jackson County, where he served as an Assistant Watermaster for two and a half years.

In his free time, Ben enjoys tinkering with his motorcycle, skiing and backpacking.

Ben has already started in his new role as well inspector and is ready to answer questions about well construction in the SW Region. He can be reached at (541) 770-3412 or by e-mail at [Benjamin.D.Thorpe@oregon.gov](mailto:Benjamin.D.Thorpe@oregon.gov).



## WELLS, WATER RIGHT PERMITS AND TRANSFERS

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 537.535 states that no person or agency shall use or attempt to use groundwater or construct or attempt to construct a well without first obtaining a water right permit. The exception to this is when the intent is to construct and use the well for purposes that are exempt from permitting under ORS 537.545. The most common exemptions are single or group domestic uses not exceeding **15,000** gallons per day, irrigation of lawn or noncommercial gardens not exceeding one-half acre, and industrial or commercial uses not exceeding **5,000** gallons per day. The irrigation of a commercial crop (of any size) is not exempt from the requirement of obtaining a water-use permit.

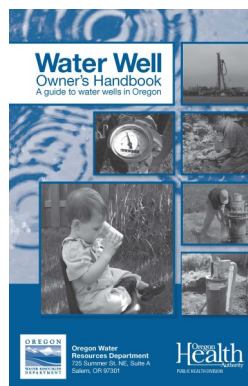
Prior to having a well constructed, people or agencies that intend on utilizing a well for uses requiring a permit need to first file an application to see whether a permit can be issued. Permits are water-use authorizations that contain conditions that must be followed for the water use to be certificated. Some conditions are specific to well construction, such as where the well may be located and how it is to be constructed. If these conditions are not met the well owner will not be able to use the well as intended.

Therefore, it is important for a well contractor to understand if the intended water use will require a permit, whether that permit been issued, and whether there are any well construction conditions on the permit. Having this information will allow the contractor to construct a well that meets the needs of his client.

In situations where people have an existing water right and wish to change which well they are using, or add an additional well, a water right transfer application needs to be filed prior to the construction and use of the well. Much like new applications, there may be specific construction and location requirements that have to be met in order for the transfer to be approved.

Questions about wells associated with water rights should be directed to the water right customer service team at (503) 986-0900 or by e-mail: [WRD\\_DL\\_Customerservice@oregon.gov](mailto:WRD_DL_Customerservice@oregon.gov).

## WATER WELL OWNER'S HANDBOOK



The Water Well Owner's Handbook, a collaborative effort involving the Oregon Health Authority's Domestic Well Safety Program and Drinking Water Services, along with the Oregon Water Resources Dept, is now available in Spanish.

If you are interested in receiving handbooks, in Spanish or English, please contact Ladeena Ashley at (503) 986-0854 or by email at [Ladeena.K.Ashley@oregon.gov](mailto:Ladeena.K.Ashley@oregon.gov).

## DEQ ONSITE WASTEWATER PROGRAM RECORDS PROJECT

DEQ's Onsite Program recently wrapped up an ambitious project to put more than 100,000 septic system files online. The project benefits well constructors, real estate professionals, septic installers and home owners searching for septic records in the counties where DEQ administers its Onsite Program. The online files provide information on the types, sizes and locations of septic systems across the state and are free to the public.

The nine counties that DEQ has septic records for are Baker, Coos, Curry, Jackson, Josephine, Morrow, Union, Wallowa, and Wheeler. Septic system records are found by the parcel number of the property. This number is the Township, Range, Section, Quarter/Quarter, and Tax Lot.



This information can be found by calling your local county assessors office or visiting their web site. Tax Lot information is also available at [www.ormap.net](http://www.ormap.net).

Questions about DEQ's Wastewater Program should be directed to DEQ at (503) 229-5349 or (503) 229-5161.

## IMPORTANT NOTES FROM WCC



### License Renewal

If your license is due to expire on 6/30/2019, please be sure that you have submitted all continuing education paperwork and an updated bond in the amount of \$20,000. The minimum CEC requirement is 14 credits. If you are short of credits, you can find online coursework available for a fee, on our website: [https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/wrd\\_notice\\_view/?notice\\_id=30](https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/misc/wrd_notice_view/?notice_id=30) {[click here](#) or type link} Questions? Please contact Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0856 or [Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov](mailto:Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov).

### Paper Start Card Receipts

For those who submit paper start cards via mail or fax, you will no longer be receiving a separate receipt from OWRD (the canceled check will be your proof of payment). Please contact Buffy at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov](mailto:Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov) if you would like to continue receiving paper receipts from the Department and they will be sent to you with your quarterly reports.



### Profile Updates

Has your address changed? Have you changed employers? Do you have a new email address? Please update your information on the OWRD website at: [https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gw/well\\_license\\_address\\_update/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/apps/gw/well\\_license\\_address\\_update/secure](https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gw/well_license_address_update/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=/apps/gw/well_license_address_update/secure) {[click here](#) or type link}

If you have yet to secure a password with WCC, please contact Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov](mailto:Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov), as this application requires both your license number and password.

### Filing Paperwork

**30 DAYS To File**

As a reminder, well reports (for water supply, geo-technical holes, and monitoring wells) must be filed with the Department within 30 days after completion of the construction, alteration, conversion, or abandonment of a well.

If you have questions regarding whether OWRD records show that you are meeting these time-lines, contact Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov](mailto:Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov).

## FOLLOW-UP TO OGWA SPRING CONFERENCE

Buffy Gillis, Well Licensing Specialist, recently presented information at the 2019 OGWA Spring Conference regarding the Oregon Water Resources Department's website redesign. During the presentation, well constructors were asked what type of items or changes they would like to see in regard to the page "Resources for Well Constructors."

The suggestions included:

- More space in the e-file log application to describe the geologic formations encountered
- The ability to submit Special Standards online
- The ability to sign up for the Driller's Exam online
- The ability to pay for the OWRD Rules course online
- Training videos for e-filing start cards and well logs
- An updated study guide for the Driller's Exam
- Sample online Driller's Exam

Please feel free to contact Buffy Gillis with additional suggestions or ideas related to the Resources for Well Constructors page. This page is meant to be a useful tool for well constructors, so if there is any way that we can make it better, then we are happy to listen.

Buffy can be reached at (503) 986-0856 or by e-mail at [Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov](mailto:Buffym.Gillis@oregon.gov).



**We Welcome  
Your Suggestions!**

## HOW CAN I...?

Q) How can I provide a detailed description of the lithology when e-filing a well report? The program does not offer enough space.

The OWRD Information Services (IS) team is currently modifying and improving the e-filing application. In the meantime, here is a tip that will allow you to provide more than one line of lithological description:

Describe the material encountered; Example:

Top Soil	0 - 2 feet
Black and brown fractured basalt	2 - 65 feet
With thick, white quartz seams	2 - 65 feet



1. Enter the description of the material encountered
2. Enter the from/to fields (2 feet – 65 f in the example)
3. Continue with description and re-enter the same from/to

Material	From	To	
<a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">Delete</a> Top Soil	0.00	2.00	
<a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">Delete</a> Black and brown fractured basalt	2.00	65.00	
<a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">Delete</a> With thick white and pink quartz seams	2.00	65.00	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="button" value="Insert"/>

Questions regarding the e-filing of well reports should be directed to Linda Walker at (503) 986-0850 or by e-mail at [Linda.K.Walker@oregon.gov](mailto:Linda.K.Walker@oregon.gov).

## OSHA<sup>®</sup> SAFETY REMINDER



The following accident description from the OSHA accident files provides an intense reminder about the importance of safety and well thought out actions on the drilling rig and site:

On August 7, 2018 in Vernon County, Wisconsin, an employee of a well drilling company was removing a 10-inch diameter, 21 foot long, starter pipe used during the drilling operation for a geothermal well. The employee had placed a wire rope hoist on the 1996 Schramm T450-W Rotadrill drill rig to remove the starter pipe, however, the suction would not allow the pipe to be lifted. The employee then secured a chain to the cutting head and began lifting the pipe. As the pipe lifted, the cutting head unthreaded from the main head and fell, striking the employee on the head and killing him.

For more information on safety, contact Oregon OSHA at (503) 378-3272 or visit their website at [osha.oregon.gov](http://osha.oregon.gov).



# PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Open hole in lid of a dug well.



Groundwater Day at the Oregon State Capitol



Track rig set up in NW Oregon.



Preparing to set casing in Eastern Oregon.



**WELL CONSTRUCTION & COMPLIANCE SECTION**  
**OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT**  
725 SUMMER ST NE, SUITE A  
SALEM, OR 97301

## WELL SAID NEWSLETTER - Oregon Water Resources Dept

### Well Construction & Compliance Staff Directory

Kristopher Byrd, Manager  
[Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov](mailto:Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov)  
(503) 986-0851

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

Buffy Gillis, License and  
Compliance Specialist  
[Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov](mailto:Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov)  
(503) 986-0856

Ladeena Ashley, Well ID  
Program Coordinator  
[Ladeena.K.Ashley@oregon.gov](mailto:Ladeena.K.Ashley@oregon.gov)  
(503) 986-0854

Linda Walker, Well Log  
Review Coordinator  
[Linda.K.Walker@oregon.gov](mailto:Linda.K.Walker@oregon.gov)  
(503) 986-0850

Scott Kudlemyer, Exempt Use  
Program Coordinator  
[Scott.B.Kudlemyer@oregon.gov](mailto:Scott.B.Kudlemyer@oregon.gov)  
(503) 986-0861

Joan Smith, Well Construction  
Program Assistant  
[Joan.M.Smith@oregon.gov](mailto:Joan.M.Smith@oregon.gov)  
(503) 986-0812

Enforcement Section Fax  
(503) 986-0902

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### 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: (541) 550-3898

