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WELL SAID NEWSLETTER

Available on the web at www.oregon.gov/OWRD 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 email at Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov



Serving the public by practicing and promoting responsible water management.

NEW WELL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM COORDINATOR

The Well Construction and Compliance Section is pleased to introduce Travis Kelly, who started as the Well Construction Program Coordinator on April 1, 2020. This position was previously held by Joel Jeffery, who has happily moved on to retirement. Joel will be greatly missed for his expertise, dedication, and sense of humor.

Travis will be working closely with Regional Well Inspectors, the statewide drilling community, other government agencies, and landowners to ensure wells are constructed to the State's minimum standards. Travis has worked for OWRD since 2009 in multiple positions, including: District 13 Watermaster (Jackson County), District 13 Assistant Watermaster, SW Region Well Inspector, Hydrographer, and most recently Hydrologic Technician for both NW and SW Regions. Travis graduated from Southern Oregon University with a bachelor's degree in Geology and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. Travis is passionate about his work and is a diligent steward of the water resources of the State.

Travis was born and raised in La Grande, Oregon, where he grew up skiing at Anthony Lakes and adventuring in the mountains, forests, and rivers of Eastern Oregon. Travis enjoys spending time with his family, and when not with his family, he is often out enjoying the great outdoors: skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking, surfing, hiking, camping, or traveling. To quote one of his favorite travel show hosts, Rick Steves, "Don't forget to enjoy the journey." Travis can be contacted with questions regarding well construction, or with special standard requests, at (503) 986-0852 or Travis.N.Kelly@oregon.gov.



NEW NW REGION WELL INSPECTOR



The Department is pleased to introduce Tommy Laird, who replaces Barry Sanford as the new NW Region Well Inspector.

Tommy grew up in Beaverton, Oregon, where he played sports and volunteered at the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation District. After high school, he attended Willamette University where he majored in environmental science, with a minor in geography, and played on the football team as kicker. For his senior thesis, he

reconstructed fire history in the mid-Willamette Valley by taking a lake sediment core sample and counting charcoal.

Following graduation, Tommy worked as an intern for a farmer's coalition in San Joaquin, California, was an intern with the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program doing stream surveys, and worked for Columbia Sportswear as a sales and stock associate. *Continued on Page 2*

Tommy Laird, cont'd

In 2016, Tommy was hired by PBS Engineering and Environmental, and for the next year he logged soils using air rotary, cable tool, and sonic rigs at the Hanford Nuclear Site in Richland, Washington. Following his time at Hanford, he was transferred to the Portland office where he performed environmental and geotechnical work; oversaw environmental site assessments using push probe rigs; and oversaw geotechnical investigations using hollow stem augers, as well as mud rotary rigs.

When not at work, Tommy enjoys reading, watching movies, fishing, and spending time with his dog.

Tommy works out of the NW Region office in Salem, and can be reached at Tommy.K.Laird@oregon.gov or (503) 986-0895.

WELL CONSTRUCTOR LICENSE RENEWALS

Well constructor licenses last renewed in 2018 are up for renewal again on **June 30, 2020**. The fee for a two-year water supply or monitoring well license renewal is \$150.00.

As a reminder, a minimum of **14** continuing education credits (CECs) are required to renew. Of the 14 credits, a minimum of **two** credits must be in Oregon Rules and Regulations regarding well construction. The rule credits are typically available during a licensing cycle at conferences and seminars, and they are also available online on the Department's website for a fee.

When contemplating which credits to pursue during a licensing cycle, it is good to remember that only four CECs are allowed for Safety/First Aid/ CPR courses; and only **four** CECs are allowed for Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) courses. If you are not sure how many credits you have, you may visit the following link to check:

https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/gw/driller_education_view_only/

Please DO NOT wait until the last minute to obtain your credits or to send in your documentation as this may cause a delay in issuing your license renewal. There is a \$100.00 late fee for licenses expiring in 2020 that are not renewed by June 30.

You can avoid the late fee by sending in your renewal form with a check, even without the required CECs, prior to the June 30 deadline. Your license will be mailed to you once you have turned in documentation reflecting the 14 CEC minimum requirement. *Continued top right*

License Renewals, cont'd

License renewal forms have been mailed out recently; however, well constructors who have acquired the minimum amount of CECs may also renew online.

For questions about license renewals or CEC's, please go to the OWRD website, or contact Buffy Gillis at (503) 986-0856 or Buffy.M.Gillis@oregon.gov.

PUMPING TESTS DURING PUMP INSTALLATION OR REPAIR

The Department encourages all water well pump contractors to consider performing pumping tests when installing or repairing well pumps. Groundwater Right Permits issued in the past few decades contain a standard condition requiring a four-hour constant rate pumping test for each permitted well prior to obtaining a Certificate. The landowner or operator of the well may conduct the test in conjunction with normal pump service and testing or at any time more convenient to them.

Performing this required pumping test in conjunction with other necessary well pump work can save the owner mobilization costs at a later date.

Pumping tests must conform to the standards and procedures presented in [OAR 690-217](#). The well should be idle for at least 16 hours prior to the test. The pumping phase should last at least four hours at a constant pumping rate, and the recovery phase should be monitored for at least four hours or until the water level has recovered at least 90 percent from the maximum drawdown. A properly conducted pumping test could mean the well will be unusable for up to 24 hours.

In some cases, owners request an exemption from the pumping test requirement due to the interruption in supply it causes, and although OWRD does consider these exemption requests, if tests are done at the time of pump installation or repair, there would be less of an interruption in supply.

For forms and more information on pumping test standards and procedures, please visit <https://www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/GWWL/GW/Pages/PumpTestProgram.aspx>. You may also contact Halley Barnett at (503) 986-0879 or Halley.J.Barnett@oregon.gov or wrddl_pumptestsupport@oregon.gov.

WORKING ON AN EXEMPT USE WELL?

While not required, exempt use water well owners will benefit from a measurement of the one-hour **specific capacity** of their well, which reveals the relationship of water level drawdown to yield, or the efficiency of the well. This value can be used to assess changes in well efficiency over time, potentially identify or confirm the need for pump maintenance or well rehabilitation in the future, be used to calculate the maximum yield that can be expected from a well, and can support potential future claims of well to well interference.

Especially if a one-hour flow test is required for a real estate transaction, simply collecting a static water level before the test begins and a pumping water level at the end of the test before turning off the pump, can be quite valuable to both the pump contractor and the well owner. Refer to your favorite reference material, such as Johnson Screens' "Groundwater and Wells," for more information on collecting data and calculating specific capacity. Please also remember to reference the well report or the well label number on any documentation of pump tests, water quality tests, or other work on a water well.

Please direct questions about this to Halley Barnett at (503) 986-0879 or Halley.J.Barnett@oregon.gov.

7,000 YEAR-OLD WELL DISCOVERED

In what is now the Czech Republic, archaeologists have discovered a 7,000 year-old well built by farmers during the Neolithic era. Upon further analysis of the structure, researchers determined it to be the oldest wooden architectural structure in the world.

The well was first uncovered in 2018 by construction crews in Ostrov, a small town in the Karlovy Vary Region. By analyzing growth rings in the wood, scientists concluded that it was built out of oak that was cut down in approximately 5255 B.C.; the well measures roughly 55 inches in height with a square base of roughly 32 by 32 inches.

The structure is currently being stored in a climate-controlled cellar at the University of Pardubice, with plans for its preservation. According to the university, it was so well-preserved because it remained underwater for hundreds of years. *Continued top right*

7,000 Year-Old Well cont'd

Researchers note that the structure was built with extreme precision and care; craftsmanship unexpected at a time when the tools available consisted of stone, bone, horn, and wood. This is the third Neolithic well found in the country in four years.

Source: Lewis, S. (2020). '7,000-year-old well is the oldest wooden structure ever discovered', CBS NEWS. Feb 4.

OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY (OHA) DRINKING WATER PROGRAM PLAN REVIEW REMINDER

Public water suppliers that are considering adding a new well should get a plan review packet, available at healthoregon.org/pwsplanreview to guide them through the process.

Before drilling a well, the first step in the plan review process for a water system is to seek site plan approval from OHA. This means providing the site location on a drawing, tax lot map or Google map, as well as providing information on potential contaminants within the sanitary hazard setback, and whether the water system has a 100' radius of control (e.g. property ownership) around the well.

Some water system suppliers/owners may decide to skip the first plan review and approval step, and only reach out to the Drinking Water Program after the well has been drilled and the well log is available for review. Serious issues can crop up when the initial site plan evaluation step is skipped, and that may mean that the well cannot be approved by the OHA for use. Before a water system supplier/owner spends money on drilling a well, they should have already completed the site plan evaluation step.

Questions about the program should be directed to one of the plan review coordinators: Carrie Gentry (region 1) at (971) 673-0191 or Jay MacPherson (region 2) at (541) 726-2587 ext. 57. You can also reach the plan review coordinators at: dws.planreview@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Source: *The Pipeline Oregon
Drinking Water News
Volume 35, October 2019*

Oregon
Health
Authority

DRINKING WATER ASSISTANCE



The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) provides low-cost loans to community and nonprofit non-community public water systems for planning, design and construction of drinking water infrastructure improvements. Also referred to as the Safe Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, this funding program is co-administered by Oregon Health Authority and Business Oregon.

In addition to low-cost financing and favorable repayment terms, all projects receive part of the loan as principal forgiveness. The types of projects they can fund include:

- Water sources, treatment, finished water reservoirs, pumping and transmission/ distribution mains.
- Aquifer, Storage and Recovery (ASR) projects.
- Instrumentation, telemetry, water meter, AMR/AMI, backflow device and pressure reducing valve projects.
- Safety, seismic and security improvements.
- Projects which increase redundancy and reliability of critical assets.
- Water system restructuring and/or consolidation to resolve noncompliance or technical, managerial and financial problems.
- Planning and design in support of an eligible project: Feasibility studies, master plans, design and environmental documents.

Funding assistance is also available for complete service line replacements, regardless of pipe material or ownership of the property where the service line is located; from the public water main, to the point it connects with premise plumbing.

Grant and loan funds are also available for Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP), which include seismic risk assessments and mitigation plans as per requirements for eligible public water systems (OAR 333-061-0060(5)(a)(J)), as well as Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) efforts. All public notices for infrastructure and planning (SIPP) project comments are published quarterly (Oct/Jan/Apr/July), and can be found on our DWSRF web page at <http://healthoregon.org/srf>. An annual notice is published for DWSP projects and the Intended Use Plan in June or July.

For more information, visit the DWSRF web page at <http://healthoregon.org/srf>, or contact Adam DeSempé, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Program Coordinator, at (971) 673-0422, or Adam.DeSempé@state.or.us; or Jon Unger, Business Oregon's Safe Drinking Water Program and Policy Coordinator, at (503) 507-7107, or Jon.Unger@oregon.gov. *Article source credit: Adam DeSempé*



OREGON BUSINESSES TAKE SAFETY BREAK



Oregon OSHA encouraged employers and workers to team up to celebrate on-the-job health and safety during the 17th annual Safety Break on Wednesday, May 13; a time to pause and reflect on the importance of protecting people from hazards and harm while on the job. When managers and employees work together to recognize and address safety and health concerns, the results include fewer injuries and reduced workers' compensation costs.

"This stand-down provides an opportunity for employers and workers to remember the high value they should place on preventing injury and illness in the workplace," said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. "At its best, it is not merely symbolic, but also an opportunity for a focused discussion about the best ways to make safety a reality in the workplace by identifying and eliminating hazards."

Companies that participated were entered in a random drawing to win one of three \$100 checks, to be used for a luncheon of their choice. The Oregon SHARP Alliance sponsored the contest. The nonprofit group promotes safety and health management by encouraging teamwork and cooperation among people, employers, and organizations to improve workplace health and safety for Oregon workers. During the Safety Break, companies were encouraged to share their activities on social media by tagging @OregonOSHA on Facebook and using #SafetyBreak on Twitter.

For more information, ideas on how to host an event, or to download graphics, visit the Safety Break for Oregon Website.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



NW Region Well Inspector Tommy Laird inspecting a damaged monitoring well.



Cleaning out a dug well with a vacuum truck.



Drilling a well in a tight location.



A well in the floor of a building.

Close-up of the well



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

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Well Construction & Compliance Staff Directory

Kristopher Byrd, Manager
Kristopher.R.Byrd@oregon.gov
(503) 986-0851

Travis Kelly, Coordinator,
Well Construction Program
Travis.N.Kelly@oregon.gov
(503) 986-0852

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

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

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

Scott Kudlemyer, Exempt Use
Program 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: (541) 550-3898

