



OREGON
WATER
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

House Bill 2145: Technical Well Report Reviews

House Bill (HB) 2145 was passed during the 2021 legislative session to (a) modernize and increase efficiency within the well construction program to prevent well deficiencies that can lead to contamination or waste of groundwater, (b) better protect groundwater resources for Oregonians, and (c) give the well construction industry timely assurance that their work is being performed in a manner that is consistent with State requirements. As the Department implements the bill and modernizes the well construction program, we will be focused on improving the program to better serve well owners and the well drilling community.

July 1, 2022 marks another step in the progression of the implementation of the bill. The Department will begin conducting technical reviews of 100% of the well reports submitted starting July 1, 2022. These reviews will ensure the well report is complete and, based on information contained in the well report, that the well appears to have been constructed in accordance with minimum well construction standards. Technical well report reviews will be another mechanism, in addition to inspections, to identify potential construction deficiencies. The well report review process will also include a notification to the bonded well constructor that their reports have been evaluated within 120 days of submittal of the report. Additionally, the Department will follow up with the driller regarding any potential issues found during the well report review. The WCC section looks forward to sharing updates with the drilling community regarding the technical well report review process as the program is being developed and the procedures are finalized.

Well constructors and the drilling community are encouraged to serve on a rules advisory committee or to participate in workshops that may be formed as a tool for implementation of this new law. Questions about serving on committees or implementation of the bill may be addressed to Travis Kelly, Well Construction Compliance Coordinator, at (971) 304-5079 or Travis.N.Kelly@water.oregon.gov.