

## Summary of Potential Rule Changes

### OAR 690- Division 382 GROUNDWATER REGISTRATION MODIFICATIONS

\*Items in *Italics* are provided for the convenience of the RAC members. Items in *italics* are intended to provide a quick look for RAC. OWRD acknowledges that there may be different opinions as to whether an item is a substantive policy change and also that rules may contain many elements which may not be contained in the quick look: OWRD encourages RAC members to review all materials for the most accurate picture of the rules.

\*\* Or Laws 2025, ch 282 = House Bill 3342 (water rights transactions); Or Laws 2025, ch 575 = House Bill 3544 (contested cases), ORS 183 = Oregon Administrative Procedures Act (APA).

Rule Draft Date: 11/20/2025; Summary Date: 11/20/2025

690-382-0010 Purpose	Rule changes make grammar edits. <i>Rule cleanup.</i>
690-382-0100 Definitions	This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 by removing the “standing” definition, and (b) remove redundant definitions of “protest” and “water use subject to transfer” which are defined in OAR 690-300-0010. <i>Rule cleanup/consistency. 2025 legislation.</i> <i>[Similar to 690-380-0100]</i>
690-382-0200 Layered Water Rights and Certificates of Registration	This rule is amended to (a) add language to clarify when and how the Department notifies an applicant of layering issues and how they may be resolved, and (b) update document terminology, as it relates to issuance of an initial review, and (c) for consistency with Division 380 pertaining to transfers and permit amendments. <i>Rule cleanup and consistency. 2025 legislation.</i> <i>[Similar to 690-380-2240]</i>
690-382-0300 Modification of Certificates of Registrations	This rule is amended to add greater clarity by pointing to the definition of layered. <i>Rule cleanup/consistency.</i>
690-382-0400 Application for Modification of Certificate of Registration	This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 282, section 2 provisions concerning allowance for electronic documentation, (b), require the email address, if available, of the applicant(s), (c) add greater clarity as it relates to when it is allowable to include more than one certificate of registration in a single groundwater registration modification application, (d) better align with ORS 537.610, as it relates to referring to the tentative priority date for a right to appropriate ground water under a certificate of registration, (e) provide general clarifications, including to differentiate between what is claimed in the certificate of registration and authorized by the court under a future adjudication and decree, as it relates to point(s) of appropriation, place of use, and character of water use, (f) refer to the standards in OAR Chapter 690, Division 305 for greater clarity and consistency in mapping requirements across water right transactions, (g) specify the supplemental mapping requirements that are similar to OAR 690-380-3100 but use terminology appropriate for certificates of registration, (h) require that the application contain the information necessary for the Department to comply with its obligations under ORS 197.180, (i) update document terminology, as it relates to issuance of an initial review, and (j) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 570, section 3 with respect to OWRD water right transaction fee increases in rule: update the fee amounts here using the same ratio as previously in the rules – this would mean - \$1,900 (70% of Max Fee) for a POU change only; and \$2,730 for all other changes/combo of changes. <i>Rule cleanup/and clarity. Consistency with statutes. 2025 legislation. Mapping standardization. Land use compatibility.</i>

	<i>[Similar to 690-380-3000]</i>
690-382-0550 Completeness Review and Initial Review	<p>This new section of rule is adopted to (a) make a change in document terminology, as it relates to the initial review, (b) identify processing steps that align with initial review processing steps for other transfer types, (c) implement Or Laws 2025, chapter 282, section 2, provisions concerning allowance for electronic documentation, (d) correct reference to another rule, (e) include language formerly located in OAR 690-382-0600 that pertains to the completeness review process now located in this rule and to make clear that an application is not complete if not all fees have been paid, (f) include language formerly located in OAR 690-382-0700 that pertains to the initial review process now located in this rule, and (g) add language to allow for processing efficiency when appropriate as it relates to application amendments. <b>This rule is also amended to clarify that any other requirements for groundwater registration modifications refers only to those requirements “applicable to” groundwater registration modifications.</b></p> <p><i>2025 legislation. Rule consistency. Clarity on procedures.</i></p> <p><i>[Similar to 690-380-4000]</i></p>
690-382-0600 Request for Comments	<p>The rule is amended to (a) remove language related to the initial review that is now located under OAR 690-382-0550, (b) identify processing steps that align with applicant response to the initial review processing steps for other transfer types, and (c) implement Or Laws 2025, chapter 282, section 2, provisions concerning allowance for electronic documentation.</p> <p><i>2025 legislation. Rule consistency. Clarity on procedures.</i></p> <p><i>[Similar to 690-380-690-380-4005]</i></p>
690-382-0700 Proposed Final Order	<p>This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 282, with respect to change in document terminology, (b) provide general clarity as it relates to the approval criteria and notice of the proposed final order, (c) correct references to other rules, and (d) remove language related to the now obsolete draft preliminary determination, but that still applies to an initial review, so it was moved to OAR 690-382-0550. <b>This rule is also amended to clarify that any other requirements for groundwater registration modifications refers only to those requirements “applicable to” groundwater registration modifications.</b></p> <p><i>2025 legislation. Rule consistency. Clarity on procedures.</i></p> <p><i>[Similar to 690-380-4010]</i></p>
690-382-0800 Notice of Proposed Final Order	<p>This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575, with respect to change in document terminology, newspaper notice, requests for party status, and setting the standard 45-day protest period, (b) implement Or Laws ch 282 (2025) with respect to provisions for allowance for electronic documents, (c) remove redundant language with respect to notice of the proposed final order, and (d) provide general clarifications.</p> <p><i>2025 legislation. Rule consistency. Clarity on procedures.</i></p> <p><i>[Similar to 690-380-690-380-4020]</i></p>
690-382-0900 Protests and Hearings	<p>This rule is amended to implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 sections 2 and 3 relating to protests, requests for party status, and by incorporating the standard 45-day protest period.</p> <p><i>2025 legislation.</i></p> <p><i>[Similar to 690-380-4030]</i></p>
690-382-1000 Final Order on Recognition of Modifications	<p>This rule is amended to (a) provide general clarification as it relates to the final order on recognition of modifications, and (b) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 section 3 by removing protest requirements that have been replaced by Or Laws 2025, ch 575, by removing existing language concerning issuing a final order if not timely protests are filed, and by adding language providing that, if no timely protests are filed, a proposed final order becomes a final order by operation of law unless timely withdrawn by the Department.</p>

	<p><i>2025 legislation. Rule update.</i>  <i>[Similar to 690-380-690-380-5000]</i></p>
690-382-1100 Hearings	<p>This rule is repealed to implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 sections 2 and 3 by removing protest and contested case hearing notice and conduct requirements that have been replaced by Or Laws 2025, ch 575 and are now referenced in OAR 690-382-0900(1).  <i>2025 legislation. Contested case consistency.</i></p>
690-382-1200 Compatibility with Acknowledged Comprehensive Plans	<p>This rule is amended to correct a rule reference, as OAR 690-380-0070 does not exist, and the applicable information is in OAR 690-380-3000(19). This rule is amended to remove provisions that allowed the Director to, in the absence of the necessary land use information, presume that a proposed certificate of registration modification is compatible with the comprehensive land use plans of affected local governments, because the presumption in OAR 690-382-1200(3) does not comply with the Department's obligations under ORS 197.180.  <i>Land use compatibility.</i>  <i>[Similar to 690-380-5100]</i></p>

V1= 10/2/2025

V2= 11/20/2025 = track changes yellow

Division 382

## GROUNDWATER REGISTRATION MODIFICATIONS

### 690-382-0010

#### Purpose

(1) The rules in OAR chapter 690, division 382 establish the requirements and procedures to be used by the Department to evaluate an application to modify a ground-water certificate of registration. The rules describe the requirements for changing the point of appropriation, place of use, or character of use of a certificate of registration.

(2) No change in point of appropriation, place of use, or character of use of a certificate of registration may be made except as provided under these rules and OAR ~~e~~Chapter 690, ~~d~~Division 380.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

#### History:

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

Rule Summary: Rule changes make grammar edits.

### 690-382-0100

#### Definitions

The definitions in this rule, along with the definitions in OAR 690-008-0001 and 690-300-0010, apply to the rules in OAR chapter 690, division 382. Where a term is defined in more than one rule, the definition in this rule applies.

(1) "Certificate of registration" or "registration" means a certificate of registration of the right to appropriate ground-water under ORS 537.585 and 537.595 as documented under ORS 537.605. A certificate of registration is also known as a ground-water registration.

(2) "Enlargement" means an expansion of a certificate of registration and includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Using a greater rate or duty of water per acre than currently allowed under a certificate of registration;

(b) Increasing the acreage irrigated under a certificate of registration;

(c) Failing to keep the original place of use from receiving water from the same source; or

(d) Diverting more water at the new point of appropriation than is legally available to that certificate of registration at the original point of appropriation.

(3) "Injury" or "Injury to an existing water right" means a proposed certificate of registration modification would result in another, existing water right not receiving previously available water to which it is legally entitled.

(4) "Layered" means a situation in which there are multiple water uses subject to transfer, permits, or certificates of registration that are appurtenant to the same place of use and that have been issued for the purpose of irrigation.

(5) "Point of appropriation" means a well or the pump location on a sump at which ground-water is withdrawn from the ground for use under a ground-water right or certificate of registration.

~~(6) "Protest" means a written statement expressing opposition to approval of a transfer application or an application to modify a certificate of registration and disagreement with a preliminary determination that is filed in response to the notice prescribed by OAR 690-382-0800 and includes the fee prescribed in ORS 536.050.~~

~~(67)~~ "Report of ownership information" means a document prepared by a title company that includes ownership and a legal description of the lands to which the certificate of registration is appurtenant.

~~(8) "Standing statement" means a written statement expressing support for a preliminary determination that is filed in response to the notice prescribed by OAR 690-382-0800.~~

~~(79)~~ "Water right conveyance agreement" means a purchase and sale agreement, deed, or other document that has been recorded in the deed records by the relevant county describing land to which a water right is appurtenant and demonstrating that the interest in that land and the interest in the appurtenant water right have been separately conveyed.

~~(108) "Water use subject to transfer" means a water use established by:~~

~~(a) An adjudication under ORS Chapter 539 as evidenced by court decree;~~

~~(b) A water right certificate;~~

~~(c) A water use permit for which a request for issuance of a water right certificate under ORS 537.250 has been received and approved by the Commission under ORS 537.250; or~~

~~(d) A transfer application for which an order approving the change has been issued under ORS 540.530 and for which proper proof of completion of the change has been filed with the Commission.~~

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**History:**

WRD 1-2009, f. & cert. ef. 6-18-09

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 by removing the “standing” definition, and (b) remove redundant definitions of “protest” and “water use subject to transfer” which are defined in OAR 690-300-0010.

## 690-382-0200

### Layered Water Rights and Certificates of Registration

(1) Except as provided in section (5) of this rule, a change in place of use or character of use of a certificate of registration that is layered shall be ~~approved or recognized~~recognized only if concurrent changes to the other layered water uses subject to transfer, permits, and certificates of registration are approved or recognized.

(2) When reviewing an application for a registration modification, the Department shall notify the applicant if other layered water uses subject to transfer, permits, or certificates of registration are identified for which applications for concurrent changes have not been filed. The Department’s notification shall identify the layering issue(s) that must be resolved and the options for resolution outlined in section (3) of this rule and shall be sent to the applicant through issuance of an initial review.

(3) The Department shall provide an applicant notified under section (2) of this rule a period of not less than 30 days to:

(a) Submit applications for concurrent changes in the other layered water uses subject to transfer, permits, and certificates of registration, or otherwise as allowed under section (5) of this rule;

(b) Submit affidavits of voluntary cancellation for the other layered water uses subject to transfer, permits, and certificates of registration; or

(c) Withdraw the application.

(4) If the Department determines that an application filed pursuant to (3)(a) of this rule to transfer a layered water use subject to transfer, amend a layered permit, or modify a layered certificate of registration should be denied or not recognized, the Department shall notify the applicant of the Department’s intent to issue final orders not recognizing or denying the groundwater registration modification application and all associated applications unless, within 30 days after the date of Department notification, the applicant:

(a) Submits an affidavit of voluntary cancellation for the portion of the water use subject to transfer, permit, or certificate of registration that the Department has determined cannot be transferred, amended, or modified; or

(b) Withdraws the applications.

(5) A certificate of registration that the applicant designates as being for supplemental irrigation use may be moved separately from the associated primary irrigation water right if another

primary irrigation water right with similar reliability is appurtenant to the lands to which the certificate of registration is to be moved.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**History:**

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to (a) add language to clarify when and how the Department notifies an applicant of layering issues and how they may be resolved, and (b) update document terminology, as it relates to issuance of an initial review, and (c) for consistency with Division 380 pertaining to transfers and permit amendments.

**690-382-0300**

**Modification of Certificates of Registrations**

(1) An application for recognition of a modification of a certificate of registration may be filed by:

(a) The person named on the certificate of registration or to whom the certificate of registration has been assigned;

(b) The owner of the land to which the registration is appurtenant provided that the application is accompanied by a request for assignment under OAR 690-320-0060; or

(c) Any other person or entity who can demonstrate that they are authorized to request recognition of a modification.

(2) When modification of a certificate of registration is necessary to change the point of appropriation, place of use, or character of use under the registration, an application for recognition of the modification shall be submitted on a form provided by the Department. The application may propose modification of only one certificate of registration unless the registrations to be modified are layered, as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(4).

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**History:**

WRD 1-2009, f. & cert. ef. 6-18-09

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to add greater clarity by pointing to the definition of layered.

**690-382-0400**

**Application for Modification of Certificate of Registration**

Each application for modification of a certificate of registration shall be prepared in ink or ~~printed~~ typewritten on a form provided by the Department. Applications shall contain the following minimum information concerning the certificate of registration and any appurtenant water right or permit, if applicable:

- (1) Applicant's name, mailing address, email address, if available, and telephone number.
- (2) Type of change proposed.
- (3) Name appearing on the certificate of registration.
- (4) Certificate of registration number for the registration to be modified.
- (5) Water right certificate, permit, or certificate of registration numbers, as applicable, for any layered water uses subject to transfer, permits, or certificates of registration, pursuant to OAR 690-382-0200 and OAR 690-382-0300(2).
- (6) Source of water as described on the certificate of registration.
- (7) ~~Tentative~~ Date of priority.
- (8) The ~~authorized-existing~~ recognized ~~registered~~ and proposed point(s) of appropriation located accurately in reference to a public land survey corner, if applicable.
- (9) The ~~authorized-existing~~ recognized ~~registered~~ and proposed use of water, if applicable.
- (10) The ~~authorized-existing~~ registered and proposed place of use identified by its location within the public land survey and tax lot number, if applicable.
- (11) A map, which need not be prepared by a certified water right examiner, prepared pursuant to meeting the standards in OAR Chapter 690, -Division 30580-3100, as well as the following criteria, except it need not be prepared by a water rights examiner:-
  - (a) Horizontal field accuracy shall be consistent with standard surveying practices for the purpose of locating and quantifying water rights.
  - (b) If the proposed modification involves changes in place of use or character of use for more than three layered, as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(4), ~~water rights~~ certificate of registration, a separate map shall be provided for each water right.
  - (c) The location of each existing registered and proposed point of appropriation.
  - (d) For a change in point of appropriation that does not also include a change in place of use, identification of the lands to be served by the proposed point of appropriation. If the proposed point of appropriation is not intended to serve the entire certificate of registration, the specific lands to be served shall be identified and the number of registered acres to be served by the new point of appropriation shall be listed.
  - (e) For a change in place of use or character of use, the location of the existing registered and proposed place of use of the water. If the application is for irrigation, nursery use, cranberry use,



or other similar uses, the place of use indicated on the map shall be shaded or hachured and shall show the number of acres in each quarter-quarter section, government lot, or quarter-quarter section as projected within government lots, donation land claims, or other recognized public land survey subdivisions. If the ~~water right~~ certificate of registration involved in the proposed modification has multiple tentative priority dates or uses, the lands to be served by each tentative priority date and on which each use is proposed must be separately identified.

(f) The location of any part of the certificate of registration not involved in the proposed modification. For modifications involving less than 67 percent of the entire place of use of the certificate of registration, the map shall include at least the location of the portions of the registration not involved in the proposed modification which are included in the same quarter-quarter sections as the proposed modification. The applicant shall have the burden of proving the proposed modification involves less than 67 percent of the entire place of use of the certificate of registration. However, the Department may require a greater portion of the certificate of registration or the entire certificate of registration to be mapped, if necessary to make a determination of potential injury.

(g) The location of property lines for the property involved in the modification, in the vicinity of the modification. For modification of municipal, quasi-municipal, and other similar certificates of registration, the property lines need not be shown; however, the service area boundaries shall be indicated.

(12) A Land Use Information Form as outlined in the Department's Land Use Planning Procedures Guide completed by the affected local government with information sufficient to assess compatibility with the acknowledged comprehensive plan, except for those modifications that meet the following four requirements:

(a) Where existing registered and proposed water uses would be located entirely within lands zoned for exclusive farm use as provided in ORS 215.203 or within irrigation districts;

(b) That involve changes in place of use only;

(c) That do not involve the placement or modification of structures including but not limited to water diversion, impoundment, or distribution facilities, water wells, and well houses; and

(d) That involve irrigation water uses only.

(13) For a change in point of appropriation, copies of water well reports for the authorized existing registered and proposed point of appropriation. If water well reports are not available, a description of the construction of each well, including but not limited to, well depth, static water level, casing size, and any other necessary information to establish the ground-water body developed or proposed to be developed.

(14) A listing of the names and mailing addresses of:

(a) All affected local governments, including but not limited to, county, city, municipal corporations, and tribal governments; and

(b) Any district in which the affected registration is located or that serves the registration and any district in which the affected registration would be located or that would serve the registration after the proposed modification.

(15) An oath that the information contained in the application is true and accurate.

(16) The following information related to the authority of the applicant to pursue the proposed modification:

(a) A signed statement that the applicant understands that, upon receipt of the ~~draft preliminary determination~~ initial review described in OAR 690-382-~~05500700(4)~~ and prior to Department recognition of the modification, the applicant will be required to provide the landownership information and evidence identified in 690-382-~~070550(65)~~ to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the modification;

(b) A statement affirming that the applicant is a municipality as defined in ORS 540.510(3)(b) and that the ~~right~~ certificate of registration is in the name of the municipality or a predecessor; or

(c) Documentation that the applicant is an entity with the authority to condemn property and is acquiring by condemnation the property to which the certificate of registration proposed for modification is appurtenant. Such an entity may only apply for recognition of a modification under this subsection if it has filed a condemnation action to acquire the property and deposited the funds with the court as required by ORS 35.265. Such an entity need not obtain the consent or authorization for the change from any other person or entity.

(17) The signature of the applicant, and if an entity, the title of the person signing the form.

(18) The appropriate fee required under ORS 537.610 as follows:

(a) For examination of an application to only change the place of use under a certificate of registration, ~~\$70 percent of the amount allowed in ORS 537.610~~ \$75.

(b) For examination of all other applications to modify a certificate of registration, ~~the maximum amount allowed in ORS 537.610~~ \$1,250.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, 537.610, ~~540.531~~ and Or. Laws 2025, ch 570, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, Or. Laws 2025, ch 282, Or. Laws 2025, ch 570, and HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws), Or. Laws 2025, ch 575.

**History:**

WRD 6-2014, f. 11-25-14, cert. ef. 1-1-15

WRD 8-2009, f. 12-8-09, cert. ef. 12-15-09

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 282, section 2 provisions concerning allowance for electronic documentation, (b), require the email address, if available, of the applicant(s), (c) add greater clarity as it relates to when it is allowable to include more than one certificate of registration in a single groundwater registration modification

application, (d) better align with ORS 537.610, as it relates to referring to the tentative priority date for a right to appropriate ground water under a certificate of registration, (e) provide general clarifications, including to differentiate between what is claimed in the certificate of registration and authorized by the court under a future adjudication and decree, as it relates to point(s) of appropriation, place of use, and character of water use, (f) refer to the standards in OAR Chapter 690, Division 305 for greater clarity and consistency in mapping requirements across water right transactions, (g) specify the supplemental mapping requirements that are similar to OAR 690-380-3100 but use terminology appropriate for certificates of registration, (h) require that the application contain the information necessary for the Department to comply with its obligations under ORS 197.180, (i) update document terminology, as it relates to issuance of an initial review, and (j) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 570, section 3 with respect to OWRD water right transaction fee increases in rule: update the fee amounts here using the same ratio as previously in the rules – this would mean - \$1,900 (70% of Max Fee) for a POU change only; and \$2,730 for all other changes/combo of changes.

#### **690-382-0450**

##### **Existing Documentation of Modifications**

If documentation of a modification under a groundwater registration was on file with the Department prior to July 22, 2005, the Department shall provide an application for recognition of the modification described in the notice priority with respect to processing other applications for recognition of groundwater registration modifications. An application filed under OAR 690-382-0400 may incorporate by reference information about the modification that is on file with the Department.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**History:**

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

#### **690-382-0500**

##### **Fee Refunds**

If an applicant for a modification to change the point of appropriation abandons the original well identified in the claim according to well construction standards within one year of the Department's recognition of the modification, the applicant may request a refund of \$100 of the fee paid under OAR 690-382-0400(18)(b).

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**History:**

WRD 1-2009, f. & cert. ef. 6-18-09

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**690-382-0550****Completeness Review and Initial Review**

(1) On receipt of an application for modification, the Department shall review the application to determine if all fees have been paid and the applicant has included the information required by OAR 690-382-0400.

(2) If the Department determines that the application does not include the required information, the Department shall return the application and any fees to the applicant along with a written description of the deficiencies in the application.

(3) If the Department determines the application is complete and all fees have been paid, the Department shall file the application and undertake an initial review of the application that includes an assessment of whether:

(a) The proposed modification would result in enlargement, as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(2);

(b) The proposed modification would result in a state Scenic Waterway not-receiving less water than previously available water during periods in which streamflows are less than the quantities determined by the Department to be necessary to meet the requirements of ORS 390.835;

(c) The proposed modification would result in injury as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(3); and

(d) Any other requirements for applicable to registration modifications are met.

(4) For an initial review that indicates a modification application is not consistent with the approval criteria for recognition outlined in OAR 690-382-1000(1) and should not be recognized, the initial review shall:

(a) Describe any inconsistencies with the approval criteria for recognition; and

(b) Identify any conditions or restrictions that, if included in the order recognizing the modification, would address the inconsistencies.

(5) Upon completion of the initial review, the Department shall provide by electronic means, or if requested by regular mail, a copy of the initial review to notify the applicant of its preliminary determinations, identify any outstanding information that is necessary to continue processing the application and allow the applicant 30 days from the date of notice to:

(a) Notify the Department to stop processing the application; or

(b) Notify the Department to continue processing the application and provide any outstanding information to the Department including, but not limited to:

(A) Amending the application to address any issues or deficiencies identified by the Department in the initial review; and

(B) Submitting documentation to satisfy the requirements of sections (6) and (7) of this rule, as applicable.

(6) Upon receipt of the initial review, an applicant other than an entity that meets the criteria described in OAR 690-382-0400(16)(b) or (c) shall submit the following:

(a) A report of ownership information as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(6) for the land to which the registration is appurtenant;

(b) A copy of any water right conveyance agreement(s) for the land to which the registration is appurtenant; and

(c) If the applicant is not both the person named on the certificate of registration or the assignee and the owner of the lands to which the registration is appurtenant as identified in the report of ownership information, documentation to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the modification, which shall include:

(A) Notarized statements consenting to the modification by all persons, other than the applicant, who are named on the certificate of registration or identified as landowners in the report of ownership information;

(B) If interest in the registration has been conveyed, a notarized statement consenting to the modification by the person or authorized representatives of an entity to whom the interest in the certificate of registration has been conveyed as identified in a water right conveyance agreement; or

(C) Other documentation demonstrating that the applicant is authorized to pursue the modification.

(7) The report of ownership information required under subsection (6)(a) of this rule must:

(a) Be prepared no earlier than three months prior to the date of the initial review showing current ownership; or

(b) If the interest in the certificate of registration has been conveyed, be prepared within three months of the date the water right conveyance agreement was recorded or show ownership for the appurtenant land at the time the water right conveyance agreement was recorded.

(8) The Department shall close the file for the application and take no further action on the application if, within 30 days from the date of the notice described in section (5) of this rule, the applicant:

(a) does not notify the Department as provided in subsections (5)(a) and (b) of this rule;

(b) does not provide all outstanding information as provided in subsection (5)(b) of this rule; or

(c) notifies the Department to stop processing the application.

(9) The Department may allow an applicant up to 60 additional days to provide the outstanding information described in subsection (8)(b) of this rule if the applicant requests additional time

and the Department determines that the applicant is undertaking reasonable efforts to provide the information in a timely manner to the Department.

(10) The initial review shall constitute the notification required under OAR 690-382-0200 that there are layered water rights, permits, or registrations that must be addressed prior to recognition of the modification.

(11) If the applicant amends the application or provides additional information in support of approval of the application, the Department shall revise the initial review or incorporate the amendments into the proposed final order, as appropriate.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532

**Rule Summary:** This new section of rule is adopted to (a) make a change in document terminology, as it relates to the initial review, (b) identify processing steps that align with initial review processing steps for other transfer types, (c) implement Or Laws 2025, chapter 282, section 2, provisions concerning allowance for electronic documentation, (d) correct reference to another rule, (e) include language formerly located in OAR 690-382-0600 that pertains to the completeness review process now located in this rule and to make clear that an application is not complete if not all fees have been paid, (f) include language formerly located in OAR 690-382-0700 that pertains to the initial review process now located in this rule, and (g) add language to allow for processing efficiency when appropriate as it relates to application amendments. This rule is also amended to clarify that any other requirements for groundwater registration modifications refers only to those requirements “applicable to” groundwater registration modifications.

## **690-382-0600**

### **Request for Comments**

~~(1) On receipt of an application for modification, the Department shall review the application to determine if the applicant has included the information required by OAR 690-382-0400.~~

~~(2) If the Department determines that the application does not include the required information, the Department shall return the application and any fees to the applicant along with a written description of the deficiencies in the application.~~

~~(3) If the Department determines the application is complete, the Department shall file the application and~~ (1) If, within 30 days from the date of the Department’s notification to the applicant described in OAR 690-382-0550(5) or an additional time period allowed under OAR 690-382-0550(9), the applicant notifies the Department to proceed with the application and provides any outstanding information necessary to continue processing the application, the Department shall proceed with processing the application and shall request written public comments on the application:

(a) By publication in the Department’s weekly public notice published by the Department; and

(b) By ~~regular mail~~ notification by electronic means, unless the recipient has requested mailing, or with the consent of the recipient, by electronic means to each affected local government and irrigation district identified by the applicant pursuant to OAR 690-382-0400(14).

~~(2)(4)~~ The request for comments shall provide a period of at least 30 days for interested persons to comment on the application.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~, Or. Laws 2025, ch 282.

**History:**

WRD 1-2012, f. 1-31-12, cert. ef. 2-1-12

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** The rule is amended to (a) remove language related to the initial review that is now located under OAR 690-382-0550, (b) identify processing steps that align with applicant response to the initial review processing steps for other transfer types, and (c) implement Or Laws 2025, chapter 282, section 2, provisions concerning allowance for electronic documentation.

**690-382-0700**

**~~Preliminary Determination~~ Proposed Final Order**

(1) After the conclusion of the public comment period described in OAR 690-382-0600~~(2)(4)~~, the Department shall:

~~(a) prepare~~ Issue a ~~preliminary determination proposed final order indicating of~~ whether the modification should be recognized, taking into account comments received in response to the notice provided under OAR 690-382-0600 and the considerations described in section (2) of this rule; and

~~(b) Give notice of the modification application and proposed final order in the manner described in OAR 690-382-0800.~~

(2) The Department's ~~preliminary determination proposed final order~~ shall ~~include an assessment of conclude~~ whether the application is consistent with the following approval criteria for recognition:

(a) The proposed modification would not result in enlargement as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(2);

(b) The proposed modification would not result in a state Scenic Waterway ~~not~~ receiving less water than previously available ~~water~~ during periods in which streamflows are less than the quantities determined by the Department to be necessary to meet the requirements of ORS 390.835;



(c) The proposed modification would not result in injury as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(3); and

(d) Any other requirements for applicable to registration modifications are met.

(3) For a ~~preliminary determination~~ proposed final order that indicates that an application should not be recognized because it is not consistent with the approval criteria for recognition outlined in section (2) of this rule, the ~~preliminary determination~~ proposed final order shall:

(a) Describe the basis for the Department's conclusions; and

(b) Identify any conditions or restrictions that, if included in the order recognizing the modification, would allow recognition of the modification.

~~(4) The Department shall provide a copy of the draft preliminary determination to the applicant and provide the applicant a period of at least 30 days to amend the application to address any issues identified by the Department in the preliminary determination, including the quantity of water to be included in the modification, or to withdraw the application.~~

~~(5) Upon receipt of the draft preliminary determination, an applicant other than an entity that meets the criteria described in OAR 690-382-0400(16)(b) or (c) shall submit the following information:~~

~~(a) A report of ownership information as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(67) for the land to which the certificate of registration is appurtenant;~~

~~(b) A copy of any water right conveyance agreement(s) for the land to which the certificate of registration is appurtenant; and~~

~~(c) If the applicant is not both the person named on the certificate of registration or the assignee and the owner of the lands to which the registration is appurtenant as identified in the report of ownership information, documentation to demonstrate that the applicant is authorized to pursue the modification, which shall include:~~

~~(A) Notarized statements consenting to the modification by all persons, other than the applicant, who are named on the certificate of registration or identified as landowners in the report of ownership information;~~

~~(B) Notarized statement consenting to the modification by the person or authorized representatives of an entity to whom the interest in the certificate of registration has been conveyed as identified in a water right conveyance agreement; or~~

~~(C) Other documentation demonstrating that the applicant is authorized to pursue the modification.~~

~~(6) The report of ownership information required under subsection (5)(a) of this rule must:~~

~~(a) Be prepared no earlier than three months prior to the date of the draft preliminary determination showing current ownership; or~~



~~(b) If the interest in the certificate of registration has been conveyed be prepared within three months of the date the water right conveyance agreement was recorded or show ownership for the appurtenant land at the time the water right conveyance agreement was recorded.~~

~~(7) The draft preliminary determination shall constitute the notification required under OAR 690-382-0200 that there are other layered rights, permits, or registrations that must be addressed prior to recognition of the modification.~~

~~(8) If the applicant amends the application or provides additional information in support of approval of the application, the Department shall revise the draft preliminary determination as appropriate.~~

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, 540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, 540.505-540.532, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws), Or. Laws 2025, ch 575,

**History:**

WRD 1-2009, f. & cert. ef. 6-18-09

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 282, with respect to change in document terminology, (b) provide general clarity as it relates to the approval criteria and notice of the proposed final order, (c) correct references to other rules, and (d) remove language related to the now obsolete draft preliminary determination, but that still applies to an initial review, so it was moved to OAR 690-382-0550. This rule is also amended to clarify that any other requirements for groundwater registration modifications refers only to those requirements “applicable to” groundwater registration modifications.

**690-382-0800**

**Notice of ~~Preliminary Determination~~Proposed Final Order**

~~(1) After the time for the applicant to respond to the~~Upon issuance of the Department's ~~draft preliminary determination~~proposed final order, the Department shall: ~~issue the preliminary determination~~

(a) Send a copy of the proposed final order to the applicant by registered or certified mail in accordance with ORS 183.415; and

(b) Give notice of the application to modify the registration and the ~~preliminary determination~~proposed final order:

(A)(a) By publication in the Department's weekly public notice; and

~~(b) Except as provided in section (5) of this rule, by publication in a newspaper having a general circulation in the area in which the certificate of registration(s) is located for a period of at least three weeks and not less than one publication each week for applications received by the Department prior to January 1, 2012, but for applications received after January 1, 2012, for a period of at least two weeks and not less than one publication each week, and~~

~~(B)(e) By sending by electronic means, or by regular mail if the recipient has requested mailing, a copy of the proposed final order by regular registered or certified mail to the applicant and by electronic means, unless the recipient has requested mailing, or with the consent of the recipient, by electronic means a copy of the preliminary determination and notice to the applicant and the notice to~~ each person who submitted comments under OAR 690-382-0600.

(2) The notice shall include the following information about the application:

(a) The type of modification proposed and any amendments to the application that were made subsequent to the notice required OAR 690-382-0600;

(b) The locations of the applicant's existing registered and proposed water uses, the amount of water allowed under the registration to be modified, and the authorized source for the registration;

(c) The registration and certificate numbers;

(d) The applicant's name and address;

(e) A statement that any person may file, jointly or severally, with the Department a protest ~~or standing statement~~ within 30-45 days after publication in the Department's weekly public notice the date of final publication of the notices prescribed by subsections (1)(a) and (b) of this rule, whichever is later; and

(f) A summary of the Department's ~~preliminary determination~~proposed final order;

(g) A statement of the opportunity for a person to file a request for party status pursuant to OAR 690-002.; and

~~(g) For a notice published in a newspaper, the date on which the last publication will occur.~~

~~(3) The cost of publication in a newspaper shall be paid by the applicant in advance of the publication. The applicant shall include payment for the cost of publication including the direct cost of the notice and indirect costs which may not exceed twenty (20) percent of the direct costs.~~

~~(4) On issuance of the preliminary determination, the Department shall send by regular mail, or with the consent of the recipient, by electronic means to the applicant a copy of the preliminary determination and, if publication in a newspaper is required, a copy of the notice and a request for payment for the cost of publishing the notice. The Department shall allow the applicant a period of not fewer than 30 days after the request for payment of publication costs to submit the required funds. The Department shall submit the notice to the newspaper within 15 days after receiving the payment.~~

~~(5) No notice by publication in a newspaper is required for:~~

~~(a) A change in place of use; or~~

~~(b) Applications for a change in the point of appropriation of less than one-fourth mile and where there are no intervening wells between the documented point of appropriation and the proposed point of appropriation that is listed in the modification application.~~

~~(6) The Department shall not take action on an application prior to the end of the protest period described in this rule.~~

~~(7) The Department may deny recognition of the modification if the applicant fails to pay in advance the costs of publication of the newspaper notice within the period allowed under section (3) of this rule.~~

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~ Or. Laws 2025, ch 282 and ch 575.

**History:**

WRD 1-2012, f. 1-31-12, cert. ef. 2-1-12

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to (a) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575, with respect to change in document terminology, newspaper notice, requests for party status, and setting the standard 45-day protest period, (b) implement Or Laws ch 282 (2025) with respect to provisions for allowance for electronic documents, (c) remove redundant language with respect to notice of the proposed final order, and (d) provide general clarifications.

**690-382-0900**

**Protests and ~~Requests for~~ Hearings**

(1) Protests of, **requests for party status**, and contested case proceedings concerning proposed final orders are governed by Or. Laws, Chapter 575 (2025), Section 2 and 3 and OAR Chapter 690, Division 2. Proposed final orders shall become final if no protest is filed or by default as provided in OAR 690-002-0235.

(2) Within 45 days after the publication in the Department's weekly public notice, any person may file a protest against the proposed final order.

~~(1) Within 30 days after the date of last publication of the newspaper notice or the Department's weekly notice as prescribed by OAR 690-382-0800, whichever is later, any person may file, jointly or severally, with the Department, a protest or standing statement.~~

~~(2) A person filing a protest must comply with the provisions of OAR 690-002-0030 and include the fee required under ORS 536.050.~~

~~(3) An applicant filing a protest under this rule must provide the affidavit required under OAR 690-382-0800(3) to the Department prior to or concurrent with the filing of the protest.~~

~~(4) Each person submitting a protest must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments supporting the person's position by the close of the protest period. Failure to raise a reasonably ascertainable issue in a protest or failure to provide sufficient specificity to afford the Department an opportunity to respond to the issue may preclude consideration of the issue during the hearing.~~

~~(5) The Department shall provide to persons who have filed standing statements as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(8) notice of any differences between the Department's preliminary determination and the final order, notice of a hearing on the application under OAR 137-003-0535, and an opportunity to request limited party status or party status in the hearing.~~

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~, and Or. Laws 2025, ch 575.

**History:**

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 sections 2 and 3 relating to protests, requests for party status and by incorporating the standard 45-day protest period.

**690-382-1000**

**Final Order on Recognition of Modifications**

(1) An application for modification of a certificate of registration shall be recognized if the Department determines that:

(a) The proposed modification would not result in enlargement as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(2);

(b) The proposed modification would not result in a state Scenic Waterway receiving less water than previously available during periods in which streamflows are less than the quantities determined by the Department to be necessary to meet the requirements of ORS 390.835;

(c) The proposed modification would not result in injury as defined in OAR 690-382-0100(3); and

(d) Any other requirements for modification of the certificate of registration are met.

~~(2) Except as otherwise provided in OAR 690-382-0800(7), the Department shall issue a final order consistent with the preliminary determination described in 690-382-0700 if no protests are received under 690-382-0900.~~

~~(2)(3)~~ Issuance of the final order recognizing changes in character of use or place of use shall terminate the right to use water for the character of use or place of use under the original certificate of registration or a previously recognized modification of a registration.

(3) If no protest of a proposed final order is timely received, as a matter of law, the proposed final order shall become a final order on the date that is 33 days after the close of the time period for submitting a protest, with no further action required by the Department.

(4) Not more than 33 days after the close of the time period for submitting a protest, the Department may withdraw a proposed final order for reconsideration and issuance of a superseding proposed final order.

~~(5)(4)~~ The final order recognizing a modification of a certificate of registration may not be construed as a final determination of the right to appropriate ground-water under the registration or modification. Such a determination will occur in an adjudication proceeding under ORS 537.670 to 537.695.

~~(6)(5)~~ A copy of the final order and all supporting documentation will be filed with the original request for registration and made available at the time of adjudication under ORS 537.670 to 537.695.

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, 540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws), Or. Laws 2025, ch 575.

**History:**

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to (a) provide general clarification as it relates to the final order on recognition of modifications, and (b) implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 section 3 by removing protest requirements that have been replaced by Or Laws 2025, ch 575, by removing existing language concerning issuing a final order if not timely protests are filed, and by adding language providing that, if no timely protests are filed, a proposed final order becomes a final order by operation of law unless timely withdrawn by the Department.

**690-382-1100**

**Hearings**

~~(1) If a protest is filed under OAR 690-382-0900, the Department shall, within 60 days after the close of the period for receiving protests, determine whether to:~~

~~(a) Issue a final order that is consistent with the preliminary determination described in OAR 690-382-0700;~~

~~(b) Issue a final order that is not consistent with the preliminary determination described in OAR 690-382-0700 that addresses any significant disputes raised in the protest; or~~

~~(c) Schedule a contested case hearing to resolve any significant disputes raised in the protest.~~

~~(2) Notice and conduct of the hearing shall be under the applicable provisions of ORS 183.310 to 183.550, pertaining to contested cases, and the hearing shall be held in the area where the rights are located unless all parties and persons who filed a protest stipulate otherwise.~~

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, 537.610, 540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws), Or. Laws, Chapter 575 (2025)

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, 540.505-540.532, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws), Or. Laws, Chapter 575 (2025)

**History:**

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is repealed to implement Or Laws 2025, ch 575 sections 2 and 3 by removing protest and contested case hearing notice and conduct requirements that have been replaced by Or Laws 2025, ch 575 and are now referenced in OAR 690-382-0900(1).

**690-382-1200****Compatibility with Acknowledged Comprehensive Plans**

(1) The Department and Commission shall meet requirements established in OAR 690-005-0045 (Standards for Goal Compliance and Compatibility with Acknowledged Comprehensive Plans) in evaluating and taking action on applications for certificate of registration modifications except as specified in OAR 690-005-0025 and 690-380-~~0070~~3000(139).

(2) In the event of a land use dispute, as defined in OAR 690-005-0015 (Definitions), the Department shall follow procedures provided in 690-005-0040 (Resolution of Land Use Dispute).

~~(3) The Director may presume that the certificate modification would be allowed by, and compatible with comprehensive plans unless an affected local government informs the Director otherwise within 30 days after the date shown on the notice issued pursuant to OAR 690-382-0800.~~

**Statutory/Other Authority:** ORS 536.025; 536.027, and 537.610, ~~540.531, HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**Statutes/Other Implemented:** ORS 537.610, and 540.505-540.532, ~~HB 2123 (ch. 614 & 2005 Oregon Water Laws)~~

**History:**

WRD 5-2006, f. & cert. ef. 10-6-06

**Rule Summary:** This rule is amended to correct a rule reference, as OAR 690-380-0070 does not exist, and the applicable information is in OAR 690-380-3000(19). This rule is amended to remove provisions that allowed the Director to, in the absence of the necessary land use information, presume that a proposed certificate of registration modification is compatible with the comprehensive land use plans of affected local governments, because the presumption in OAR 690-382-1200(3) does not comply with the Department's obligations under ORS 197.180.