



Static Water Level Reporting Requirements

Since the late 1990s, most groundwater permits contain a condition requiring annual measurement and reporting of static water level (SWL) measurements. Compliance with conditions such as this is required for legal use of water.

What is a static water level?

A SWL is the depth from land surface to the water table in a well, when the water level is stable and there is no pumping influence.

Why is this requirement important?

When collected over time, SWLs can help us understand local groundwater conditions and trends, including where groundwater may be declining or available for allocation. This data helps the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and water users monitor and manage groundwater resources across the state. With approximately 3,600 points of appropriation required to measure and report their SWL, this data is critical to understanding groundwater level trends throughout the state.



What if I do not comply?

Failure to report may lead to enforcement, which can include restrictions on use, civil penalties (a fine), or cancellation of the permit.



Static Water Level Reporting Requirements – How to Comply

1. Review your water right for your specific requirements

Search for your water right in [Water Rights Information System \(WRIS\)](#) and open the permit document in the Processing History tab. Your water right outlines when to take the measurement, how many years to report, who is qualified to measure water levels, and what information should be submitted.

2. Hire a qualified professional to take the measurement

Each permit is different, but most require the measurement to be taken by a certified water rights examiner (CWRE), registered professional geologist, registered professional engineer, licensed well constructor, or licensed pump installer.

3. Submit the measurement to OWRD

Fill out the online form for each point of appropriation where a SWL measurement is required. Submit the measurement in the timeframe required in your water right.

Additional Resources

Find more information online at
<https://owrd.info/staticwaterlevel>

Contact us: 971-720-0864 or
OWRD.WaterLevelReporting@water.oregon.gov

