

Oregon OSHA, 350 Winter St. NE, Room 430, Salem, Oregon 97301-3878

For immediate release:
June 9, 2011

Contact information:
Melanie Mesaros, 503-947-7428
melanie.l.mesaros@state.or.us

Jefferson County joins Oregon's e-permitting program *Building contractors can submit plans, print permits, and track projects*

(Salem) – Jefferson County has become the first county in Oregon to join the state's full-service e-permitting program. The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, administers e-permitting, which allows contractors to submit plans, track projects, and buy various permits online. The cities of Springfield and Lebanon are already using the full-service program.

The Building Codes Division is working to bring 16 other jurisdictions on board with the full-service program, including Lane County, Portland, and Lake Oswego. The program has the capacity to serve all 134 local building departments in Oregon.

"We've already seen positive results in the cities that have the full-service program," said Patrick Allen, acting administrator of the Building Codes Division. "We're building momentum to adopt this system across Oregon and make it easier for contractors to do business."

With full-service e-permitting, licensed contractors can access many more services, including:

- Purchasing a full range of permits including permits for the construction of new buildings
- Submitting electronic plans for review
- Receiving correction notices
- Printing their permit
- Tracking the permit progress
- Receiving their Certificate of Occupancy

In addition, licensed architects and engineers can submit applications, including documents for new buildings.

"I have used e-permitting in the past and find it fast, very convenient, and a time saver," said Nancy Carlson, office manager at Culver Electric in Madras. "I will continue to use it in the future."

E-permitting not only saves time for contractors, it reduces the building department's workload because applications filled out online are immediately deposited into the department's system.

“The Jefferson County Building Department has been entertaining the idea of using a computer program to track building permits for quite some time. We are excited to finally have such a program available to us,” said Chet Singleton, building official for Jefferson County. “It will allow us to better serve our customers and greatly reduce the paper trail required for application intake, inspection scheduling, reports, plan reviews and permit issuance.”

E-permitting began in 2005 as part of then Gov. Ted Kulongoski’s regulatory streamlining effort. Since then, 34 jurisdictions have signed on to the “basic services” program, which allows contractors to buy simple, non-plan review permits online. To date, more than 90,000 permit applications have been processed online through BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov.

###

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon’s largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.