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Oregon City joins BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov

(Salem) — This week Oregon City joins six tri-county building departments in offering online permitting to area contractors. This service will be available on BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov, the e-permitting Web site hosted by the Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division, which also provides online permitting for the cities of Portland, Hillsboro, Beaverton, and Milwaukie and Clackamas and Washington counties.

This e-permitting project is one of Governor Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiatives.

"E-permitting is an important part of our ongoing effort to streamline the regulatory processes and show our commitment to a strong economy by making Oregon an even better place to do business," said Governor Kulongoski.

The state launched www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov in late May 2005 as a pilot program in the tri-county region. It allows contractors to apply and pay for multiple over-the-counter electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits from multiple Portland metro-area building departments through one Web site. The site is popular with contractors, who say it saves them time and money.

"We have used it since day one," said Sherri Poole at AllPro Electric in Portland. "I can tell you that we use it whenever we can. It is such a time saver."

So far, more than 5,000 permits have been purchased through the site.

Using the site, contractors may:

- Obtain over-the-counter plumbing, mechanical, and electrical permits from the participating jurisdictions.
- Purchase minor labels (permits for minor electrical and plumbing installations) that can be used anywhere in the state.
- Locate the correct building department for a project by entering an address in the "Address Locator."
- Link to permit forms and contact information in the pilot jurisdictions.

Oregon City is eager to offer e-permitting services to customers.

"As a code official concerned with providing quality customer service, online permitting was a logical choice for our department," said Guy Sperb, building official in Oregon City. "Being able to provide better service for the customer made this an easy decision."

The state's Building Codes Division is working to expand the successful pilot to jurisdictions in other regions around the state. Later this year, the cities of Sherwood, Eugene, Springfield, Salem, and Marion and Lane County will also offer permitting services through the site. BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov is one of two such e-permitting Web sites providing regional services for multiple jurisdictions (the other is in the Seattle area), and the first program nationally to provide such services on a statewide basis.

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