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Eugene, Springfield, and Lane Co. join state's online permitting site *Oregon now first in nation to offer services in multiple regions*

(Salem) — Building contractors doing business in Eugene, Springfield, and Lane County can now apply and pay for plumbing, mechanical, and electrical permits at any hour of the day, seven days a week via the state's e-permitting Web site, BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov. The Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division hosts the site.

The addition of these three jurisdictions makes Oregon the first state in the nation to offer e-permitting services in multiple regions. The cities of Portland, Hillsboro, Oregon City, Beaverton, and Milwaukie, and Clackamas and Washington counties currently provide services through the site. The city of Medford comes on board Dec. 1, with Salem, Corvallis, Sherwood, Lake Oswego, Happy Valley, Cannon Beach, and Marion County slated to join in early 2007.

The e-permitting program is one of Governor Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiatives. "E-permitting saves businesses time and money," said the Governor. "Our efforts to create a more competitive business climate means Oregon companies can thrive and create a greater number of good wage jobs."

Both participating local governments and contractors praise the Web site and its services. City and county building officials enjoy providing enhanced customer service and contractors report that the site saves them time and money. By using the site, contractors can:

- 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.

The state's Building Codes Division launched BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov as a pilot project in the Portland tri-county area in May 2005. Just last month, the state announced plans to expand the system statewide by including all Oregon jurisdictions and by offering more comprehensive services to contractors such as reviewing building plans online and scheduling building inspections.

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The Building Codes Division provides building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to the construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon. The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory agency. The department administers state laws and rules, and protects consumers and workers in the areas of workers' compensation, occupational safety and health, financial services, insurance, building codes, and targeted contracting opportunities for small business. For more information, visit www.dcb.s.oregon.gov.