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Cannon Beach adds new e-permitting services

(Cannon Beach) — Beginning today, contractors can apply and pay for simple mechanical permits from the City of Cannon Beach through the state's e-permitting Web site, www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov.

The City of Cannon Beach's Building Department joins 11 other building departments across Oregon that are partnering with the state to offer online permitting. The state's site — which is administered through the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division — allows contractors to apply and pay for over-the-counter mechanical, plumbing, and electrical permits, any time of the day or night, any day of the week. The city is offering mechanical permits through the site at this time, and plans to add plumbing permits in the near future.

"We're very pleased that we have another service to offer area contractors," said Tim Lindsey, Cannon Beach building official. "E-permitting will save our customers valuable time and money, as well as city staff time spent processing permits. It is our hope that other coastal communities will soon join us to allow contractors one-stop permit shopping for any location on the north coast."

The e-permitting program is part of Gov. Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiative. House Bill 2405, introduced at the request of the governor during this legislative session, would expand the existing pilot program to create the nation's first comprehensive statewide e-building program. Such a program would allow contractors to conduct more building department activities, such as receiving plan approval and scheduling inspections, online, morning, noon, and night, with any city or county in the state.

Other building departments that are participating in www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov include seven jurisdictions in the Portland metropolitan area, three in Lane County, and the City of Medford. Salem, Marion County, Redmond, Lake Oswego, and Tigard are just a few of the jurisdictions that are in the process of joining.

Both the participating jurisdictions and contractors praise the e-permitting program. City and county building officials enjoy providing enhanced customer service, and contractors report that the site saves them time and the hassle of faxing forms and driving to the permit office.

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, 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. DCBS, Oregon's largest regulatory agency, 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.dcbsoregon.gov.