

H₂Orlando

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Engineer Takes E-z Route to E-Permitting

Like most of us, Dave Reid likes to save time, and he likes to save money.

And like all of us, he's new to South Florida Water Management District's E-Permitting program. But already he's saving time. "And anything that's a time-savings is usually a cost-savings."

As a principle in the Kissimmee Engineering firm Franklin, Hart and Reid, Dave is a former SFWMD permit reviewer who strives to expedite the process.

Reid said he didn't single-handedly climb the learning curve on E-Permitting. "I dedicated a secretary to that. I told her to go on-line and figure this out."

"We're dealing with new and different processes on an on-going basis and this is just another one."

Almost immediately, the firm realized it could save time submitting the permit.

Just hit the send button.

At Franklin, Hart and Reid, internal record-keeping has gone digital. An elec-

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Dave Reid,
Engineering consultant

tronically filed permit application fits neatly into that strategy. "Even I can find it faster if it's on my hard drive. And I'd guess that the younger guys are even

more attuned to that."

Asked why many of his fellow engineers are still submitting paper copies, Reid said many perceive a potential problem with signing and sealing the documents.

"I'll bet you that signing and sealing is 80 percent of the reason why more people aren't submitting electronically... It was a perceived problem but it didn't turn out to be a problem. I just said 'let's do it and see what happens.'

"And I'll tell you what the other 20 percent is. It's the way you have to pay for it."

Applicants can pay application fees with Visa, Master Card or an electronic check. Reid prefers American Express, but at this time the District does not have plans to include American Express among its payment options.

Test your permitting IQ

Each edition of the H₂Orlando includes a frequently asked permitting question, or common error in the applications reviewed by South Florida Water Management permitting staff. Test your skills by comparing your answer to the correct answer provided on Page 2.

This Month's Question:

The Environmental Resource Permit application asks for the Tax Parcel Identification Number. Why is that information necessary and what does the South Florida Water Management District do with this information?

Engineer Ed Yaun Named Orlando Division Director

Ed Yaun, the Orlando Service Center's Supervising Engineer for more than a decade, has been promoted.

Ed was named Director of the Orlando Regulation Division in a move to streamline and enhance service in the Environmental Resource Permitting program for the South Florida Water Management District.

"I congratulate Ed on his



promotion. It is well deserved. As a familiar face in this business, I'm confident applicants will continue to enjoy great customer service," said Service Center Director Tom Genovese.

With authority over all permit reviewers in the Orlando Service Center, Yaun will oversee all permitting efforts within the Service Center and coordinate permitting activities in Central Florida with the Regulation Department at District headquarters in West Palm Beach.

In an effort to add to the level of professionalism to the regulatory program districtwide, all service centers throughout the South Florida Water Management District hired a regulation division director.



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SFWMD Adopts Electronic Sign and Seal Process

South Florida Water Management District has implemented an electronic sign and seal solution using the method described in the Florida Administrative Weekly & Florida Administrative Code rule chapter 61G15, section 23.003 paragraph four. This solution was modeled after the solution embraced by the St. Johns River Water Management District.

Put simply, the verification process defined by 61G15-23.003 (4) FAC, states that electronic files may be signed and sealed by creating a "signature" file that contains the engineer's name and PE num-

ber, a brief overall description of the engineering documents, and a list of the electronic files to be sealed.

Each file in the list shall be identified by its file name using relative Uniform Resource Locators (URL) syntax. Each file shall have an authentication code defined as an SHA-1 message digest described in Federal Information Processing Standard Publication 180-1 "Secure Hash Standard."

A report shall be created that contains the engineer's name and PE number, a brief overall description of the engineering documents in question and the

authentication code of the signature file. This report shall be printed and manually signed, dated, and sealed by the professional engineer. The signature file is defined as sealed if its authentication code matches the authentication code on the printed, manually signed, dated and sealed report. Each electronic file listed in a sealed signature file is defined as sealed if the listed authentication code matches the file's computed authentication code.

A White Paper describing this process in greater detail is available by contacting Bill Graf at the Orlando Service Center.

Answer to This Month's Frequently Asked Permitting Question

Tax Parcel Identification Number Links Permit Applicant to Landowner

"I'd bet this question causes problems with at least 70 percent of our applications," said Engineer Mark Daron.

South Florida Water Management District ERP criteria states that a permit applicant must own the land or be in the process of acquiring the land on which the project is located. Normally that can be established by submitting a warranty deed or con-

tract to purchase. However, if the information on the property appraisers website conflicts with this information, the applicant will be asked to clarify and demonstrate ownership.

Problems also arise when a subsidiary to the company that owns the land applies for the permit.

To avoid this hiccup, the property owner or contract purchaser should apply for the permit.



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