

IGWA Bulletin



IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD PASSES 250,000 ACRE-FOOT MILESTONE FOR AQUIFER RECHARGE, EXPECTS TO REACH 370,00 ACRE- FEET THIS SPRING

Boise - (Feb. 16, 2018) - The Idaho Water Resource Board surpassed the 250,000 acre-foot milestone this week in terms of recharge flows going into the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) this winter.

The Board still expects to recharge as much as 370,000 acre-feet by spring, building upon the record of 317,000 acre-feet of ESPA recharge last year. The board has until mid-April or the beginning of irrigation season to send water flows into the ESPA under its winter water rights.

"It's imperative to recharge as much water as possible during these surplus water years," said Wesley Hipke, Recharge Project manager for the Board.

The Board has committed to recharging an average of 250,000 acre-feet of water into the ESPA each year to help restore the aquifer to sustainable levels. It has been over-drafted by about 200,000 acre-feet per year since the 1950s.

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JUMP (Jack's Urban Meeting Place) in downtown Boise hosted IGWA's 2018 convention on January 31 & February 1. The annual event, a gathering of old friends and new faces, returned to Boise this year. See more on page 17, 18 and 19.





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SAFE, RESPONSIBLE WATER INJECTION WILL BENEFIT IDAHO'S OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

By Mick Thomas
Oil and Gas Division Administrator
Idaho Department of Lands
OPINION



January 10, 2018

Having the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency oversee the use and disposal of fluids used in oil and gas production in Idaho, rather than the State, is the right move for the environment and the industry.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources recently announced that it would ask the EPA run the Class II injection program in Idaho, regulating disposal of water and other fluids pumped to the surface in the process of drilling for oil and gas.

Injecting the water back into the ground is the most economical disposal method being used in the United States, but Idaho is new to the industry and is the only hydrocarbon-producing state without a Class II program in place. That puts us at a significant disadvantage when competing to sell our oil and gas to national and international markets.

It's important to recognize that Idaho's geology is different from many other oil and gas producing states. Our hydrocarbon production occurs in porous rock "reservoirs." A hole is drilled down through the ground to reach the porous rock of those reservoirs. The process does not involve hydraulic fracturing in which fluids are injected into the rock and drawn back out with the hydrocarbons.

In the Payette Basin, wells yield hydrocarbons along with water. The hydrocarbons are separated and sold while the wastewater is trucked to evaporation ponds for disposal.

The goal of a Class II injection program is to enable the naturally occurring water that comes out of the well to be put back into the porous rock reservoir from where it came. There is no significant increase in pressure within the reservoir so the kind of seismic events sometimes associated with hydraulic fracturing are highly unlikely, and water chemistry will be carefully monitored by the State to ensure that quality standards are maintained.

Please visit our webpage at ogcc.idaho.gov to find presentations by the EPA, Water Resources, the Idaho Department of Lands and Idaho Department of Environmental Quality regarding the transfer process as well as a description of what a Class II program in Idaho would involve. You also can contact the Oil and Gas Division at Lands if you have any questions or would like additional information.

A vibrant oil and gas industry certainly can have a positive impact on Idaho's economy, and we are well positioned to take advantage of that opportunity thanks to the cooperative efforts of mineral rights owners, operators and the Idaho Legislature.

Mick Thomas, Oil and Gas Division Administrator, Idaho Department of Lands, was a guest speaker at IGWA's annual convention. His topic was "A New Vision for Idaho's Oil & Gas Commission".

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Safety & Compliance SOLUTIONS

SMOOTH OPERATIONS

Companies that have been subjected to a DOT compliance audit often describe the experience as similar to a root canal. However, a DOT review of your transportation safety program records and evaluation can be pain-free if your company's management team understands the regulations to which they are subject and what records the DOT expects to see.

If you haven't done so, develop policies and procedures to help your company stay ahead of the compliance game. Organization is crucial, but it doesn't need to be complicated. By applying administrative procedures (i.e., safety management controls), you can limit or do away with monetary penalties, reduce your liabilities and insurance costs. Everyone should play a part in records compliance. Something as simple as incomplete driver files or missing vehicle maintenance records can become an expensive headache.

If you are not sure what the DOT wants to see, or what they might see if they visited you, hire someone who once worked for the agency to come in and do a friendly visit and let you know where there are trouble areas.

For the last several years, Seth Uhlenkott has spoken at the IGWA annual convention. He left his job with the Idaho State Police and started a consulting business to help companies in many areas of compliance. From driver training and ELD's to self-auditing and building customized safety management programs, Safety & Compliance Solutions can help you to stay safe and compliant.

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NGWA Offers Resource on ELD Mandate Exemptions

As of December 18, 2017, the mandate to install electronic logging devices in commercial vehicles is in place. To ensure contractors are aware of the exemptions to the mandate, the Association prepared a postcard for you to download and reference at www.ngwa.org/Advocacy-Awareness/Documents/ELDpostcard.pdf. Please consider sharing with anyone who may be subject to or exempt from the mandate.

NGWA encourages any drivers who are operating under the exemptions to keep the document with them because there may be a learning curve with enforcement of this new mandate, and this postcard can serve as a helpful tool in answering any questions during an inspection. As a reminder, while fines and enforcement officially began today—December 18, 2017—out-of-service criteria association with compliance will not begin until April 1, 2018.

The ELD mandate will increase the cost of doing business for those subject to comply. However, NGWA hopes the tool will enable drivers to take advantage of the exemptions, if possible, and to avoid undue scrutiny during inspections.

New Certificate Program Addresses Ways to Improve Safety in Workplace

The National Ground Water Association has created its first online certificate program, Safe Practice in the Groundwater Industry: An NGWA Certificate Program. This NGWA online, on-demand certificate program addresses ways to improve safety in the workplace.

Historically there are three major loss areas in the groundwater industry:

- Materials handling
- Slips, trips, and falls
- Electrocution/electrical hazards.

This course addresses these three specific areas with the intent to:

- Inform employees of the hazards
- Increase awareness of the hazards
- Provide guidance on immediate actions to mitigate threats to safety.

When enrollees have completed all lessons, they take a 25-question test. The entire process, including the test, takes approximately three hours. Those who pass the test can then download their certificate.

Go to NGWA's website to learn more about the certificate program at www.ngwa.org/Events-Education/ondemand.

NGWA continued on page 10

A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT ON PFAS IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM NGWA

NGWA recently published *Groundwater and PFAS: State of Knowledge and Practice*, a guidance document on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The Association published the PFAS guidance document to assist members and other groundwater professionals who may be tasked with investigating the transport pathways and extent of PFAS in groundwater and surface water, assessing potential risks to receptors, or designing and constructing engineering controls to manage subsurface PFAS contamination.

The main purpose of the document is to summarize the current state of knowledge and practice regarding PFAS fate, transport, remediation, and treatment, recognizing that knowledge in this field is advancing. It also aims to summarize current technologies, methods, and field procedures being used to characterize sites and test remediation and treatment technologies.

The text is focused on characterization and treatment of PFAS in groundwater and soil. However, other media may need to be considered when conducting due diligence and all appropriate inquiries at potentially impacted properties.

This document is organized into eight sections. It was written so each section could stand alone from the others, if desired:

Section 1 gives an overview of the problem and summarizes the key takeaways.

Section 2 provides a glossary of key PFAS-related terminology.

Section 3 summarizes the chemistry and known human health and ecological impacts of PFAS.

Section 4 discusses PFAS fate and transport in the environment.

Section 5 discusses PFAS-specific field sampling technologies, methods, and procedures.

Section 6 discusses the legal and regulatory status of PFAS in the United States.

Section 7 discusses PFAS risk communication challenges and solutions.

Section 8 discusses PFAS remediation and treatment options.

NGWA members may log in and **download a complimentary version of this document** at https://my.ngwa.org/NC_Product?id=a183800000kbKF9AAM. The cost is \$53 for nonmembers.

A print version is also available for purchase in the online bookstore with NGWA members receiving a discount.

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COMMON SENSE NOT SO COMMON

My friends,

It was nice seeing you at the well driller's convention last month. I hope that you got a lot out of the meetings and all the CEC credits that you needed to maintain your certification.

If you attended any of the class discussions that I lead, you might remember I said over and over again that, "Common sense is not Common". That phrase might be a little bit simple, but as you look at how some of the workers do things around you, I hope you see what I was talking about. Almost every accident that I go to, where a piece of machinery is involved, there is an owner, co-worker, or boss who says, I don't know why he did that. We never do things that way! Or it's just common sense that you don't do that.

Today, I want to tell you about an incident that happened in Washington State. Don't worry about the state, it could happen to you neighbor. A 54-year-old skid steer loader operator died when he was pinned between the lift arms, cross bar, and the frame. The victim had 25 years of experience operating many types of equipment, including skid steer loaders. His employer was a site preparation subcontractor responsible for digging trenches for water pipes. He had been working at the job site for two weeks.

On the day of the incident, the site foreman sent the victim and another worker to get a skid steer loader to backfill trenches. The other worker gave the victim the key to the loader and told him the "dead-man" (safety interlock) switch for the lap bar was not working properly. This switch prevents the machine from starting unless the bar is in the "down" position. As the other worker was walking away, he heard the machine start. He turned around and saw the victim pinned between the lift arms cross bar and the loader's frame. The worker ran to the loader and tried to move the arms off the victim, but the controls did not respond. He called his supervisor and then 911. Several workers rushed to the scene and after multiple tries were able to extract the unconscious victim. He did not regain consciousness and died four days later.

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NEWS FEATURE

Learn More About Silica Exposure in the Workplace!

<http://info.midsouthoti.org/vpppa-region-6-video-0-0>

Approximately 2.3 million people in the U.S. are exposed to silica at work. Materials like sand, stone, concrete and mortar contain crystalline silica. It's also used to make products such as glass, ceramics, bricks and artificial stone.

Respirable crystalline silica – very small particles at least 100 times smaller than ordinary sand you might find on beaches and playgrounds – is created when cutting, sawing, grinding, drilling and crushing stone, rock, concrete and brick. Workers who inhale these crystalline silica particles are at increased risk of developing serious silica-related diseases, including silicosis (an incurable lung disease), lung cancer, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and kidney disease. To help mitigate this, OSHA requires employers to use engineering controls, such as ventilation and wet methods when cutting and sawing crystalline silica-containing materials.

The Region VI OSHA Office and Region VI OSHA Education Centers (Mid-South, OSU, TEEX and UTA) are offering a free presentation to raise awareness and understanding of silica.

The one-hour video will focus on:

- Background/Awareness
- Compliance Construction
- Compliance General Industry
- Best Practices

*This one-hour video is free of charge and will be available for viewing March 5-9. Please register to receive a link to the video by completing the form on this page.

NOTE: Once registered, participants will receive an email with instructions and a password to access the video.

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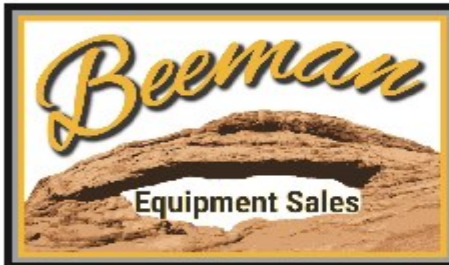
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Common Sense Not Common, continued from page 13

Investigators were unable to determine why the lift arms lowered on the victim. The lap bar safety interlock was found to be not working. The victim was able to start the machine with the lap bar in the “up” position, instead of the normal “down” position. He started the loader while standing on the ground outside of it. When he reached in to start the machine, he may have unintentionally activated the boom arm’s control, causing the arms to lower. Workers had reported that they needed to warm up this loader for a few minutes because of cold temperatures. The loader had been rented by another subcontractor from an equipment supplier. It did not have an operator’s manual.

Now as I read this, I remembered doing something just like this. Wanting to let something “warm up” and not following all the safety requirements. The fact that the dead-man switch on the lap bar (nicely named by the way) was not working, AND everyone knew it, gave me the shivers.

Remember, equipment under control of the employer, whether or not owned by the employer, falls into the same category: **1.** It is the employer’s responsibility to ensure that any defective equipment or tools are not used. **2.** When any tool or piece of equipment fails to meet the requirements of any safety standard or recognized safe practice, you must not use the tool or equipment.

Never think, “They know better than to do..... You see, common sense is not common.

Take care and be safe, Mike

Mike Lewis grew up on a dairy farm in southern Idaho. After traveling around the world he returned to Idaho where he farms with his family. His interest in EMT services began as a volunteer. He has been a certified EMT for more than 25 years.

IWRB aquifer recharge, continued from page 1

The recharge flows - combined with a commitment from the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators under an historic settlement agreement to reduce their water use from the ESPA by 240,000 feet - are expected to bring the aquifer into balance and restore its long-term viability.

The Water Resource Board pays canal companies and irrigation districts on an acre-foot basis to distribute water from the Snake, Big Wood and Little Wood rivers via canals and settling basins throughout the ESPA region, allowing water to seep into the aquifer.

The Board benefitted from a quick start to recharge operations late last August with a contribution of 61,100 acre-feet of surplus water from the Surface Water Coalition. There also has been a big surplus of water stored in the Upper Snake River reservoirs, which caused the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to release more water than usual below Minidoka and Milner dams this winter.

More than 115,300 acre-feet of water has been recharged in the Upper Snake region, and more than 138,343 acre-feet of water has been recharged in the Magic Valley region, with multiple canal companies and irrigation districts participating in both regions.

For more information about the Idaho Water Resource Board, go to <https://www.idwr.idaho.gov/IWRB/>.

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COMMUNITY MILESTONES



CLASSES

All told, there were over 200 attendees at the two day event. That included registered participants, vendors, and speakers.

NEW FACES

A few of IGWA's new members: include (left to right) Ed Coffey, Coffey Well Drilling, Tristen Kienenberger and Sara Foster (Foster Well-Drilling).



A TRADE SHOW

40 vendors manned 24 trade show booths

Elections: Congratulations to the new officers : **John Bishop**, board of directors; **Trey Spath** (Pentair) as M&S President, and **Chad Draper** (2M Inc) as M&S vice-president; and **John Sexton** as Associates' Vice President. Draper was also appointed as Idaho's M&S representative on the Pacific Northwest Ground Water Association board.

IGWA would like to thank our sponsors and exhibitors.

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- Pacific NW Sales Inc
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- Precision Automation Systems
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TIME FOR SOME FUN & FUNDRAISING



Ryan Fullerton (2M Co.) and Charlie Fox (Franklin Electric) selling tickets for the Crisis Fund 50-50 Raffle

Everyone's a winner!



Not a single winner here!
Well, it's for a good cause!



Lynn Tominaga won the proceeds from the 50-50 Raffle and then donated it back. It is a good cause! All in all, the Crisis Fund Auction and 50-50 Raffle raised just over \$7000 this year. Thanks to everyone who donated, bid, and supported the Crisis Fund!!!

IGWA would like to recognize Charlie Fox who has worked tirelessly to build IGWA's Crisis Fund.

As the Crisis Fund Chairman, he has reached out across Idaho with care and compassion to drillers and their families in times of sickness, injury, and death.

A heartfelt thank you,
Charlie !!!



After a lengthy recovery, Matt Atkinson from 2M Inc, is walking again and back at work. **Congratulations, Matt!** Matt said, "Remember the donations (to IGWA's Crisis Fund) help, go to, people in this room in need."



Idaho Ground Water Association

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