

IGWA Bulletin



Electrical Exam Updates

Over the past few months concerns have been voiced by some of our members about the electrical exam and how the exam doesn't pertain to what the industry does with respect to pump installation for domestic water wells. A sub-committee of the IGWA Board and I met with representatives of the Division of Building Safety on May 4 at the Capitol Building and again on August 13 in Meridian. The Division of Building Safety has offered the IGWA members the following two options.

Option 1 would be to eliminate the requirement from having to take an electrical exam in order to install pumps for domestic water wells. The exemption language would read something like: "Registered contractors or their employees installing domestic water pumps, one hundred twenty/two hundred forty (120/240) volt, single phase, sixty (60) amps or less: installing, maintaining, repairing and replacing all electrical equipment, wires, and accessories from the pump motor up to and including the disconnecting device." Option 1 would be something we could get done during the 2022 Legislative Session.

Option 2 would allow the Well Construction Industry to have its own electrical exam for the installation of pumps for domestic water wells. Option 2 is something that will likely take about 3 years to complete due to the many steps that are needed including approval by the Electrical Board, a Statutory authority change, Negotiated Rulemaking, and writing a new electrical exam for the Industry.

I ask each of you to think about these two options we are being offered and voice your thoughts during the Annual Winter Convention on January 25-27 at the Riverside Hotel in Boise. From there as an Association we will formulate an action strategy and move forward with a plan that is best for the Industry and your businesses.



Roger Batt
Executive Director, IGWA

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Message from an IGWA Board Member

I hope everyone is getting their back log of work done. I for one am not able to keep all my customers caught up as well as I would like. I know others have said they have the same problems. The abundance of work can be a two-edged sword. It's nice to have all the work, but I'm unable to keep everyone happy with the long wait time to get wells drilled and service work done.

Let me get to the point of this message. I would like to inform our members about the efforts of the IGWA during this time of pandemic.

- We coordinated with the IDWR to forgo continuing education hours requirements for all contractors and drillers who needed them for the 2021 license renewals, and are cutting back what you would need for the 2022 requirements for the contractors and drillers to 6 CEUs.
- The IGWA is in the process of coming out with an online CEU Program, for people that will not be able to attend in person classes.
- The IGWA is working with the electrical and plumbing departments to hopefully make getting your license requirements and testing for these specialties easier.
- You may be aware we had to cancel the state convention and workshops this year due to the pandemic. These functions are a very big way we keep our association funded, so if we do not have those revenues coming in, we must rely on membership dues. We are starting a new fiscal year 2021-22, and membership fees are due. I would like to encourage everyone to look when you go to pay this year's dues and think about paying last years as well if you didn't. Hopefully in January we will be able to have another state convention and 2022 workshops. Here's to hoping everyone gets their back log of work done, and also let's do it safely.

Roger Buchanan
Board Member, IGWA



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Scholarship Committee Update

Hello to all my friends in the Idaho drilling industry. At IGWA's last board meeting, we created a Scholarship Committee. We have tried to get the Scholarship program started a couple of times in the past, and that has not taken off as anticipated. I will serve as the committee chairman and we are looking for two to four individuals to serve as committee members. This is an appointed position and there is no time limit for those serving. This opportunity is open to any member in the association, contractor, associate, and or spouse of a member. The committee would be tasked with administrating the affairs of the scholarship program, which would entail putting together applications; assisting getting those applications out to the membership as needed; assessing those applications to be graded/judged by a third party and overseeing the awarding process.

Currently there are funds in the crisis fund account that the board feels should be put to good use. These are monies that you as an association have so graciously given through the past activities of the auctions, raffles, and fund-raising efforts. There will still be a crisis fund, so not all the monies will be spent in the scholarship program. We will be working with the Chairman of the Crisis Fund (Charlie Fox) to decide what amount of the monies should be held for a crisis, and what amount are available for scholarships from year to year.

The scholarship committee would like to have everything in place for the next school year cycle. This means applications need to be available by March 1 and returned by April 15, then graded/judged/awarded by May 15. As association members, be thinking of individuals that would benefit from a scholarship to further their education. The following are application requirements:

- You must be a blood/legally adopted relative of a standing member, child/grandchild/great grandchild.
- You must have completed high school and received a diploma.
- You must have a declared course of study (degree), not a general education course. At this time there is no limit on what that course of study must be, i.e., nursing, accounting, etc. is ok. Underwater basket weaving is not ok. We are not holding applicants to a water industry degree.

Funds will be released to the school that is being attended. Recipients will be required to do a presentation before the association, either in person or in video, at the convention. The requirement of this presentation will be in the application. This scholarship does not automatically renew. Reapplication is encouraged and will be graded/judged/awarded based on performance and funds.

I look forward to working with the Board of Directors, the Association, and the next Generation of industry leaders.

David Baker, Apex Drilling
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LEGISLATIVE ACTION

ALERT

FROM NGWA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS



The National Ground Water Association has had a busy year advocating on behalf of the industry and its membership in Washington, D.C. From infrastructure bills, new PFAS legislation and regulations, and fighting incentives for mandatory-hook-up, our members have had a full plate of issues to lobby Congress. Let's look at some of our recent activity:

Infrastructure Bill: Earlier this year, NGWA and over 20 statewide groundwater associations, including the Idaho Ground Water Association, sent a letter to Congress urging them better utilize water wells and decentralized water systems in any infrastructure package moving through Congress. By supporting new and existing water well infrastructure the federal government can save billions of dollars by forgoing costly connections to public systems while still increasing water access to small and rural communities.

Focusing on increasing financial assistance to decentralized water systems will also push back on the threat of increased "mandatory hook-up" rules that often come with increased funding for infrastructure projects.

Test Your Well Water Act: In July, Congressman Dan Kildee (MI-5) and Congressman Mike Gallagher (WI-08) introduced the bipartisan Test Your Water Well Act. The legislation would instruct the Environmental Protection Agency to create online tools that provide more resources to private well owners to test their water quality. NGWA was one of the original supporters of the legislation and we are looking forward to working towards its passage in the fall.

PFAS: NGWA continue to advocate for more funding for water well owners to test and treat their water wells from potential PFAS contaminations. We have supported the nearly \$10 billion dollar investment into the remediation of PFAS chemicals and the further study of their transport and health impact. Various PFAS measures are going to be presented to Congress in the fall and we will be tracking them closely.

Rescinding County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund Guidance

NGWA and 13 other groundwater organizations sent a letter on July 19 to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Water Radhika Fox urging the rescinding of the guidance memorandum “Applying the Supreme Court’s County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund Decision in the Clean Water Act Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program.”

The guidance memorandum, which was published in January, is meant to provide technical guidance to regulators and groundwater users and permitting authorities on applying the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund case as it pertains to the Clean Water Act’s NPDES permitting program.

With all these issues and more ahead for 2021 and 2022- it will certainly be an interesting couple of years in our nation’s capitol. NGWA looks forward to working with our fellow state associations in making sure our industry’s voice continues to be heard in Washington, DC.

For more information, contact:

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National Ground Water Association
bfrech@ngwa.org



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UPDATE ON IDAHO'S EXCEPTIONAL SPRING DROUGHT

by David Hoekema, Idaho Department of Water Resource

Snowpack Trackers,

Due to the sudden onset and severity of this years' drought, I am updating the Water Supply Committee and individuals to whom I regularly send updates on snowpack. Snowpack on April 1st was just a little below normal across the state, but a very dry March raised concerns about water supplies. The failure of spring rains to materialize in any meaningful way has set us on course for an extensive drought across the state. We have not seen a year with this little spring precipitation in our lifetimes. The only spring that has been drier going back to 1895 was 1924. This spring the average precipitation across the state was 4.4" or 46.5% of normal rainfall. Spring precipitation is an important source of water in Idaho. Spring rains supplement the snowpack as it melts and helps to melt and flush runoff from the snowpack into our rivers and lakes. The failure of the spring rains caused runoff forecasts to plummet this spring.

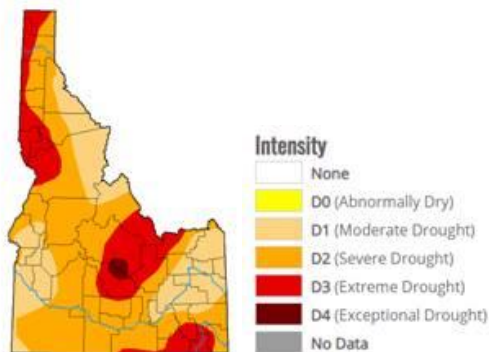
CURRENT DROUGHT CATEGORIZATION

As of Thursday morning the entire state has been categorized as being in drought. Below, I breakdown the percentage of the state in each drought category.

27.3%	Moderate Drought
50.9%	Severe Drought
20.9%	Extreme Drought
0.8%	Exceptional Drought

JUNE HEAT WAVE

This June was the second hottest June statewide, only exceeded by temperatures in 2015.



IMPACTS ON STREAMFLOW AT MEASURED GAGES:

Swan Falls nr Murphy—2nd percentile—**Exceptional Drought**
 Goose & Trapper Creek 3rd & 4th percentile—**Severe Drought**
 Portneuf R. & Marsh Crk.—8th & 6th percentile—**Severe Drought**
 Bear River 6th percentile—**Severe Drought**
 Blackfoot River 5th percentile—**Extreme Drought**
 Teton River 13th percentile—**Moderate Drought**
 Little Lost River 1st percentile—**Exceptional Drought**
 Big Lost River 3rd percentile—**Exceptional Drought**
 Little Wood River 1st percentile—**Exceptional Drought**
 Big Wood River at Hailey 5th percentile—**Extreme Drought**
 Camas Creek 4th percentile—**Extreme Drought**

DROUGHT IMPACTS

- We have received reports from Farm Service Agency (FSA) personnel in the Palouse regions that the wheat harvest may be at 30% to 50% of the normal yield.
- We have also received reports from across the state that those utilizing rangelands for cattle and sheep are having difficulty finding water and adequate forage for livestock.
- Impacts to irrigation are also severe with priorities being cut to levels rarely seen this time of year. In response reservoir systems are delivering much more storage water than normal for this time of year. Smaller reservoir systems have run out of water or will run out of water shortly. Even some Multi-year reservoir systems like the Boise and Snake River systems may see shortages in storage water at the end of the years. We expect very little carryover in reservoirs going into next year.

The lack of surface water is causing more reliance on groundwater pumping than is typical. It is likely aquifer drawdown will be significant across the state.

DROUGHT OUTLOOK

We are expecting to see exceptional drought expand in the Central Mountains and across Idaho's northern agricultural regions within the coming month. Exceptional drought is the type of drought that is statistically only supposed to occur once or twice in 100 years.

DROUGHT STATISTICS BY RIVER BASIN (JUNE TEMPERATURE, SPRING PRECIPITATION, WATER-YEAR TO-DATE)

The following table list the 10 hottest or driest periods within the basin, except where the recent year is not within that range. I've then italicized the values for the current year and placed it in the 10th position. The water-year to-date (WT-YR) refers to the period from October to June.

- **Kootenai Basin**—includes all basins tributary to the Spokane, Kootenai, and Pend Oreille rivers in eastern Washington, Idaho, and western Montana
- **Lower Snake Basin**—includes all basins tributary to the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam
- **Middle Snake Basin**—includes all basins tributary to the Snake River between King Hill, ID and Hells Canyon Dam
- **Upper Snake Basin**—includes all basins tributary to the Snake River Plain and Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer above King Hill
- **Bear River Basin**—includes all basin tributary to the Bear River in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho

Note that this spring is the driest within current memory. I've greyed all data from all years pre-1940 since very few people would remember those years.

Sincerely,

David Hoekema | Hydrologist, Idaho Dept. of Water Resource
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P.O. Box 83720 | Boise, ID 83720

	Temperature			Spring Precipitation (March-June)			WT-YR to-date Precipitation		
	June	Temp	abv avg	4-month	inches	% Avg	9-month	inches	% Avg
Kootenai Basin	2nd Hottest June			3rd driest Spring			24th driest WT-YR (Oct-June)		
	2015	62.24	7.92	1924	6.48	54.23	1977	17.02	58.05
	2021	60.63	6.32	1926	6.8	56.92	1944	20.74	70.76
	1961	60.35	6.04	2021	7.02	58.76	2001	20.98	71.57
	1986	59.99	5.68	1918	7.23	60.54	1973	21.21	72.36
	1992	59.14	4.83	2015	7.79	65.17	1994	22.3	76.06
	1922	59.04	4.73	1973	7.84	65.63	1929	22.35	76.24
	1974	58.78	4.47	1895	7.92	66.27	1926	22.5	76.75
	1918	58.76	4.44	1977	8.13	68.08	1931	22.79	77.76
	1970	58.68	4.37	1939	8.33	69.73	1987	23.58	80.44
	1940	58.4	4.08	1909	8.48	71.01	2021	25.69	87.63
	Lower Snake Basin	2nd Hottest June			2nd driest Spring			13th driest WT-YR (Oct-June)	
2015		63.41	8.41	1924	4.23	37.33	1977	15.39	56.61
2021		62.53	7.52	2021	4.89	43.18	1924	19.5	71.7
1918		61.19	6.19	1918	6.15	54.36	1987	19.52	71.79
1961		61.07	6.06	1926	6.9	60.97	1994	19.87	73.07
1986		60.9	5.89	1939	6.91	61.01	1973	20.27	74.54
1922		60.01	5	1973	7.18	63.42	2001	20.69	76.1
1977		59.54	4.53	1949	7.26	64.13	1966	20.88	76.78
1992		59.34	4.33	2015	7.36	64.98	1929	20.89	76.82
1940		59.32	4.31	1909	7.58	66.99	1944	21.12	77.68
1903		59.26	4.26	1992	7.63	67.42	2021	21.67	79.71
Middle Snake Basin		2nd Hottest June			2nd driest Spring			10th driest WT-YR (Oct-June)	
	2015	67.55	8.12	1924	1.79	25.87	1977	8.21	48.06
	2021	67.14	7.71	2021	3.25	47	1924	9.68	56.62
	1918	66.51	7.09	1939	3.35	48.54	1966	10.37	60.69
	1961	66	6.57	1909	3.52	51.05	1994	11.23	65.73
	1986	64.85	5.42	1966	3.64	52.71	1931	11.38	66.62
	1977	64.59	5.16	1926	3.74	54.17	1987	11.87	69.45
	1974	63.99	4.56	2007	3.83	55.42	1992	11.9	69.62
	1900	63.78	4.36	1918	3.87	56.1	2001	12.07	70.66
	1903	63.66	4.23	2013	3.97	57.48	1926	12.46	72.89
	1940	63.65	4.22	1992	4.1	59.41	2021	12.49	73.09
	Upper Snake Basin	Hottest June			4th driest Spring			7th driest WT-YR (Oct-June)	
2021		63.9	7.4	1924	3.15	41.3	1977	9.61	56.4
2015		63.3	6.8	1919	3.59	47.1	1924	9.94	58.4
1918		62.6	6.1	1910	3.73	48.9	1931	10.00	58.7
1961		62.5	6.0	2021	3.89	51.0	1934	10.42	61.2
1988		62.3	5.8	1926	4.12	54.0	2001	11.35	66.7
1900		62.0	5.5	1931	4.20	55.0	1966	11.37	66.8
1977		61.6	5.1	2007	4.21	55.2	2021	11.44	67.2
1986		61.3	4.8	1939	4.42	57.9	1992	11.69	68.7
1933		60.9	4.4	2001	4.42	57.9	1994	11.74	69.0
2016		60.8	4.3	1934	4.45	58.4	1900	11.75	69.0
Bear River Basin		Hottest June			4th driest Spring			4th driest WT-YR (Oct-June)	
	2021	64.11	7.28	1910	3.09	37.68	1934	9.91	53.2
	2015	62.94	6.12	1934	3.1	37.87	1977	10.36	55.6
	1918	62.53	5.7	1919	3.62	44.2	1931	11.02	59.2
	1988	62.5	5.67	2021	3.91	47.76	2021	11.67	62.7
	1977	61.72	4.89	1979	4.55	55.58	1924	12.1	65.0
	1961	61.64	4.81	1992	4.57	55.73	1960	12.45	66.9
	2016	61.51	4.68	1961	4.63	56.47	1961	12.53	67.3
	1933	61.22	4.39	1966	4.8	58.57	1919	12.71	68.3
	1919	61.08	4.25	1931	4.88	59.58	1992	12.86	69.1
	1986	61	4.17	2001	5	61.07	1900	13.01	69.9

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Online Continuing Education Program

On November 1 the IGWA will be launching an online Continuing Education program for drillers to be able to acquire online CEU's for their license renewals. There will be six (6) pre-recorded videos available for drillers to select from. Each video is approximately one hour in length. In order to receive credit you have to pass a 10 question exam at the end of each video. If you do not pass the exam then you may retake it free of charge. Upon passage of the exam you will be sent an email that certifies you took that course and passed it in order to authorize you for that credit to count toward your license renewal. The cost per credit hour will be \$75 for members and \$125 for non-members.



IGWA Regional Workshops

The IGWA will be hosting Regional Workshops again for the Industry. The Eastern Idaho Workshop will take place during the month of March, 2022 and the North Idaho Workshop will take place during the month of November, 2022. If COVID is still an issue we will hold a Virtual Workshop in March for all IGWA members.

IGWA 2021 Board of Directors

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