

IGWA Bulletin



Hello Fellow IGWA Members,

Thank you for submitting your Ballots regarding the Electrical Exam issue. Your feedback was critical in helping the IGWA Board determine the next steps regarding this issue. The Association submitted the results to the Idaho Division of Building Safety and is awaiting their response on a path forward. Once we get more clarity from them, we will update you on the next steps of the process.

Over the past 2 months the Idaho Ground Water Association has participated in some Negotiated Rulemaking meetings with the Idaho Department of Water Resources on the Well Driller Licensing Rules. The purpose of the Rulemaking meetings was to review the Rules and the proposed amendments to the Rules that were submitted by the Department. The only substantive change to the Rules is removing the Operator I and Operator II definitions and replacing those definitions with the definition of "Operator." Most of the changes to the Rules eliminates duplicative or unnecessary language, and the rest makes technical corrections for easier readability. To learn more about these Rules changes go to the IDWR's website at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/legal-actions/rules/idwr-rulemaking-2022-2023/well-driller-licensing-rules/>

The IGWA has been meeting with the members, the IDWR, and other interested parties to propose raising the Low Temperature Geothermal (Idaho Code 42-233) "85-degree Rule." After reviewing the issues surrounding the 85-degree Rule the Association will be drafting Legislation and working with Legislators to raise the temperature to 105-degrees during the 2023 Legislative Session. The Department of Water Resources' legal team conducted a review of the Law and could not find any specific reference that clearly explains the origin or basis for the minimum 85-degree threshold. As you know, Idaho is the most stringent of the PNW states on this issue and raising the temperature to 105-degrees will help fix many current issues that are seen within the drilling community and hitting 85-degree water.



The North Idaho Workshop will be held on Monday, September 12 at the Hampton Inn in Coeur d'Alene. There will be a total of 6 credits issued for this Workshop including 1 hour of Idaho Rules and Regulations. Correspondence for the Workshop will be sent out soon to the Membership and posted to the IGWA website.

Roger Batt
Executive Director, IGWA



Update from IDWR

Online Well Construction Applications

Erik Boe, P.E. | Manager, Ground Water Protection Section

In the Fall of 2020, IGWA's Board of Directors expressed interest in having IDWR develop a process that would allow the drilling community to submit Start Card Permits ("Start Cards") and Application for Drilling Permits ("Long Forms") via an online web-based application; similar to what adjoining states such as Washington have implemented. The following summary provides a brief overview of the project along with a status update.

IDWR has been working with developers from Idaho's Office of Information Technology Services ("OITS") to develop the web-based application. Key phases of the project include (1) Planning, (2) Development, (3) Testing, and (4) Deployment. As of July, 2022, we are currently in the Development phase and plan on having a demo application ready for testing by the Fall of 2022.

Applicants will access the web-based application via a link on IDWR's Well Construction webpage. After initially setting up a MyIDWR account with an appropriate username and password, applicants will have the ability log into their MyIDWR account to start a new application or view active and completed applications. While subject to change, the application process is anticipated to be as follows:

Step 1: Log into your MyIDWR account.

Step 2: Select the location of the well via an interactive map tool, similar to our Well Drillers' Locator Tool, or by entering the appropriate GPS Coordinates. This will allow the application to generate and automatically upload all spatial information into the application, such as GPS coordinates, Township, Range, Section, Quarter-Quarter, County, and possibly a recommended street address.

Step 3: Select the type of application, either Start Card or Long Form.

Step 4: Enter all required and supplemental information into the online form. All information entered will be consistent with what is required on current paper/PDF forms. Note that all information specific to the applicant (Drilling Company Name, Address, Driller's License No.) will automatically be uploaded to the form.

Step 5: Payment; if applicable. The payment amount will be calculated based on information entered and the applicant will have the option to pay online to complete the process or print an application/permit stub that will allow for in-person payments at IDWR Regional Offices.

Step 6: After completing the application and payment process, the next step will vary depending on the type of application. For Start Cards, the applicant will immediately receive the permit via the email on file or by downloading from the web-based application. For Long Forms, the applicant will be notified that the application was successfully submitted to IDWR. After reviewing the application, IDWR will complete the permit, and the applicant will receive the permit via the email on file or by downloading from the web-based application. Note that applicants will have the option to pick up hard copies of the permits at IDWR Regional Offices.

While change can always be challenging, there are numerous positive outcomes to look forward to. The most notable outcomes will be the improved accuracy of our well construction records, especially related to the spatial information that has historically been plagued with errors, along with improved turnaround time on processing Long Form applications. If you have any questions or feedback regarding this project, I am happy to discuss. Also, if you would like to participate in testing the application during the critical demo phase, please contact me at 208-287-4935 or erik.boe@idwr.idaho.gov.



Erik Boe, P.E.
Manager, Ground Water Protection Section



Upcoming **Crisis Fund Event**

I hope all is well with you and your families. We are excited to announce an upcoming event this fall to help replenish and build our crisis/scholarship fund. We are currently looking at dates available to hold a trap shoot at the Melba Gun Club. This will be a fun family event with a door prize and raffle. We will also be selling raffle tickets for a CZ 20-gauge shotgun that will be given away during the event. Raffle tickets will be for sale through our M&S group and can be purchased the day of the drawing. You do not have to be present to win the shotgun raffle, but you will need to do paperwork before taking possession. I appreciate everything our membership does to support the crisis fund. It is never good when we are presented with a need but a great feeling to know there is help available.

Charlie Fox
Crisis Fund Chairman

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Training the Next Generation of Groundwater Professionals

One of the great things about working for a national organization is the privilege to talk to people across the country working in this great industry. It gives you a genuine sense of how diverse the issues our members face and how impressive and industrious those who work in the groundwater world really are. While some must find new and creative ways to deal with drought and dropping water levels, others are quickly expanding water treatment services to help fight PFAS and emerging contaminants. Some regions are battling draconian regulations on drilling new wells while some are still operating in a state almost completely free of any limits on water wells.

It really is a wild world out there.

Occasionally though some problems get so big they touch every corner of the country and impact almost every aspect of our industry. And, if you're reading this, I'm betting you know what it is: finding and retaining quality employees.

Workforce and labor issues are nothing new in our industry, in fact, they aren't unique to our industry at all. They're currently a problem for almost every industry in the country outside of a few very specialized fields.

While labor issues may not be new to the industry, I am happy to report that NGWA has been hard at work creating new ways to address the issue. Earlier this year, NGWA through a collaboration with Oklahoma State University, officially launched our online training platform, Drilling Basics Online.



Drilling Basics Online is a new digital platform created to increase access to the basics of water well contracting and groundwater science. Developed with experts in both geology and water well contracting, we feel it will play an important role in addressing both the quantity and the quality of those who enter the industry.

Drilling Basics Online currently offers five courses: General Workplace Safety, Geology and Groundwater, Hydrogeology and Fluid Mechanics, Rig Types and Well Design, and Drill Rig Safety. Each of these courses is designed to introduce key concepts to new drillers and to serve as refresher courses for veterans of the industry. And, because they are completely online based, these courses can be completed from home or the office.

Every course offered on Drilling Basics is designed to teach the core competencies and skills that appear on NGWA's groundwater drilling exams and many other certification exams required across the country.

Of course, NGWA is not stepping away from promoting in-person classes or training, in fact, it's still at the center of most of our educational offerings. Drilling Basics is simply another tool in the toolbox to better serve our industry and build a stronger workforce for our future. Because, when your industry is at the center of ensuring a water supply for the entire world, investing in the future has never been more important.



Ben Frech
Public Relations and Government Affairs Manager
National Ground Water Association



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Keeping Idaho Water the Best Water

Ground water is an important and essential natural resource for the survival of our population. Over half of U.S. households utilize ground water for personal consumption. In Idaho over 95% of drinking water comes from ground water sources. Idaho is fortunate to have a ground water industry made up of highly-trained professionals with the skills and knowledge to drill and develop domestic and municipal wells to provide households and businesses with clean safe drinking water. In 1948, Idaho's well construction industry developed an organization to assist, promote, encourage and support the interests and welfare of the ground water industry within the state. This organization (formerly called the Water Well Contractor's Association) is now called the IDAHO GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION (IGWA). As you explore this website, you will learn about Idaho's ground water industry, our ground water resource, and the important link between the two.

Upcoming IGWA Events

IGWA 2022 Fall Workshop – September 12, 2022
[Registration](#)

IGWA Membership Benefits

- Access to Political Information, Elected Officials, and Current Issues
- Continuing Education Opportunities
- Quarterly E-Newsletter
- Discounts on Registration Fees at the Annual Winter Convention and Regional Workshops
- Exposure to Trade Shows and Vendors with Potential Innovations and Solutions for the Betterment of Your Business
- A Forum to Discuss and Act on Ground Water Issues Pertaining to Ground Water Businesses
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