

IGWA Bulletin



Fellow IGWA Members and Associates,

Well, it looks like the weather has finally turned nice. Unfortunately, that also means it's going to start getting hot. Hopefully, everyone is busy and mud season is behind us.

The board and a few other IGWA members have been working with the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses to revise our Limited Electrical License. We still have a long way to go, but we're making good headway. There are several issues we still want to address, but I feel we've already taken a big step forward.

The board also met with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) regarding the artesian well sealing requirements. There has been a lot of confusion about when a full-length seal is needed. It turns out much of it was simply a misunderstanding. The IDWR wants to ensure that seals are being completed according to our current well construction standards. It looks like most of us are doing them correctly, with just a few exceptions. The IDWR plans to work with us on these issues over the next year.

We're already planning the North Idaho Workshop. It seems we've about outgrown the venue, so this year we'll be hosting it at the Best Western Plus in Coeur d'Alene. If you have any ideas on how we can improve these workshops, please let us know. We want to make the event enjoyable and valuable for everyone.

That's about all for now. I hope you all had a great Memorial Day weekend and were able to get out and enjoy yourselves. Now it's time to put our heads down and charge full speed ahead before old man winter comes back around. Have a great summer, everyone. Be safe.

Bill Tanner
President, IGWA





Executive Director Report

Each year, we're reminded just how important it is to have a voice at the Capitol, standing up and defending the future of our well construction industry. Significant turnover in the Legislature this past election resulted in a session full of challenges and opportunity: the challenges of reintroducing our industry's value to new lawmakers, and the opportunity to educate and build new champions for our industry.

I'm proud to say that the 2025 Idaho Legislative Session was, overall, a huge success for our Association and industry. With Low Temperature Geothermal and Electrical Exam Rules going before the Legislature, the Idaho Ground Water Association remained actively engaged ensuring that the needs of our members were heard loud and clear.

Low Temperature Geothermal Rules - Increasing the Temperature Standard

Low Temperature Geothermal Rules – Increasing the Temperature Standard

For the past three years the IGWA worked with Legislators and the Idaho Department of Water Resources to establish a higher standard for the Low Temperature Geothermal Rule (Rule 30). In 2023, the IGWA met with the IDWR asking for a Rule change and to conduct Negotiated Rulemaking. In 2024 the IDWR conducted Negotiated Rulemaking and invited the IGWA and other stakeholders to participate in the process. At the end of the rulemaking sessions the IDWR proposed changing the Low Temperature Geothermal Standard from 85 degrees to 140 degrees for non-flowing wells. The IGWA worked with the Idaho Legislature during the 2025 Session and the Rule was passed and will go into effect on July 1.

Electrical Exam Rules - Establishing an Exam for Pump Installers

For the past few years, the IGWA worked with Legislators and the Electrical Division to develop a separate exam for water pump installers. The current electrical exam has substantial material that is not pertinent to water pump installation. Over the past couple of years, the IGWA worked with the Idaho Division of Professional Licensing (IDOPL) and drafted language for the Electrical Rules to authorize creating a separate exam for water pump installers. In 2024 IDOPL conducted Negotiated Rulemaking with

the IGWA and voted to have our language inserted into the Electrical Rules. The IGWA and IDOPL worked together during the 2025 Legislative Session to get the Rules passed which went into effect upon adjournment of the Idaho Legislative Session. On May 7 several members of the IGWA held an all-day meeting with IDOPL in Boise to review the current electrical exam and to set standards for a new water pump installers exam. The May 7 meeting will soon result in a first draft of a brand-new exam specific to water pump installers. At our next meeting the working group will review the standards and draft exam and offer additional input and guidance. The goal is to have a new exam for water pump installers available for the industry by the end of 2025.

If you have any other issues you want the IGWA to work on, please contact our office or a board member so that we can continue to work for you and make sure your business continues to grow.

Roger Batt
Executive Director



NORTH IDAHO FALL WORKSHOP

WHEN: SEPTEMBER 2nd 2025

TIME: 8:00AM-3:00PM

**WHERE: BEST WESTERN PLUS
COEUR D'ALENE, ID**

6 CEC CREDITS AVAILABLE

1 IDAHO & 1 WASHINGTON RULES & REGS

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<https://igwa.info/main-events/>



2025 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



ADDISEN PENNINGTON - \$2,000

Addisen Pennington is a recent graduate from the University of Idaho, where she earned dual Bachelor of Science degrees in Political Science and Criminology, along with a minor in Justice Studies. She graduated in December with a 3.93 GPA and was actively involved in campus life as a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, serving as Secretary and Vice President. This fall, Addisen will begin law school at the University of Idaho College of Law. She plans to pursue a career in personal injury or malpractice law, with the ultimate goal of establishing her own firm in honor of her father and brother.



EASTON WHITE - \$1,000

Easton White has maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout college while working full time for his family's fourth-generation well and pump business. As a dedicated student at the College of Western Idaho, he is pursuing a degree in Heavy Machinery Mechanics and also plans to earn a degree in Agricultural Business. A member of the SkillsUSA competition team, Easton is focused on building the skills and knowledge needed to carry on and grow the family drilling business. He is passionate about the water well industry and looks forward to continuing the family legacy for years to come.



SHARA GALVIN - \$1,000

Shara Galvin is a 2025 graduate of Ridgevue High School in Nampa, Idaho. A standout multi-sport athlete, she has earned varsity letters in basketball, softball, and track and field-qualifying for the state meet in her first year competing in track as a senior. Shara maintains a high GPA, is actively involved in her school and community, and has a passion for mentoring younger athletes. She plans to begin her college journey at Treasure Valley Community College, where she will pursue an associate degree and play basketball, before transferring to a four-year university to earn her bachelor's degree in business management.



NGWA Legislative Update

Recently in Washington we saw continued developments with significant implications for groundwater professionals. House Republicans advanced their FY25 reconciliation efforts, with the House Natural Resources Committee marking up its section of the broader package. Additional markups are expected in key committees, including Energy & Commerce and Agriculture.

Meanwhile, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is preparing for its Member Day hearing, which could surface Clean Water Act concerns. On the PFAS front, H.R. 1267—the Water Systems PFAS Liability Protection Act—gained two more bipartisan cosponsors, bringing the total to 14. In addition, the bipartisan Congressional PFAS Task Force has relaunched for the 119th Congress, reaffirming its commitment to advancing legislation focused on PFAS contamination, polluter accountability, and increased federal support for research and remediation.

At the administrative level, President Trump's FY26 "skinny" budget proposal was submitted to Congress. It outlines deep cuts to non-defense discretionary spending, including a 55% reduction to the EPA's budget and a near-elimination of Clean and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. These proposed reductions could severely impact groundwater protection, clean water infrastructure, and PFAS mitigation efforts. Compounding these concerns, the EPA's Office of Science and Technology—the team responsible for PFAS discharge standards—has been targeted for elimination, raising serious questions about the agency's future capacity to regulate emerging contaminants.

NGWA will continue monitoring these developments and advocating for science-based policy that protects our nation's groundwater. We will keep you informed as the FY25 and FY26 budget processes unfold and as PFAS-related legislation progresses. Thank you for your continued engagement and support.

Sincerely,

Ben Frech
NGWA Legislative Affairs Director

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IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Hello well drilling community. Hopefully as the warm weather has arrived, you are all out drilling and making some profit. Here is a Spring update from IDWR.

Artesian Seals

Our update in the winter newsletter seemed to have attracted a lot of attention. In particular, the statement regarding sealing requirements for artesian wells. Just to be clear, no rules have been changed or added; in fact, the rules regarding well seals for artesian wells have largely been unchanged since 1968. To re-iterate what the rule stipulates, either secondary seals or full depth seals are required in the following situations:

In sedimentary aquifers where you penetrate through a confining layer (clay is the most common confining material) and the water level rises above the point at which it was encountered, a seal (in addition to the 38' surface seal) is required to be placed into the confining layer directly overlying the water bearing zone the well is completed in (Figure 1).

In hard rock formations (granite, basalt, rhyolite, etc.) where there is an unconsolidated formation above the hard rock aquifer AND the water level from that hard rock aquifer rises to a point where it intersects and could flow into the overlying unconsolidated formation, a seal is required to be placed into the top of the hard rock formation (Figures 2 and 3).

Enforcement of this rule has not been consistent over the past decades. However, there is currently a significant interest in well construction standards (in particular, the Treasure Valley) with respect to protecting the water quality AND the aquifer pressures throughout the state. Therefore, through education and collaboration with the well drilling community, the goal is to prioritize the installation of secondary or full depth seals where applicable. It is intended that workshops, round table discussions, or other forms of education will be available to help navigate through this process.

What is artesian?

According to IDAPA 37.03.09 (Well Construction Standards Rules) artesian water is "Any water that is confined in an aquifer under pressure so that the water will rise in the well casing or dilled hole above the elevation where it was first encountered. This term includes water of flowing and non-flowing wells." In other words, if you encounter water in an aquifer and it rises above the point at which it was encountered, then you are dealing with artesian water, even if the water does not freely flow at the land surface. The following illustrations are included to help depict the artesian seal requirements in various scenarios.

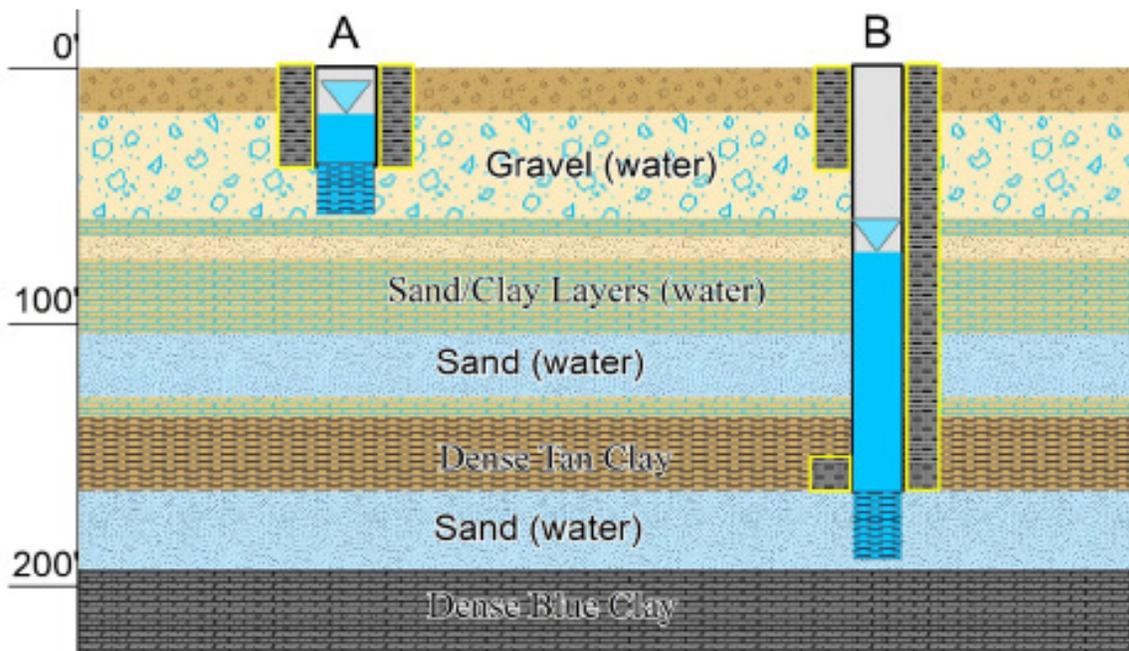


Figure 1. Illustration showing the seal requirement when artesian conditions are encountered in unconsolidated formations. Well "A" is a shallow, unconfined well without artesian conditions in which the standard 38' surface seal is the requirement. Well "B" encountered artesian conditions (static water is around 75', water was encountered around 165') and will require either a full depth seal into the tan clay unit above the producing formation OR a standard 38' surface seal with a secondary seal placed a minimum of 5' into the tan clay confining unit above the producing formation.

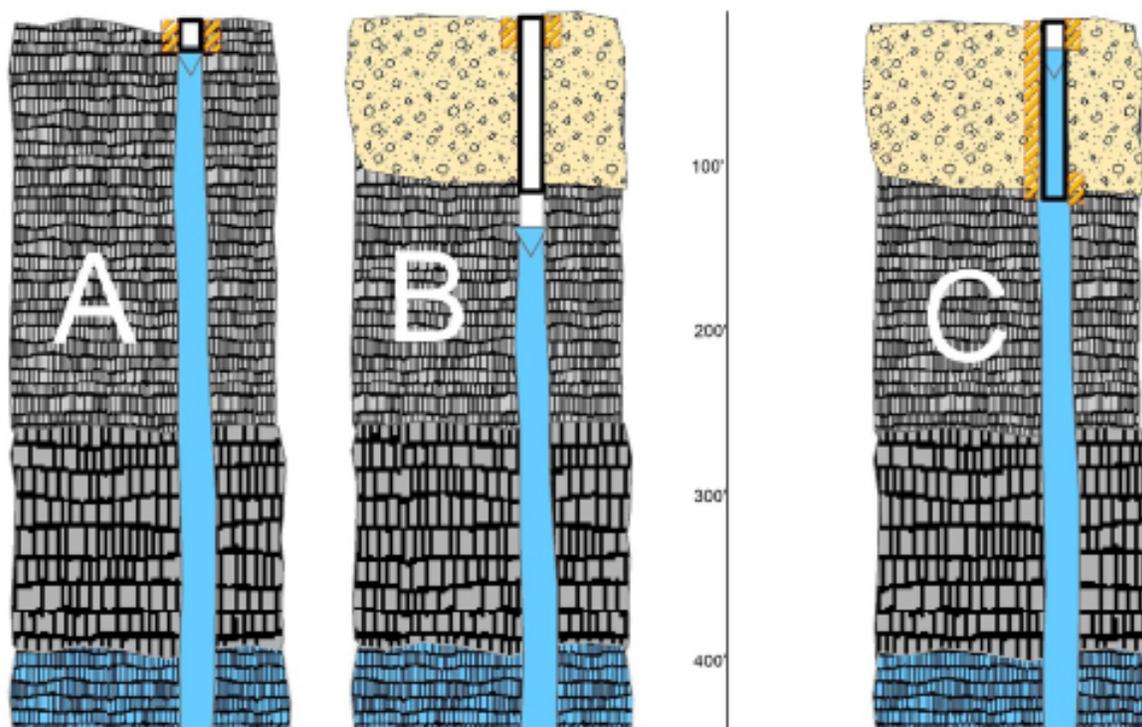


Figure 2. Illustration depicting 3 artesian wells completed into a basalt aquifer. All three wells are showing artesian conditions (static water level is significantly higher than the depth at which it was encountered). The sealing requirements for well "A" would be a standard 38' surface seal. The sealing requirements for well «B» would also be a standard 38' surface seal (the overburden in this scenario would not be required to be sealed off as the water level does not rise to a point at which it will intersect this material). The sealing requirements for well "C" would be either a full depth seal through the unconsolidated material above the basalt, OR a 38' surface seal with a secondary seal at the bottom of the unconsolidated material and a minimum of 5' into the basalt.

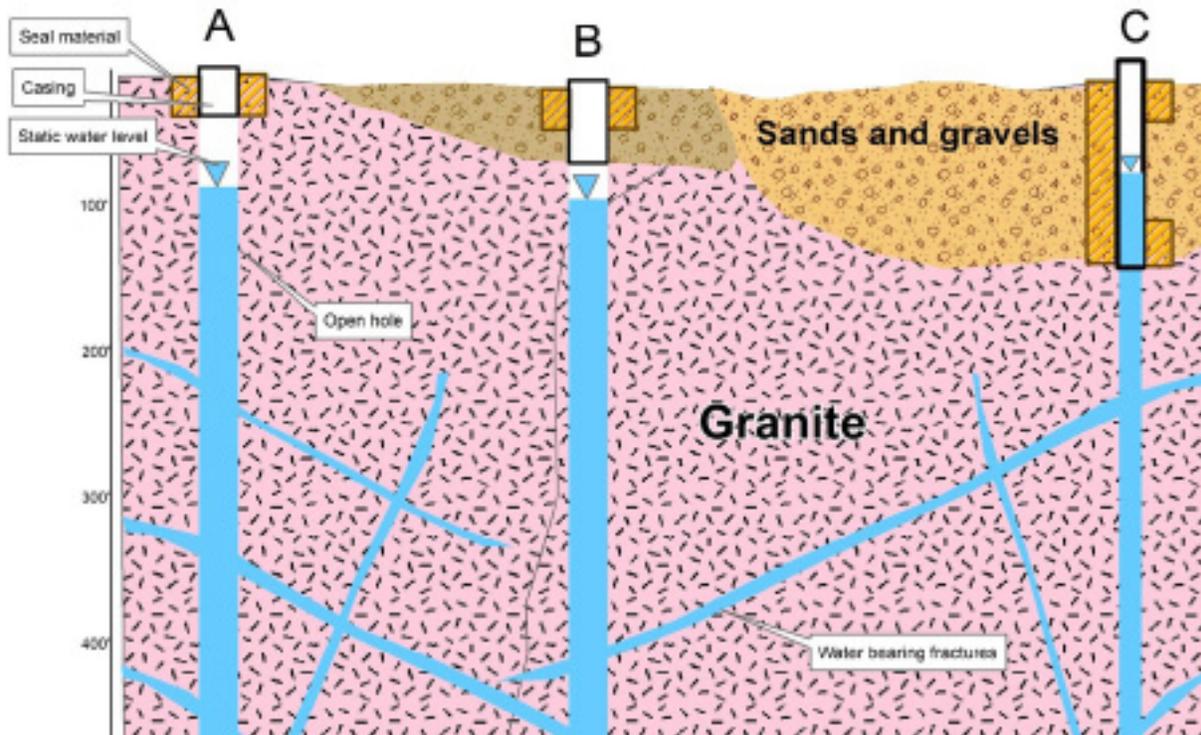


Figure 3. Illustration depiction of three artesian wells completed in a granite formation. All three wells show artesian conditions, with water levels rising above the point at which the water was encountered (static water level around 90', water was encountered around 200' or deeper). Well "A" was drilled into granite with no overburden and wells "B" and "C" were drilled into granite overlain by a sand and gravel sequence. The seal requirement for well "A" is the standard 38' deep surface seal. The sealing requirement for well "B" would be the same 38' surface seal, as the water level in the well did not rise to a point high enough to intersect the unconsolidated overburden. Well "C" would require either a full depth seal through the unconsolidated formation OR the standard 38' surface seal with a secondary seal below the unconsolidated formation and sealed at least 5' into the granite.

As with any rule or regulation questions, feel free to reach out to your regional inspector or well construction staff at the State office to help guide you through a project. Have a safe and successful summer!

Sincerely,
 Dennis Owsley, P.G.
 Technical Hydrogeologist
 Idaho Department of Water Resources

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