

## Continuing Education

Greetings from the Continuing Education Committee! As many of you know, we are tasked with the job of evaluating courses, seminars, and presentations for credits that are required for the renewal of your drilling license.

I know a lot of you wonder why we have to have continuing education. Some of you have been drilling for twenty or thirty years or more and are doing fine. So here are some things to think about: First, we have the rules. Idaho Statute 42-238 authorizes the Idaho Water Resource Board to adopt rules on professional responsibility and continuing education requirements that are not to exceed twenty hours during each permitting period (a licensing period is two years). We also have rules administered by the Idaho Department of Water Resources and the Idaho Water Resource Board for driller licensing.

These rules require 16 credit units for the renewal of a Class II Operator. They also delegate to the IGWA the responsibility of developing and implementing this program. If they do not like IGWA's program, then they can take over the program and run it under their own guidelines.

WOW! Sorry to bore you with the legal stuff, but that is the background. The last thing to think about is as our state gets more crowded, is that we have more demand on our resources. We have seen that some of our drilling practices have not protected the ground water as well as they should have. So continuing education helps all of us learn from our mistakes from the past and also exposes us to new ways of doing things. Twenty-five years ago not many of us had casing hammers; now all of us rotary guys have them. A lot of us are learning how mud rotary drilling allows us to set deeper surface seals. Most of us have under reamer systems for tough drilling areas.

All of this information and much more is available by educating ourselves and becoming more professional at what we do.

Now let's talk about the classes. I know some of them are better than others. But a lot of the time we have not had a chance to hear a presenter until he or she puts on a class. The IGWA board and the CEC are trying to get to a more hands-on format or at least more videos that show actual events as they apply to the drilling industry.

So please bear with us as we try to find good information for you. If you or someone you know has a presentation that really benefited you or your business, let us know so we can get it into one of our workshops.

I know the economic outlook is a little bleak for this coming season, but we will try to help you meet the licensing requirements with classes and seminars as close to your business as possible so we can lessen the cost to you and your company in these trying times.

I would like to thank you for your support of the Idaho Ground Water Association. We know we have issues that need to be worked on, as no organization is without problems. But I can honestly say that my company and I have benefited greatly from the members of this association.



Director Tom Richardson

*Tom Richardson, Chairman, Continuing Education Committee*

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## NEW WELL CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS IN PLACE

At the conclusion of the legislative session in May, 2009, Idaho's revised Well Construction Standards Rules became effective. As promised by then-Director, Dave Tutthill, the Department of Water Resources field inspectors and resource protection staff would endeavor to work with the drilling community to communicate the new requirements prior to enforcing the new rules. Of the new requirements, the four-hour prior notification and sealing requirements were the subjects of most of the discussions during the pre-enforcement phase.

Originally there appeared to be confusion about the four-hour notification prior to placing a well seal. Presently, that confusion has been replaced by the realization that the notification is not a waiting period and provides for what the drilling community has long requested: well inspections at an appropriate phase of well construction. As a result, department well inspectors have inspected approximately 20 percent of the well seals installed since July 1, 2009.

An added benefit of the requirement is the opportunity provided for one-on-one discussion between the well inspector and the driller during construction. There has been a significant level of positive discussion between department staff and the drilling community in this regard.

Some drillers had major concerns with the requirement that a well be sealed to not less than thirty-eight feet, or deeper depending on specific conditions in the well. One of the challenges in supporting an increase in the required minimum seal depth was determining a minimum depth that would adequately seal the majority of wells. Many drillers requested that changes to sealing requirements be based on geology. By evaluating a representative sample of official well log records submitted by Idaho well drillers it is clear that, based on geology, a thirty-eight-foot minimum seal is more appropriate than an eighteen-foot seal.

Concern over how to install deeper seals is being replaced by the realization that it can be done efficiently and cost-effectively. Department well inspectors are reporting a significant number of well seals exceeding the thirty-eight-foot minimum. One region has reported that for recently-drilled wells in consolidated formations, the average seal depth is now over 60 feet. These same wells, constructed to the old standards, would have been sealed to approximately 10 percent of total depth and are now being sealed to over 25 percent of the total well depth. From a resource protection view point, this is a very positive trend and demonstrates that the minimum thirty-eight-foot seal is reasonably achievable.

By working with the IGWA board, its membership, and other dedicated members of the drilling community, we now have well construction standards that represent our collective commitment to better protecting Idaho's ground water resources. Department GWP staff look forward to continuing this collaborative effort to maintain high quality and safe well construction, facilitate the department's statutory obligation, and the drilling community's commitment to protecting valuable groundwater resources for the citizens of Idaho.

*Chad F. Hersley, P.G., Technical Hydrogeologist*



Director Chad Hersley

*Continued from page 5*

well driller license renewals and the Association continues to administer the Continuing Education Program for the IDWR to enhance learning and leadership opportunities for the well drilling community.

So, why should you be interested in knowing what the IGWA and its Board are doing for you? It is because the IGWA is an organization that has been passed down for the betterment of the next generation to make the industry what it is today. It is because you need to be informed and educated about what is going on in the Association you belong to and have your livelihood attached to. It is because you need to be informed about the issues that are facing the industry and what your Association is going to do about them. It is about knowing the truth of what is facing your business, your industry and your Association. Thomas Jefferson once said, "Ignorance is preferable to error, and he is less remote from the truth who believes nothing than he who believes what is wrong."

*Roger Batt, Executive Director*

*Atlas Copco*

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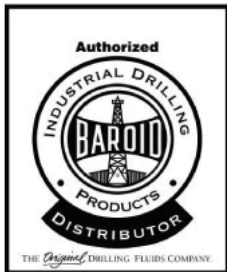
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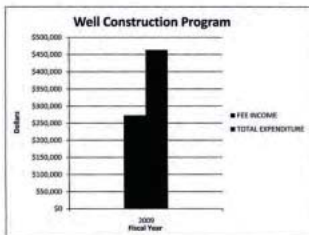
# IDWR FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR 2009

## Driller licensing Program

<b>FY 2009</b>		
Revenue		16,176
Expenditures		
Personnel costs	30,246	
Training	1,200	
Supplies	6	
Professional services	8,000	
Refund from IGWA	(3,639)	
Driller plates	195	
	36,007	
FY Balance		(19,831)

## Well Construction Program

<b>FY 2009</b>		
Revenue		272,790
Expenditures		
Personnel costs		456,063
Supplies		1,007
Postal & mail		14
Data Line Charges		180
Cellular phone		568
Video/conference calls		111
Printing and Binding		1,146
Vehicle services		505
Field supplies		310
Computer hardware maintenance		374
Travel		3,014
	463,292	
FY Balance		(190,502)



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