

IDAPA 37 – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

37.03.03 – RULES AND MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND USE OF INJECTION WELLS

DOCKET NO. 37-0303-2301

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROMULGATE RULES – ZERO-BASED REGULATION NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Sections 67-5220(1) and 67-5220(2), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that the Idaho Department of Water Resources (“IDWR”) intends to repeal and promulgate rules and desires public comment prior to initiating formal rulemaking procedures. This negotiated rulemaking action is authorized pursuant to Section 42-1805(8), Idaho Code. This action is consistent with Executive Order 2020-01: Zero-Based Regulation, which directs agencies to review all administrative rules over the five-year period of 2021-2025 (completing review no later than Idaho Legislature sine die 2026).

MEETING SCHEDULE: A negotiated rulemaking meeting has been scheduled. Any additional meeting dates will be posted on IDWR’s website at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/legal-action/rules/idwr-rulemaking-2023-2024/water-appropriation-rules/>.

PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, April 27, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

In Person: Idaho Dept. of Water Resources

322 E Front St.

Boise, ID 83720-0098

(Meeting to be held at IDWR Office Conference Rooms B, C & D, located on the 6th Floor of the University of Idaho Water Center)

*To sign up for attendance via telephone/videoconference,
Contact rulesinfo@idwr.idaho.gov or Sarah Tschohl at 208-287-4815 by **April 21, 2023***

Materials pertaining to the negotiated rulemaking, including any available preliminary rule drafts, can be found on the agency web site at the following web address: <https://idwr.idaho.gov/legal-action/rules/idwr-rulemaking-2023-2024/water-appropriation-rules/>

The meeting site(s) will be accessible to persons with disabilities, if needed. Requests for accommodation must be made not later than five (5) days prior to the meeting to the agency address below.

METHOD OF PARTICIPATION: Persons wishing to participate in the negotiated rulemaking must either attend the above-scheduled meeting or identify themselves to IDWR using the phone number or email address listed above in advance of the above-scheduled meeting. Upon conclusion of negotiated rulemaking, any unresolved issues, all key issues considered, and conclusions reached during the negotiated rulemaking will be addressed in a written summary. The summary will be made available to interested persons who contact IDWR or, if IDWR chooses, the summary may be posted on IDWR’s website listed above.

Should a reasonable number of persons respond to this notice, additional negotiated meetings may be scheduled, and all scheduled meetings shall be posted and made accessible on IDWR’s website listed in this notice.

A lack of a sufficient number of responses to this notice of intent may result in the discontinuation of further informal proceedings. In either event, IDWR has sole discretion in determining the feasibility of scheduling and conducting informal negotiated rulemaking and may proceed directly to formal rulemaking if proceeding with negotiated rulemaking is deemed infeasible.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE: The following is a statement in nontechnical language of the substance and purpose of the intended negotiated rulemaking and the principal issues involved:

This rulemaking will review the “Rules and Minimum Standards for the Construction and Use of Injection Wells,” IDAPA 37.03.03, consistent with Executive Order 2020-01. The Injection Well Rules provide minimum standards for the construction and use

of injection wells to protect groundwater resources from contamination or deterioration and preserve groundwater resources for diversion to beneficial uses (*see Idaho Code § 42-3901*). The Rules require all injection wells to be permitted and constructed in accordance with the Well Construction Standards Rules (IDAPA 37.03.09). The Injection Well Rules are necessary to maintain state primacy for regulation of injection wells pursuant to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, under which authority Idaho regulates the permitting, construction, and operation of certain injection wells within the state.

IDWR identified the following areas as potential changes from the existing chapter:

- Remove subsection rules if non-regulatory measures can be implemented in lieu of the rules.
- Simplify, condense, and modernize rule language.
- Remove obsolete or unnecessarily duplicative rule language.
- Clarify rule language not adequately explained.

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS, OBTAINING DRAFT COPIES:

For assistance on technical questions concerning this negotiated rulemaking or to obtain a preliminary draft copy of the rule text, contact rulesinfo@idwr.idaho.gov or contact Mathew Weaver, IDWR Rules Review Officer at (208) 287-4800.

Anyone may submit written comments regarding this negotiated rulemaking. All written comments on topics covered during the **April 27, 2023** meeting must be directed to the undersigned and must be delivered on or before **May 12, 2023**. Information regarding any additional public comment opportunities will be posted on IDWR's website listed above.

DATED this 1st day of April, 2023.

Mathew Weaver, Deputy Director
Idaho Department of Water Resources
322 E Front St
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0098
Phone: (208) 287-4800
Fax: (208) 287-6700
Email: Mathew.weaver@idwr.idaho.gov