

Boe, Erik

From: Mack Fox <mfox@rscigroup.com>
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2022 9:24 AM
To: Boe, Erik
Subject: Re: Well Driller Licensing Rules

Erik,

I'm writing to express my concerns about the significant backlog of wells needing to be drilled in the Southwestern Idaho. Current lead times vary between 10 to 24 months.

I'm not sure if there are any steps IDWR can take to help mitigate this backlog but wanted for this to be an item discussed at your upcoming meeting. You know your industry best so if anyone can figure it out, I'm sure it's all of you.

It's difficult to address a lack of drilling rigs and materials, but we might be able to address the lack of fully certified crew leads and drillers. Perhaps we can allow apprentice drillers to operate, if they have an inspector present for the drilling, sealing, capping etc. ?

Inspectors could be stationed at and/or sourced from local or county building departments, or perhaps your department could be expanded and several inspectors can be brought on to handle each region. This would increase quality control and environmental safety, while also allowing more wells to be drilled.

The costs for expanding the inspection program could be paid for completely with an increase in costs for new well permits. Permit costs for redrilling existing wells, repairing wells, or drilling new wells at existing sites could be kept the same to ensure that the elderly and others with lower spending power would be taken care of and not go without water.

A \$3,000 fee for each well permit at a new location would provide a significant budget for inspection. Ultimately the costs would be passed on to those purchasing new homes, cabins and vacation homes who can certainly afford it. I know that I would be more than happy to pay an extra \$3,000 if it meant I could get water to my cabin this year rather than the end of next year or beyond. (I've been on a waiting list for 9 months now)

Best,

Mckenzie Fox
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From: Boe, Erik <Erik.Boe@idwr.idaho.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 2:30 PM
To: Mack Fox <mfox@rscigroup.com>
Subject: Well Driller Licensing Rules

Hi Mckenzie,

Here's my contact info. If interested, please respond with comments related to Well Driller Licensing in Idaho and I am happy to present them at our next negotiated rule making meeting on 6/23.

Thank you,
Erik



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

Idaho Department of Water Resources

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