

**IDAPA 37 – IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES AND  
IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD**

**DOCKET NO. 37-0000-2100F**

**NOTICE OF OMNIBUS RULEMAKING - ADOPTION OF TEMPORARY RULE**

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The effective date of the temporary rule(s) being adopted through this omnibus rulemaking is upon the adjournment date of the second regular session of the 65<sup>th</sup> Idaho State Legislature (sine die).

**AUTHORITY:** In compliance with Section 67-5224, Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has adopted a pending rule. The action is authorized pursuant to Section(s) 42-238(12), 42-603, 42-1414, 42-1701A(1), 42-1714, 42-1709, 42-1721, 42-1734(19), 42-1761, 42-1762, 42-1765, 42-1414, 42-1805(8), 42-3803, 42-3913, 42-3914, 42-3915, 42-4001 42-4010, 67-2356, and 67-5206(5), Idaho Code.

**DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:** The following is the required finding and concise statement of its supporting reasons for adopting a temporary rule:

This temporary rule adopts the following chapter(s) under IDAPA 37:

- 37.01.01 – Rules of Procedure of the Idaho Department of Water Resources.
- 37.02.03 – Water Supply Bank Rules.
- 37.03.01 – Adjudication Rules.
- 37.03.02 – Beneficial Use Examination Rules.
- 37.03.03 – Rules and Minimum Standards for the Construction and Use of Injection Wells.
- 37.03.04 – Drilling for Geothermal Resources Rules.
- 37.03.05 – Mine Tailings Impoundment Structures Rules.
- 37.03.06 – Safety of Dams Rules.
- 37.03.07 – Stream Channel Alteration Rules.
- 37.03.08 – Water Appropriation Rules.
- 37.03.09 – Well Construction Standards and Rules.
- 37.03.10 – Well Driller Licensing Rules.

**TEMPORARY RULE JUSTIFICATION:** Pursuant to Section(s) 67-5226(1) and 67-5226(2), Idaho Code, the Governor has found that temporary adoption of the rule is appropriate for the following reasons:

These temporary rules are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Idaho and confer a benefit on its citizens. These temporary rules implement the duly enacted laws of the state of Idaho, provide citizens with the detailed rules and standards for complying with those laws, and assist in the orderly execution and enforcement of those laws. The expiration of these rules without due consideration and processes would undermine the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Idaho and deprive them of the benefit intended by these rules. The Idaho Water Resource Board and the Department of Water Resources find these rules are necessary for the continued efficient and consistent execution of contested case proceedings, implementing the water supply bank program, adjudicating water rights, issuing water rights (permits, licenses, transfers, etc.), implementing the underground injection well program, protecting geothermal resources, protecting ground water resources, ensuring regulated dams and mine tailing and water impoundment structures do not pose a health or safety risk to the public, ensuring stream channel alteration activities do not impair the resources or pose a health or safety risk to the public, and issuing well driller licenses.

**FEE SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section 67-5226(2), the Governor has found that the fee(s) or charge(s) being imposed or increased is justified and necessary to avoid immediate danger and the fee(s) is described herein:

---

The fees or charges, authorized in Title 42, Idaho Code, as further specified below, are part of the agency's 2021 budget that relies upon the existence of these fees or charges to meet the state's obligations and provide necessary state services. Failing to reauthorize these temporary rules would create immediate danger to the state budget, immediate danger to necessary state functions and services, and immediate danger of a violation of Idaho's constitutional requirement that it balance its budget.

The following is a specific description of the fees or charges:

IDAPA 37.01.01 establishes the rules of procedure governing contested case proceedings before IDWR and the IWRB. It also addresses filing fees associated with such proceedings. This chapter was adopted under the legal authority of Sections 42-1701A(1), 42-1734(19), 42-1805(8), 67-2356 and 67- 5206(5), Idaho Code.

IDAPA 37.02.03 governs IWRB's operation and management of the water supply bank authorized by statute. The purpose of the water supply bank is to encourage the highest beneficial use of water; provide a source of adequate water supplies to benefit new and supplemental water users; and provide a source of funding for improving water user facilities and efficiencies. It also establishes lease and rental fees that are used to carry out the program which are credited to IWRB's revolving development and water management accounts. This chapter was adopted under the legal authority of Section 42-1762, Idaho Code.

IDAPA 37.03.01 implements the filing of notices of claims to water rights claimed under state law and the collection of fees for filing notices of claims to water rights acquired under state law in general adjudications. Idaho is currently in the midst of the North Idaho Adjudication (NIA) and IDWR has recently commenced the Palouse Basin Adjudication and anticipates commencing the final phase of the NIA—the Clark Fork-Pend Oreille River Basin adjudication—sometime after 2020. The Rule is integral to the processing of these general adjudications. This chapter was adopted under the legal authority of Sections 42-1414, and 42-1805(8), Idaho Code.

IDAPA 37.03.02 governs the examination requirements necessary to consider and determine the extent of application of water to beneficial use accomplished under a water right permit. The Rule also establishes that field examinations can be conducted by certified water right examiners appointed by the Director. Finally, the Rule governs licensing examination fees which are used to offset costs incurred by IDWR in reviewing and determining the extent of beneficial use. This chapter was adopted under the legal authority of Section 42-1805(8), Idaho Code.

IDAPA 37.03.03 governs injection wells in Idaho. The Rule requires all injection wells to be permitted and constructed in accordance with the Well Construction Standards Rules (IDAPA 37.03.09), which protect ground water resources from quality impairment. It is also necessary to maintain this Rule in order for the IWRB to maintain compliance with federal law, under which authority Idaho regulates the permitting, construction, and operation of certain injection wells within the state. Finally, the Rule governs inventory and permit fees which are used to partially fund the operation of the Underground Injection Control program in Idaho. This chapter was adopted under the legal authority of Sections 42-3913, 42-3914, and 42-3915, Idaho Code.

IDAPA 37.03.04 governs the regulation of geothermal resource exploration and development and ensure that such activities occur in the public interest. The Rule allows Idaho's geothermal policy, "to maximize the benefits to the entire state which may be derived from the utilization of our geothermal resources, while minimizing the detriments and costs of all kinds which could results from their utilization" is met. The Rule also requires fees for geothermal exploratory wells, production wells, injection wells, and amendments to permits, as set forth in Idaho Code Sections 42-4003 and 4011.

IDAPA 37.03.05 establishes acceptable construction standards and governs IDWR's design and technical review of mine tailing and water impoundment structures. The Rule also supports the collection of a fee to review plans, drawings, and specifications pertaining to any mine tailings impoundment structure.

IDAPA 37.03.06 establishes acceptable standards for construction of dams and establishes guidelines for safety evaluation of new or existing dams. The Rule applies to all new dams, to existing dams to be enlarged, altered or repaired, and maintenance of certain existing dams, as specifically provided in the Rule. This chapter also establishes the collection of a fee to review plans, drawings, and specifications pertaining to the construction,

enlargement, alteration, or repair of small high-risk, intermediate, or large dams. This chapter was adopted pursuant to Section 42-1714, Idaho Code.

IDAPA 37.03.07 governs the permitting of stream channel alterations that are of a common type, which do not propose alterations which will be a hazard to the stream channel and its environment. This chapter also establishes the collection of stream channel alteration statutory filing fees as authorized in Idaho Code Section 42-3803.

IDAPA 37.03.08 governs appropriations from all sources of unappropriated public water in the state of Idaho under the authority of Chapter 2, Title 42, Idaho Code. Sources of public water include rivers, streams, springs, lakes and groundwater. The rules are also applicable to the reallocation of hydropower water rights (i.e. Swan Falls Trust Water) held in trust by the state of Idaho. The Rule also implements the application, re-advertisement, and mailing fees set forth in Idaho Code Sections 42-221F and 42-203(A)3.

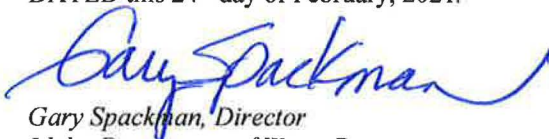
IDAPA 37.03.09 governs IDWR's statutory responsibility for the statewide administration of the rules governing well construction. These rules establish minimum standards for the construction of all new wells and the modification and decommissioning (abandonment) of existing wells. The intent of the Rule is to protect ground water resources of the state against waste and contamination. The Rule also implements the drilling permit fees set forth in Idaho Code Section 42-235.

IDAPA 37.03.10 establishes the requirements and procedures for obtaining and renewing authorization to drill wells in the state of Idaho. The rules also establish the requirements and procedures for obtaining authorization to operate drilling equipment under the supervision of a licensed driller. The licensing rules are applicable to all individuals and companies drilling or contracting to drill wells. The rules also implement the application licensing fees set forth in Idaho Code Section 42-238.

In summary, the fee categories described in the attached rules include: (1) administrative appeals filing fees; (2) water supply bank lease and rental fees; (3) adjudication application fees; (4) water right licensing examination fees; (5) injection well inventory and permit fees; (6) geothermal well permit fees; (7) design review fees for mine tailings impoundment structure and select dams; (8) stream channel alteration statutory filing fees; (9) water right application, re-advertisement, and mailing fees; (10) well drilling permit fees; and (11) application licensing fees for well drillers.

**ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS:** For assistance on technical questions concerning the temporary and proposed rule, contact Mathew Weaver Deputy Director at (208) 287-4800.

DATED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.



Gary Spackman, Director  
Idaho Department of Water Resources  
322 E. Front Street  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720  
Phone: (208) 287-4800