

# IGWA Newsletter

The newsletter of the Indiana Ground Water Association (IGWA)

IGWA Office: PO Box 160, Covington, IN 47932 • Phone: 888-443-7330 • Fax: 765-231-4430  
Email: [ingroundwater@gmail.com](mailto:ingroundwater@gmail.com) • Website: [www.indianagroundwater.org](http://www.indianagroundwater.org)



## Letter from the President

I wanted to thank everyone for their support at our recent CEU event in early November. It is an honor to follow a great leader like Rusty McGrew. I have always felt that you should “leave your association better than you found it,” and I believe that Rusty, along with our other former presidents, has done a great job of creating a better association. Now, let me share a little more about who your next president is and some of my plans.

I am a father of four children and have been married for over seventeen years to a truly amazing woman (this part wasn't in my first draft, but the wife proofread for me). I have been a member of the IGWA association for over eight years, and before then I worked in distribution for one of the largest water well distributors in the United States. Even before this I was part of an organization known as IOWPA, the Indiana Onsite Wastewater Professionals Association. I have to admit, I don't miss those grey water days!

Moving farther back I was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio where I learned the true meaning on hard work from father who worked for Chrysler Jeep for over 43 years. I am one of six children and I have an identical twin brother who unfortunately works in sales for grey water in Ohio. Only joking of course, but when you deal in grey water pumps you know it is not always fun to tear them apart! I have also earned a degree at the age of 39 from Indiana University through IPFW in Fort Wayne, Indiana. It's true that you are never too old to learn new things.

But enough about me... my plans for the IGWA are to form a common ground where other association members can reach out to one another and help grow our association in membership and in distributorship. We are currently working toward hosting other field days, the 2018 convention, and some events to bring our association members closer together as an organization.

Well, I'll wrap up my first president's letter by thanking you for your support, and inviting you to join me as I pursue my goal of making our association even better than I found it.

Sincerely,  
Greg Parker, Franklin Electric

*See the association's entire 2018 Board of Directors on page 4.*



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[www.facebook.com/Indiana.GroundWater.Association/](http://www.facebook.com/Indiana.GroundWater.Association/)

## IGWA FAMILY IN BUSINESS SCHOLARSHIP

- Applications Due April 30th
- Applicant must be a member, immediate family of IGWA member, employee of IGWA member, or immediate family member of employee.
- Applicant must be accepted at a college, university or trade or technical school. (Student may be full- or part-time.)
- All applications must be returned before April 30. Recipients will be notified by June 15.

Scholarship application and information —  
[www.indianagroundwater.org](http://www.indianagroundwater.org)

## TAX TIME NOTE

A portion of your membership dues goes towards lobbying. This is not a tax deductible item.

The portion of your dues for lobby expense in 2017 was \$3.95. Please consult your tax advisor on this matter.

## DUES REMINDER

The end of the year is a frantic time all the way around. End of year planning and the holidays take up much time. Dues were due on November 30.

If you have not sent yours yet, please do so as soon as possible. If you are not sure if you paid, please call or email the office. Thank you.



## THANK YOU IGWA 2017 SPONSORS!

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*Thank  
you!*

## INDIANA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND MEETING

On January 16, 2018 Troy Alexander attended the Green Industry Alliance's Legislative Reception at the Statehouse in Indianapolis. This was an opportunity to meet state legislators and share IGWA's concerns about some of the proposed legislation that may affect our members. Senate Bill 361 and House Bills 1267 & 1423 all may have an impact on our members.

**Senate Bill 361** in particular may impact our members. The current bill reads:

*Water infrastructure task force. Establishes a water infrastructure task force (task force) consisting of two members of the senate, two members of the House of Representatives, and five governor's appointees, one of whom the governor shall appoint to serve as chair of the task force. Requires the task force to: (1) study drinking water systems and wastewater management systems; and (2) develop a long term plan for addressing drinking water and wastewater needs in Indiana. Requires the Indiana Finance Authority to provide staff support to the task force. Requires the task force to submit a report containing certain recommendations to the general assembly and the governor not later than December 1, 2018.*

Troy met with State Senator Phil Boots. He encouraged the Senator to include in the bill wording that a licensed water well driller to be one of the stakeholders included in the task force. Troy explained why the IGWA feels it is important that water well drillers are represented on this committee. Senator Boots seemed open to the idea of this suggestion.

The other House Bill that could affect drillers is **House Bill 1423** which will divide the state into 18 water resource planning groups. This is another set of groups that the IGWA feels water well drillers should be included on.

**House Bill 1267** along with **Senate Bill 362** look at creating another task force that has to do with drinking water. Again another area in which we feel that water well drillers should be represented.

### You can do your part

The more constituents that contact their Senator or Representative will show that this is an important matter to our association. Many of the regulations that are passed that affect water well drillers and pump installers usually have no input from them. This is our chance to be heard.

**Find your legislator using this link:** <https://iga.in.gov/legislative/find-legislators/>  
Use this to find your local legislator and request that they include water well drillers in this conversation.

If you have any questions, please call Troy Alexander at 765-585-0987 or Jennifer at the office 888-443-7330.



## WE NEED YOU!

The IGWA Board is working on the Biennial Convention. We are planning the education classes.

Now is the time to let us know what you would like to see for classes. Please email your ideas to [ingroundwater@gmail.com](mailto:ingroundwater@gmail.com) to let us know what you want.



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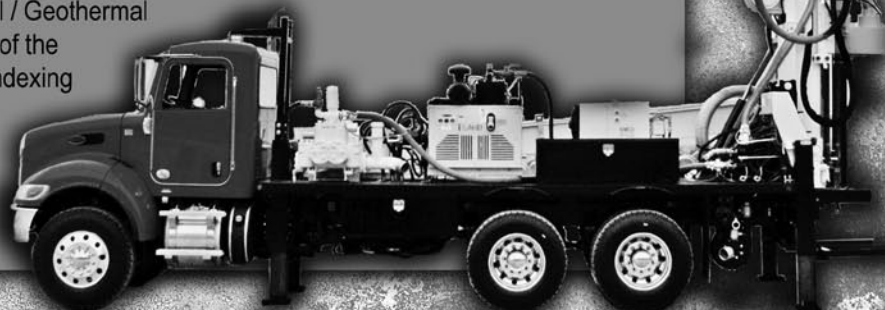
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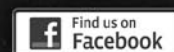


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# GROUNDWATER: OUT OF SIGHT, BUT NOT OUT OF MIND

by Kevin McCray, CAE, Executive Director, National Ground Water Association  
Reprinted from the NGWA

Some 44 percent of the U.S. population depends on groundwater, the water that fills cracks and other openings in beds of rock and sand, for its drinking water supply — be it from either a public source or private well. In rural areas, the number is about 96 percent. That fact alone justifies the need for National Groundwater Awareness Week, to be observed March 11-17, 2018.

## But groundwater is important to us in many other ways, as well. Consider:

Groundwater provides much of the flow of many streams; often lakes and streams are "windows" to the water table. Groundwater adds 492 billion gallons per day to U.S. surface water bodies. In large part, the flow in a stream represents water that has flowed from the ground into the stream channel.

- Scientists estimate U.S. groundwater reserves to be at least 33,000 trillion gallons — equal to the amount discharged into the Gulf of Mexico by the Mississippi River in the past 200 years.
- The United States uses 79.6 billion gallons per day of fresh groundwater for public supply, private supply, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and other purposes.
- Groundwater is tapped through wells placed in water-bearing soils and rocks beneath the surface of the Earth. There are nearly 15.9 million of these wells serving households, cities, business, and agriculture every day. Wells are constructed by the 8,100 contracting firms employing nearly 45,000 people dedicated to providing and protecting our nation's groundwater supplies.
- Irrigation accounts for the largest use of groundwater in the United States, about 67.2 percent of all the groundwater pumped each day. Some 53.5 billion gallons of groundwater are used daily for agricultural irrigation from more than 407,913 wells. Irrigation is a major reason for the abundance of fresh produce and grains that we all enjoy.
- One ton of groundwater used by industry generates an estimated \$14,000 worth of output.

These facts help us connect with the important role we each play as stewards, or protectors, of groundwater. Man can adversely affect the resource. Fortunately, there are simple steps that will help protect groundwater and the wells systems that distribute it.

- Always use licensed or certified water well drillers and pump installers when a well is constructed or serviced, or when the pump is installed or serviced.
- Keep hazardous materials away from any well. Never dump such materials, motor oil, or anything else that could impact water quality onto the land surface, into a hole or pit, or into a surface water supply.

These tips and more are available from sources such as a state groundwater or water well association, NGWA, or from your county agricultural extension agent or state government agency with responsibility for groundwater. A convenient source for a broader understanding of our groundwater protector role can be found at [www.wellowner.org](http://www.wellowner.org), a Web service of NGWA.

National Groundwater Awareness Week is not a celebration such as the Fourth of July has become. Instead, we should use the week to reflect more deeply on groundwater's value and its contributions to our lives.

## MORE INFORMATION:

National Groundwater Awareness Week  
March 11–17, 2018

The National Groundwater Association has many products that you can utilize to make your customers aware of this week. As we in the industry know, groundwater is one of the most valuable natural resources we have. Educating the public is one of our best tools to ensure everyone understands this. The tools can be found at: [groundwaterawarenessweek.com](http://groundwaterawarenessweek.com)

If you do something for Awareness week, let us know! We will post in it in the next newsletter.



National Groundwater Awareness Week  
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March 11 - 17

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## NGWA UPDATES

From NGWA Washington Update

### As ELD Mandate Goes into Effect, NGWA Offers Resource on Exemptions

As of December 18, 2017 the mandate to install electronic logging devices in commercial vehicles is in place.

In order to ensure NGWA members are aware of the exemptions to the mandate, the Association has prepared a postcard for you to download and reference at <http://www.ngwa.org/Advocacy-Awareness/Documents/ELDpostcard.pdf>.

Please consider sharing this with anyone who may be subject to or exempt from the ELD mandate.

NGWA encourages any drivers who are operating under the exemptions to keep this resource with them because there may be a learning curve with enforcement of this new mandate. This postcard can serve as a helpful tool in answering any questions during an inspection.

As a reminder, while fines and enforcement officially began on December 18, 2017, out-of-service criteria associated with compliance will not begin until April 1, 2018.

NGWA impact: The ELD mandate will increase the cost of doing business for those subject to complying with it. Nevertheless, NGWA hopes the tool will enable drivers to take advantage of the exemptions, if possible, and avoid undue scrutiny during inspections.

For quick reference NGWA has created the postcard (shown below) that explains the exemptions to the electronic logging device mandate. Download at:

<http://www.ngwa.org/Advocacy-Awareness/Documents/ELDpostcard.pdf>.

#### The Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandate is effective as of 12/18/17.

All commercial drivers are required to install an ELD if they are also required to prepare hours-of-service records of duty status.

#### The following drivers are not required to install an electronic logging device:

- Drivers who use the timecard exception (not required to use RODS or ELDs)
- Drivers who use paper RODS for not more than 8 days out of every 30-day period.
- Drivers of vehicles manufactured before 2000.
- Drivers who fall under the 100 air-mile exemption for Hours of Service
- Drivers who are required to keep RODS not more than 8 days within any 30-day period.
- Drivers who conduct drive-away-tow-away operations, where the vehicle being driven is the commodity being delivered, or the vehicle being transported is a motor home or a recreation vehicle trailer with one or more sets of wheels on the surface of the roadway.
- Drivers of vehicles manufactured before the model year 2000. (As reflected on the vehicle registration)

The ELD final rule does not change any of the basic hours-of-service rules or exceptions.

Information provided by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.



NGWA wants to make sure you are prepared and in-the-know as the ELD mandate take effect. The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's (FMCSA) congressionally mandated ELD compliance deadline goes into effect December 18, 2017. On that date, inspectors and roadside enforcement personnel will begin documenting violations on roadside inspection reports and, at the jurisdiction's discretion, will issue citations to commercial motor vehicle drivers operating vehicles without a compliant ELD. Beginning April 1, 2018, inspectors will start placing commercial motor vehicle drivers out of service if their vehicle is not equipped with a required device.

- Step 1): Download the NGWA ELD Exemptions Postcard.  
Step 2): Print the postcard and considering laminating the card for safe-keeping.  
Step 3): Keep the postcard with your registration.  
Step 4): If questions arise during an inspection, refer to postcard for exemption information.

With questions or for more information, contact  
NGWA headquarters at:  
1-800-551-7379



### FMCSA Announces Modifications to Unified Carrier Registration Fees

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration announced a final rule modifying fees under the Unified Carrier Registration. This rule establishes reductions in the annual registration fees collected from motor carriers, motor private carriers of property, brokers, freight forwarders, and leasing companies

for the UCR Plan and Agreement for the registration years 2018, 2019, and subsequent years.

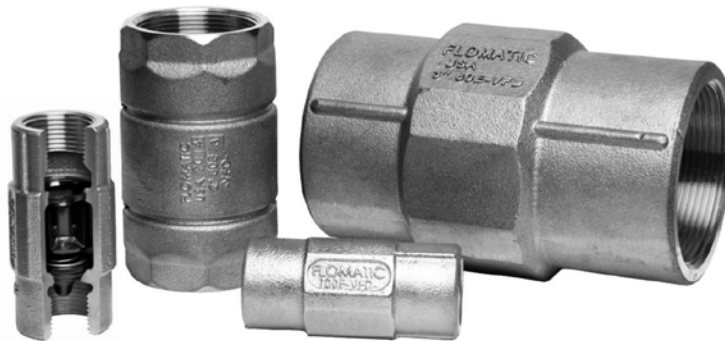
For the 2018 registration year, the fees will be reduced below the current level by approximately 9.10% to ensure that fee revenues do not exceed the statutory maximum. For the 2019 registration year,

the fees will be reduced below the current level by approximately 4.55%.

NGWA impact: For those NGWA members who use the Unified Carrier Registration, these fee reductions could reduce the cost of doing business for 2018 and 2019.

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## NGWA UPDATES (continued)

From NGWA Washington Update

### Comprehensive Tax Reform Passes; Small Businesses to See Benefits, While Renewables Left Out

Just before recessing for the holidays, Congress passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—a comprehensive tax reform package including changes to the corporate and individual tax codes.

The overall corporate tax rate was lowered to 21 percent, while the individual rates were modified, dropping the top tax rate to 37 percent. The modifications to the individual rates will phase out in 2025, while changes to the corporate tax code are permanent.

Here are a few additional highlights most relevant to NGWA members:

#### What's In:

- **Small Business Expensing:** The bill raises the cap on investments that can be expensed to \$1 million, up from \$500,000 in the existing tax code.
- **Bonus Depreciation:** The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act increases bonus depreciation

to 100 percent—up from the current rate of 50 percent—for new, short-lived capital investments or “full expensing” for five years and then phases out over the subsequent five years.

- **Pass-Through Businesses:** Small and pass-through businesses that pay taxes as individuals are subject to a new 20 percent deduction. However, this doesn't apply to all in the service industry. Many consultants, like lawyers and doctors, are not excluded from claiming the deduction, whereas engineers are eligible.
- **Estate Tax:** The exemption from paying an estate tax was doubled to roughly \$12 million, up from the current level of \$5.6 million. However, the estate tax will remain in place.

#### What's Out:

- **Graduate Student Penalties:** Previous versions of the tax bill would have

penalized students pursuing a graduate degree. Fortunately, those provisions were removed from the final piece of legislation.

- **Renewable Energy Provisions:** Those provisions related to encouraging the use of renewable energy technologies—like sections 25D, 48, and 179 of the tax code—were all removed from the final package. While disappointing, there is a separate effort to move this package of energy provisions forward in January.

#### NGWA Impact:

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act should lower taxes for small, family-owned businesses, as well as individuals. The plan is intended to spur economic growth, which could lead to greater investment in infrastructure. On the other hand, the high price tag of the legislation could also lead to cuts to federal spending programs down the road.

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## Calendar

**March 2018**

11-17 National Groundwater Week  
[groundwaterawarenessweek.com](http://groundwaterawarenessweek.com)

**April 2018**

30 Deadline for Scholarship application.  
For more information and the  
application go to  
[www.indianagroundwater.com](http://www.indianagroundwater.com)

**November 2018**

1-2 IGWA Biennial Convention

**December 2018**

31 License renewal through the DNR.  
End of two-year education cycle.

## 2018 CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

The IGWA board members would like to thank the following companies for their corporate sponsorship of the association. Their help now and throughout the year helps keep costs to members down for membership and events.

Platinum Sponsors sponsor at the rate of \$4000.00 that covers a two-year period. Bronze Sponsors sponsor at the rate of \$750.00 for a one-year period.

**Platinum Sponsors****Bronze Sponsor**

*Thank-you for your continued sponsorship of this association!*