



Idaho Water Policy Group, Inc.

IGWA  
IIPA  
IRWA



1109 W. Main, Suite 300  
P.O. Box 2624  
Boise, ID 83701-2624

Phone: 208 381-0294  
Fax: 208 381-5272

Email: [l\\_tominaga@hotmail.com](mailto:l_tominaga@hotmail.com)  
[btominaga@hotmail.com](mailto:btominaga@hotmail.com)

Visit our webpage:

[www.idahowaterpolicygroup.org](http://www.idahowaterpolicygroup.org)

## Reclamation and Reuse of Municipal and Industrial Wastewater

**Negotiated Rulemaking:** This is the third meeting for the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Water (IDEQ) “Reuse and Reclaimed Water” negotiated rulemaking. The draft provided is the third draft with written comments received from other entities actively involved with the rule. We have not made any comments or recommendations on the rule.

IDEQ proposed changing the rule making name but members of the committee have suggested this rule be called “Recycled Water Rules”. With no objections from the committee, the rule will now be called Recycled Water Rules.

Attached to this summary are documents from IDEQ which show IDEQ’s proposed standards and a comparison of other states rules on Recycled Water. The committee proceeded to discuss the rule line by line. The committee had discussion of whether total coli form standard should be changed to E. coli or fecal coliform for this rule. The advantages of using E. coli or fecal coli form is that they are better indicators of problems with the water quality versus total coli form. Committee members and IDEQ were going to do research on fecal coliform or E. coli standards to see what standards could be set to justify health standards. If enough information is gain to justify the change from total coli form to fecal or E. coli there would be a fourth committee meeting tentatively scheduled for July 20, 2010.

The next discussion the committee wanted to address was the use of recycled water for other uses and especially irrigation purposes. The current standards for all A,B, C,D, & E classes of recycled water are too heavily regulated and expensive for the municipal systems to be comingled with other sources of water. For example, if a municipal water system wanted to give or mix its recycled water with irrigation or canal company water for agricultural water; all comingled water must be fenced off and signage must be provided for all areas where the comingled water is used. If the comingled water is piped, it must be identified by using purple coded pipe and installed by a licensed operator. The other method of using comingled water would be to establish standards for a mixing zone for all classes of use. IDEQ did not believe they had the time to develop health standards for those mixing zones. IDEQ did not want to address these issues because of time constraints and thus opted to address the current issues of this pending rule. IDEQ suggested that if enough interest was expressed in either the public comments or a written request from municipalities, then IDEQ would look at doing another negotiated rule making for this particular issue.

The rest of the committee time was used to streamline the permitting process and to parallel the current waste water system rules procedure and forms to address recycled water rules. These discussions centered around what items need to be in the original application and what items needed to be in the preliminary engineering design. A new draft of those rules will be forth coming. The next meeting is tentatively set for July 20, 2010.