

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Hours of Service Regulations

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Position Paper

The National Ground Water Association, founded in 1948, is a not-for-profit professional society and trade association for the groundwater industry. Our international membership includes some of the leading public and private sector groundwater scientists, engineers, water well contractors, manufacturers, and suppliers of groundwater-related products and services. NGWA has been and continues to be a forum for discussing and promoting the responsible protection, utilization, and cleanup of the nation's groundwater.

Subjects

Water well construction and service; water well pump installation and service; vehicle movement; safety

Audience

Government officials, contractors

Background

The hours of service regulations were first issued in 1937. These regulations were originally designed to protect the safety of long-haul truckers. Since driving is incidental to the primary "off road" work of groundwater contractors, these hours of service regulations create a number of hardships for our industry without any benefit. Current regulations create scheduling problems (thus preventing contractors from completing jobs for customers in a timely manner), impede providing or restoring the natural resource of water, and stop employees from accumulating overtime hours.

Recommended Position

To secure the same limited relief from hours of service regulations that exists in the oilfield.

In the instance of drivers of commercial motor vehicles used in the transportation of groundwater well drilling rigs and their operation, any period of eight consecutive days may end with the beginning of any off-duty period of 24 or more successive hours.

The definition of a water well drilling rig means any vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer, semitrailer, or specialized mobile equipment propelled or drawn by mechanical power not for hire, used upon the highways exclusively to transport water well field operating equipment including water well drilling and pump service rigs equipped to access groundwater.



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