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DOH Expands Technical Assistance Program to include Third Party Sanitary Surveys

The Drinking Water Program at the Department of Health (DOH) will soon be implementing a new program where third parties - such as local health jurisdictions - will conduct "sanitary surveys" of small Group A water systems, and provide the information from those surveys to both DOH and the water system. This will be an expansion of the sanitary survey program currently conducted by DOH field staff for larger water systems.

For many small systems who receive a call from DOH wanting to do a "sanitary survey," their response may be "What now? What did I do wrong? What will it be like? Is there a cost?" The following information should help explain what a routine sanitary survey is.

Sanitary surveys are comprehensive reviews by DOH staff of a water system's facilities and operation and management practices. They usually begin with a sit down review and discussion with the system operator regarding the system's Water Facilities Inventory (WFI); water quality monitoring history, waivers and schedule; cross-connection program; water rights; and treatment/operation records. The survey then moves to inspection of major sources and storage facilities. Beginning this year, increased attention will also be given in these site visits to the status of the system's wellhead protection program, its groundwater under the influence of surface water (GWI) monitoring program (if applicable), and the status and importance of the system's water system plan. The water system can then expect a follow-up letter from DOH regarding the findings, with recommendations for improvements that may include a timeline for correcting more critical items.

Special Purpose Investigations (SPIs), also part of the technical assistance program, are a more limited inspection of facilities and operations that focus on a particular problem that has been brought to DOH's attention by water quality monitoring, consumer complaints, or through formal enforcement.

Since 1995, DOH has been conducting an increased number of sanitary surveys of larger community and non-community water systems. Over 400 systems were surveyed last year. There are many benefits from the increased number of technical investigations (both sanitary surveys and special purpose

investigations) including:

- Identify facilities and operation/maintenance practices that need modification or correction;
- Explain, review, correct and update WFIs and water quality and monitoring records;
- Convey a comprehensive picture of the DOH drinking water program, and the regulatory requirements for the system;
- Improve access to DOH publications and other sources of information for water system operators;
- Explain new elements or anticipated changes under federal or state laws; and
- Reduce monitoring costs under some federal rules e.g. Total Coliform Rule.

In order to increase the number of surveyors available to inspect Group A public water systems, DOH is developing a program in which non-DOH inspectors will be qualified by DOH to perform surveys of non-community and smaller community public water systems. Some Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) have indicated a desire and willingness to be the lead entity to ensure surveys are completed, either by using their own staff or by contracting with private individuals. In other counties DOH will require the water system to contact someone on the DOH list of qualified sanitary surveyors (QSSs) to conduct the survey. Regardless of LHJ involvement, all QSSs must meet DOH pre-qualifications, attend a DOH training session, and submit a standardized checklist to DOH. Either the LHJ or DOH will then follow-up with a letter to the utility regarding the survey results and the need for any corrective action. Systems will be charged a fee for the survey.

Sanitary surveys, special purpose investigations and qualified third party sanitary surveys should be viewed as a positive thing by water system operators as they will have an opportunity to learn more about the drinking water program and their own water system facilities and operations. If improvements are needed, systems will have a head start on making them before the system fails to deliver water, or the supply becomes contaminated and threatens the health of consumers. For more information contact Dan Sander at (509) 456-2457.

Local Water Association Activities Pay Off

Being active in a water-related association or organization could give your system a boost. There are a number of state-wide and local water-related groups in which your system could participate. Water systems that participate in training, conferences, association and committee work do get a return on their investment. They not only learn from others and keep up with regulations, but establish relationships that are valuable when it's time to participate in developing state and/or national policy. It is also the perfect avenue for soliciting free or inexpensive technical assistance. The local payoff is in the networking you build, sharing of ideas, and in some cases sharing of resources.

Example of local group doing big things to benefit small systems-

The Camano Community Water Association was formed to better protect and manage the island's ground water supplies, and to meet the needs of small water systems on Camano Island. The association, only three years old, now has over 60 system and/or associate members, and continues to grow as systems become aware of membership benefits. The goal of this group is to improve operations by expanding the knowledge of members through education and training, and sharing resources. They have set up a resource library at the local county annex, acquired two water probes for measuring well water levels, and recently purchased leak detection equipment. They also negotiated reduced group water quality testing fees with a laboratory, and are looking into purchasing other equipment, as well as inventorying individual system equipment and supplies that could be shared. The board meets once a month to discuss local issues and concerns, and to develop future program activities. For more information on this group contact Dale Tyler at (360) 387-3468 or Ralph Ferguson at (360) 629-3273.

For more information on other local associations or groups that may be of interest to small water systems look for future articles in the Water Tap or contact: Lisa Raysby, Small Water System Program Manager, at (360) 236-3147 or internet: "lar0303@hub.doh.wa.gov"

State Attorney General Issues Opinion on Water Right Exemption Provisions

On October 10, 1997, the Washington State Office of the Attorney General issued a formal legal opinion (AGO) regarding exempt groundwater withdrawals in response to a request by the Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Ecology (Ecology). The two agencies requested clarification on the intent and meaning of the exemption (RCW 90.44.050), which allows withdrawals of ground water of up to 5,000 gallons per day without obtaining a water right through Ecology.

The most significant portion of the opinion states: "Where a property owner wishes to develop land and supply the development with domestic water from several wells, and each well will pump less than 5,000 gallons per day (gpd) but all the wells together will pump more than 5,000 gpd, the project is a single withdrawal of groundwater and is not exempt from the permit requirements of chapters 90.44 and 90.03 RCW." This will limit the use of multiple wells, or "six packs," for any development. Other portions of the opinion relate to interties between exempt wells, obtaining water right permits for exempt wells, and making transfers or changes to exempt wells.

This opinion has ramifications to local government permitting authorities and their findings of fact related to provision of adequate water to proposed land use developments under RCW 58.17.110 (adequacy determination) and for building permits under RCW 19.27.097 in certain circumstances. This opinion may lead to proposed legislation and court challenges.

DOH, Ecology and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development are further evaluating this opinion, determining how it affects existing policies and programs, and will be providing additional direction as possible. Further information will be included in future Water Tap articles.

The entire opinion is available on the World Wide Web at the following address:
http://www.wa.gov/ago/opinions/opinion_1997_6.html
For a printed copy contact Shelly Smith at (360) 236-3151.

Letter From the Director.....

In early February I attended the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) winter meeting in Virginia. The meeting featured interaction with several EPA program managers on implementation of the provisions of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). I thought I would take this opportunity to highlight a few areas of our discussions.

Representatives from EPA's Office of Enforcement, Compliance, & Assurance (OECA) were present to discuss a number of issues of interest to the states. In providing an overview of their program efforts, OECA staff noted that the priority compliance issues they would be focusing attention on in the coming year would be centered on implementation of the Surface Water Treatment Rule and the Lead/Copper Rule. While in Washington State we are progressing well with implementation of the Surface Water Treatment Rule requirements, we have a very high number of small water systems that remain out of compliance with basic monitoring requirements for lead and copper. If your system has not fulfilled its basic monitoring requirements under this rule, you can expect to see a fairly high level of enforcement follow-up coming your way from both this office as well as from EPA. I would strongly urge any water system that falls into this category of non-compliance to contact Chris McCord in our office at (360) 236-3135 to begin addressing this deficiency as soon as possible.

Another issue that generated significant discussion was around the area of communication, and how states are communicating to public water systems the complex requirements of the SDWA as well as proceeding to implement the new requirements dealing with Public Notification and Consumer Confidence Reports. The state of Texas has hired a person specializing in communications to assist in this critical area, and I am pleased to report that the state of Washington will soon be adding this type of expertise to our program efforts as well. Starting April 1, Janice Keller-Saul will be joining DOH as the new Environmental Health Programs Communications Manager to assist in our overall communication efforts. While Janice will be working directly for Assistant Secretary Eric Slagle, much of her effort will be targeted in the Division of Drinking Water. We are fortunate to have someone with Janice's degree of expertise and experience joining our efforts, and many of you will hopefully have a chance to interact with her in the near future.

Lastly, I will once again highlight that the regulatory oversight of public drinking water systems will not get simpler any time soon. During one of the ASDWA presentations, the EPA speaker displayed one of his "Halloween charts" (so named because 'they really scare people'). The one "Halloween chart" of particular interest showed that in 1986 drinking water systems were regulated for 23 contaminants. In 1996, the number of regulated contaminants was 84. By the year 2002 it was projected that we could be faced with 103 regulated contaminants, and by 2010 that number could reach 130. While the protection of the public's health through the provision of safe drinking water remains the priority for many of us, I think we will be challenged to maintain the core elements of a safe drinking water program in the face of all the "new" requirements that could be coming our way. We will surely need to be working together in order to make progress in this increasingly complex world in which we live.

Sincerely,

Gregg Grunenfelder, Director

Advisory Workgroup Assists Division with Cross-Connection Control Issues

The Division of Drinking Water has assembled a technical advisory workgroup for assistance on legislative, policy, regulatory and implementation issues related to cross-connection control (CCC).

Representatives from the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association CCC committee, regional CCC groups, various utilities around the state, the State Building Code Council, the Department of Labor and Industries, the Legislature, and building and plumbing officials have been invited to participate on the workgroup. The advisory workgroup is expected to be involved until the end of April 1998.

The workgroup will address controversial issues related to clarification of DOH regulations regarding a public water system's CCC program jurisdiction relative to local administrative authority's jurisdiction. Many purveyors have disagreed with DOH's current regulatory position, and feel purveyors should be responsible for CCC to the free-flowing tap. Under the Uniform Plumbing Code (as adopted by chapter 19.27 RCW), local authorities (building and/or plumbing officials) are responsible for cross-connection control within the property lines of the customer's premises. A legislative change would be needed to change this provision.

The workgroup will also address backflow protection and assembly testing requirements for residential customers in response to questions regarding the need for backflow protection and/or for annual testing of assemblies for residential customers with underground home irrigation systems.

A bill was introduced during the 1998 session that proposed to amend the plumbing statute (chapter 18.106 RCW) to clarify the services DOH-certified backflow assembly testers, who are not certified plumbers, could perform on backflow assemblies within buildings. This proposal was not brought to vote, so it remains an issue to be addressed by the workgroup.

The proposed cross-connection control regulations (WAC 246-290-490) will be revised based on both public comment and input from the workgroup. A second round of CCC regulation revision workshops is planned for the summer of 1998.

For questions on the workgroup or status of proposed cross-connection regulations, call Terri Notestine at (360) 236-3133.

Small Water System Advisory Committee Update

The Small Water System (SWS) Advisory Committee held its first meeting in early February, with over 50 external stakeholders (committee members and interested parties) attending. The committee brainstormed issues and solutions related to small water system problems and small water system technical assistance related products or services that could potentially be funded out of the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program or could be accomplished by reallocating existing resources. SWS Advisory Committee members will next prioritize the issues/solutions and proposed technical assistance programs. Results of the committee's efforts will be used to guide the Drinking Water Division in drafting up the 1998-99 Program Plan and for preparing the 1998-99 Intended Use Plan for SRF moneys. For more information on this committee or the small water system program, contact Lisa Raysby, Small Water System Program Manager, at (360) 236-3147 or internet: "lar0303@hub.doh.wa.gov"

Lisa Raysby has recently been elected Chair of the Pacific Northwest Section of American Water Works Association (PNWS-AWWA). The PNWS-AWWA is a professional organization of about 2,700 members representing the drinking water industry for Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and devoted to protecting drinking water quality and quantity. Her term as chair-elect will begin in May. She will serve as chair for the year starting in May 1999. In the 70 years since its inception, the PNWS-AWWA has had many women in leadership positions, but Lisa will have the distinction of being the first woman chair. Her priorities as chair include getting more diverse professional groups within the drinking water industry involved in the association, and increasing the outreach to and participation of small water systems.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Workshops

DOH has scheduled DWSRF application workshops for the second funding cycle to assist persons in completing applications for low-interest loans under the DWSRF. Call Chris Gagnon at (360) 236-3095 for more information.

(All Workshops (9:00 am-4:30 pm))

May 11	Hampton Inn, 2010 So. Assembly Rd.	Spokane
May 13	Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel 305 Pine St.	Everett
May 14	Tyee, 500 Tyee Drive Southwest	Olympia

New Phone Numbers in effect for Drinking Water Headquarters Staff as of 2/23/98

Main Information Line: 236-3100
Publications: 236-3099

Main 800 Line: 1-800-521-0323
Operator Certification Line
1-800-525-2536
Area Code: 360

FAX: 236-2252 or 236-2253
FAX: 664-4500 (for Tech Services Staff)

Administration	Gregg Grunenfelder	236-3110	Director
	Karena Jentzen	236-3111	Administrative Assistant
Assurance	Aden, John	236-3157	Enforcement
	Campbell, Dennis	236-3158	Local Health, JPOs
	Chapman, Linda	236-3156	Section Head
	Freier, Donna	236-3162	Consumer Confidence Reporting
	Smith, Christina	236-3161	Administrative assistant
Data	Treece, Darlene	236-3159	Operating Permits and Enforcement
	Boyer, Julie	236-3105	Section Manager
	Francis, Dan	236-3107	Program requirements/analysis
	Heath, Michael	236-3106	Program requirements/analysis
	Lam, Nguyen	236-3109	Programmer
	McCullough, Dean	236-3118	Technical requirements/operations lead
	Nguyen, Loan	236-3114	Programmer
	Pickens-Rucker Kathy	236-3108	Training, project plan/schedule/documentation
Management Support	Scherieble, Ed	236-3113	Programmer
	Stevens, Terri	236-3112	Lead programmer
	Gonia, Shy	236-3102	Administrative assistant
Operations	Ibanez, Marian	236-3103	Data entry
	Johnson, Peggy	236-3101	Section Head
Planning	Horan, Diana	236-3170	Administrative assistant
	Rowe, Al	236-3160	Operations Manager
	Beaton, Peter	236-3150	Financial viability, capacity development
	Fairchild, Erik	236-3148	Water conservation, water resources, growth management
	Jennings, David	236-3149	Watershed control program & wellhead protection program
Policy Development	Raysby, Lisa	236-3147	Small water systems
	Siffert, Richard	236-3146	Section Head
	Smith, Shelly	236-3151	Administrative assistant
	Gagnon, Chris	236-3095	State Revolving Fund
	Grant, Denise	236-3097	Administrative assistant
	Jaenicke, Tom	236-3094	Reg Reform, WSAC, Legislation, Rule development
Technical Services	Monthie, Dave	236-3091	Section Head
	Sarver, Rich	236-3093	State Revolving Fund
	Sides, Judy	236-3096	Publications, Internet, Policies, Public Disclosure
	Woolrich, Ronni	236-3092	Training/education
	Baker, Stephen	236-3138	Treatment plants, product certification, alternate treatment
	Bergener, Cheryl	236-3137	Operator Certification
	Freier, Brett	236-3136	Source water quality monitoring, ground water resources, organics
Technical Services	Hudson, Jim	236-3131	Section Head
	Jones, Judy	236-3139	Operator Certification, BATs, CCS
	McCord, Chris	236-3135	Lead/copper monitoring, surface water monitoring waivers
	Notestine, Terri	236-3133	Cross-connection control, surface water treatment rule
	Stern, Ginny	236-3134	Phase II/V, source water quality monitoring, ground water resources, organics
	Thompson, Rae	236-3141	Administrative assistant
	Tung, Simon	236-3132	Group B standards, geographic information systems, general technical issues
	Weber, Holly	236-3140	Administrative assistant

Water District Employees Face Conspiracy Charges

A recent case in Kentucky illustrates that states and EPA are serious when it comes to protecting public health. A

federal grand jury in Kentucky indicted three water district employees on charges they conspired to falsely record water quality test results. The measurements in question were turbidity readings that were recorded as below 0.5 ntu when in fact the true turbidity readings were in excess of 0.5 ntu. One of the employees was also charged with obstruction of justice and is accused of concealing or destroying turbidity recording charts.

Customer complaints alerted state drinking water staff who in turn visited the plant and observed improper recording of turbidity values. Because of the health significance associated with allowing a surface water source to exceed the maximum contaminant level without proper follow-up, an EPA/FBI investigation took place which resulted in charges being filed by the US

Attorney. If convicted, the three could face prison terms of up to 20 years and fines of as much as one million dollars.

It is important that water treatment plant operators and others responsible for supplying consumers with drinking water recognize the importance of their jobs. Knowingly falsifying or destroying records is very serious. The proper operation and maintenance of water treatment facilities has a direct impact on public health protection. Remember, DOH encourages Washington's water systems to contact staff anytime operational problems are encountered. For more information contact John Aden at (360) 236-3157.

Education/Training Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone #</u>
Mar. 24-26	WOW Annual Conference	Wenatchee	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Mar. 25	Alternative Disinfection Systems for disease free water	Spokane	Brad Phelps	(425) 361-9284
Mar. 31	Advanced Water System Hydraulics	Granite F	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Apr. 1	Safety & Health Procedures Manual Use Workshop	Moxee	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Apr. 8	Safety & Health Procedures Manual Use Workshop	Monroe	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Apr. 7-9	Basic Electrical	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 14-15	Disaster Planning for W/WW Utilities	Spokane	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
Apr. 14-16	Water Works Basics	Yakima	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
Apr. 16-17	Train the Trainer	Spokane	Brad Phelps	(425) 361-9284
Apr. 17	Asbestos-Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 20-21	Hydraulic Basics	Auburn	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
Apr. 22	Epidemiology & Water Borne Diseases Subsection Mtg	Spokane	Brad Phelps	(425) 361-9284
Apr. 22-24	Cross Connection Control Specialist Certifica. Review	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 23	Underground Utility Locating Leak Detection	Westport	AWWA	(360) 491-9250
Apr. 28-30	Water Works Basics	Marysville	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
Apr 29-May1	Water Certification Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr 29-May1	Expanding Environmental Health Roles in a Shrinking World (1998 Annual Educational Conference)	Bellingham	WSEHA	(425) 334-5399
May 6-8	PNWS AWWA Annual Spring Conference	Portland	Judy Grycko	(503) 246-5845
May 6-8	Water Certification Exam Review	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
May 4	Essentials of Electric Motors	Richland	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
May 14	Advanced Water System Hydraulics	Coulee City	ERW	(509) 962-6326
May 12-13	Advanced Math Review for Water Systems	Anacortes	ERW	(509) 962-6326
May 12-15	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Auburn	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
May 19-21	Chlorination System Operation & Maintenance	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
May 26-28	Complete Cross-Connection Control Manager's Course	Ephrata	ERW	(509) 962-6326
May 27-29	Water Certification Exam Review	Marysville	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jun 2-4	Pump Operation & Maintenance	Yakima	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
Jun 4	Cross Connection	Skagit Co	Marla Carter	(425) 257-8875
Jun 5	Asbestos-Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jun 5	Confined Space Entry	Yakima	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
Jun 9-12	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Kennewick	Norva Sobotta	(253)-833-9111
Jun 12	BAT Certification Exams	Vancouver	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111
Jun 15	BAT Certification Exams	Auburn	Norva Sobotta	(253) 833-9111

Dear Dr. Drip:

I heard a couple of coworkers talking about all of the problems that will develop when the year 2000 arrives. Some were predicting the end of the world from a combined assault of a worldwide disease, the greenhouse effect, alien invasions, asteroids, and el niño. Others said their personal computers were going to be worthless because of some data storage problem. What's the story with all of the panic with the year 2000? I own a personal computer and I use it to make our system's water bills. Do you know how my computer is going to be impacted, if at all? What should I do, start saving for a new computer now?



Sincerely,
Millie Lynn Iam
Dear Ms. Millie Lynn:

Lighten up chicken little! I called a friend who works in the field of computers and here's the scoop. Apparently in the past, computer programmers often saved valuable space when writing programs by leaving off the first two digits in the year (for example, they wrote 97 instead of 1997). So now when the year 2000 arrives, the computer programs will read 00 not knowing if the date is 2000 or 1900.

This date thing is going to be a big deal. You will most likely have to test your computer's Basic Input Output System (BIOS), its operating system, all software applications and hardware timers. Converting from two digit year dates to four digits may require rewriting/creating separate programs to perform date calculations and/or discarding and replacing old outdated software and hardware.

I anticipate that the computer world will be working diligently on simplifying the issues surrounding the year 2000 problem. I understand there is already information on the internet to assist you through the process. You may also want to contact the place where you bought your computer to see what help they can provide.

Sincerely,
Dr. Drip

TAP-TIPS.... Spring Maintenance and Flushing:

Winter is coming to an end and spring is an excellent time to get outdoors and flush your water system. Flushing is a good maintenance practice that can improve water quality, and should be done on a regular basis throughout the year. Since winter is the time when water usage is at its lowest, it is especially important to flush your distribution lines thoroughly in the spring. Flushing acts to "scour" the inside of your lines and removes buildup of bacteria, sediment and other deposits. To flush, begin at your source and flush at blow-offs or hydrants in succession away from the source. Flush a minimum of several minutes at each site, at least until the water runs clear. You might want to use a white plastic cup to catch the water during flushing in order to check for sediment. Be careful not to drain down your storage tank or create a low pressure area in any part of your system. You should wait at least 24 hours after flushing to collect your routine coliform sample to allow sediments which may have been stirred up to settle in the lines.

If your system is closed in the winter or a segment of your system is not used, it is appropriate to shock chlorinate the lines prior to use (call your regional office for assistance). A coliform sample should be collected after chlorine can no longer be detected in the water and before the water is consumed. You may choose to collect a sample that is not for compliance purposes after the shock chlorination to assure that your procedures adequately disinfected the lines. If so, mark it as "new construction" or "other" on your lab slip.

If you practice this spring routine, it may save time, frustration, and cost in the future. If you do this on a sunny warm day, these projects can even be quite pleasant!

Questions and Answers.....

When I'm working in the yard, I'm tempted to take a drink from my garden hose. Is this safe?

No. The water is safe, but a standard vinyl garden hose has substances in it to keep it flexible. These chemicals, which may get into the water as it goes through the hose, are not good for you. In addition, the outside thread opening at the end could be covered with germs.

American Water Works Association

Program Proposes to Increase Fees

The Drinking Water Program is proposing a 4.05% fee increase for various services it performs under WAC 246-290-990 and operator certification services it provides under WAC 246-292-160. The increase is necessary because under the current fee schedule the program collects only about 50% of the revenue it needs to provide the services. The proposed increase is the maximum amount permissible under this year's fiscal growth factor established under Initiative 601. The additional revenue the increase would generate is less than 5% of the program's current deficit for providing services for fees.

The department has tentatively scheduled a public hearing to discuss the proposed fee increase for 10:00 AM, April 22, 1998, at the Division of Drinking Water's Headquarters in Tumwater. For more information on the proposed fee increase or on the hearing, contact Tom Jaenicke at (360) 236-3094 or email to THJ0303@hub.doh.wa.gov

In this issue: The following individuals have contributed to the production of *the Water Tap*. John Aden, Peter Beaton, Erik Fairchild, Peggy Johnson, Dave Monthie, Terri Notestine, Tom Jaenicke, Jennifer Kropack, Jennifer Prodzinski, Lisa Raysby, Dan Sander, and Judy J. Sides, Editor.

South Puget Sound Community College offers New Public Works Program

You can earn an Associate of Technical Arts Degree in Public Works through a new public works program being offered by South Puget Sound Community College. A wide range of public works-related activities will be offered, and, with the help of an advisor, students can choose a sequence of electives toward career goals. Potential areas of emphasis include: Administration and Management; Planning; Water and Waste Water; Construction, Maintenance and Inspection; Surveying, Mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS); and Grounds and Building Maintenance. Call the Program Coordinator at South Puget Sound Community College (360) 754-7711 ext. 590 for general course and program questions.

Comments and questions are welcome. Please write: Editor, *the Water Tap*, Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water, P.O. Box 47822, Olympia, WA 98504-7822 or email to DWINFO@hub.doh.wa.gov 

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Drinking Water Week May 3-9, 1998

To assist water systems in their public education activities during National Drinking Water Week, AWWA compiles an annual Water Week Kit that contains camera-ready materials and ideas to help utilities highlight the week's activities. The kit contains news releases, camera-ready ads and logos, educational fact sheets, activities for kids, information on consumer confidence reporting, and other items designed to help water utilities spread the word for water throughout their communities. Kits can be obtained by contacting the Blue Thumb Project, c/o American Water Works Association, 6666 West Quincy Avenue, Denver, CO 80235 or call AWWA at (303) 794-7711 (cost is \$7.95 plus shipping and tax). Information is also available at the Blue Thumb Project web site at <http://www.awwa.org/bluethum.htm>