



the WATER TAP

WASHINGTON'S DRINKING WATER NEWSLETTER

Water for People and Fish: Drinking Water's Link to the Governor's Salmon Strategy

Salmon and water resource issues are among the highlights of this session of the Washington State Legislature, and the Drinking Water Division plays an important role in the discussions surrounding them.

The listing by the National Fisheries Service of seven species of fish in Washington as threatened or endangered will ultimately affect watersheds covering three-quarters of the state. Unless the state offers a salmon restoration plan acceptable to federal authorities, the federal government will impose one of its own.

In late January, Gov. Gary Locke released his proposed salmon recovery strategy, entitled *Water for People and Fish*.

The Governor's strategy, developed by the Joint Cabinet on Natural Resources, proposes to restore wild salmon and their habitat without federal intervention. The strategy includes proposed legislation focusing on putting more water in streams for the fish and their habitat. The Department of Health has participated in drafting the recovery strategy, particularly addressing water conservation and reuse.

Because DOH's Drinking Water Division is responsible for protecting people's health by assuring safe and reliable drinking water, it is the division most closely linked with the "safe water for people" portions of the strategy.

Drinking water protection is a core function of public health. It prevents health problems by taking steps to keep drinking water safe and responding if unsafe drinking water is discovered. These actions affect everyone in the state.

- 4.9 million citizens use public drinking water supplies in their homes.
- Schools, offices, churches, parks and other public places are served by public water supplies.
- Visitors to our state expect safe drinking water.
- We are responsible for regulating more than 16,000 public water systems drawing water from more than 23,000 sources.



When the Governor released his strategy, he said, "This legislation focuses on fish, but is also about the people who are living and working and doing business here in Washington. Salmon and humans both need a plentiful supply of clean, cool water to survive."

The proposed legislation would make conserving and re-using water a top priority throughout Washington. The Drinking Water Division currently manages programs that promote water conservation and the safe use of reclaimed water, and the proposed strategy and budget provide additional funding for these efforts. The proposal also steps up enforcement of water laws and allows greater flexibility in managing water use into the future.

Along with other drinking water stakeholders, DDW will continue to be involved in water resource and salmon issues as proposals move through the Legislature this session. Together we will promote "safe water for people" and the important role of safe drinking water in protecting the public health.

If you have additional questions about the Department of Health's role in water and salmon issues, please contact Gregg Grunenfelder, director of the Division of Drinking Water, at (360) 236-3110.



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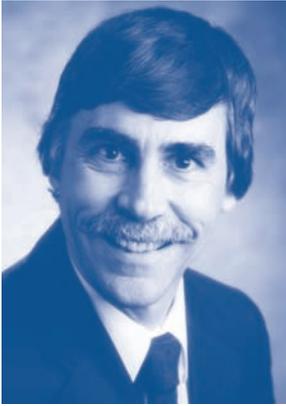


HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO TALK BACK!

There's a survey tucked inside this issue of Water Tap. Talk back to us! Tell us what you like ~ and don't like ~ about communicating with DOH Drinking Water. Tell us how to improve the training we provide. The survey won't take long to fill out. It's already addressed, and the postage is paid. Go for it! We really want to hear from you. Thank you.

Inside This Issue

From The Director	2
WaterWeek	3
SURVEY	5-8
EPA Rules	9
Training/Special Events Calender	6
Tap Tips/Dr. Drip	11



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR...

The Environmental Protection Agency and other major drinking water stakeholders are lining up a number of activities for 1999 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act. (See *article on page 12.*) To me, the most intriguing of these is an ongoing series of discussions that looks at the *next* 25 years of drinking water. It will culminate, this December, with a Futures Forum, in Washington, DC.

The discussion series centers on a few big questions, including:

- How can we make sure that drinking water is safe in 25 years?
- What are our responsibilities to those not served by public water systems?
- How should drinking water be delivered in the future? What will drive changes?
- Will small systems be able to survive?
- How do we make sure that vulnerable populations will have safe drinking water?
- Are we paying the real cost of providing safe drinking water?
- What information do we need to define health risks better and determine what new technology is required?

I participated in one of these discussions at the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators' winter meeting, in February. It gave me the opportunity to sit back and think broadly about where we are going, whose expectations we are trying to meet, and if it is possible to meet these expectations. Can we eliminate all perception of all risk for everyone?

The discussion was thought provoking; I know it will stimulate other good conversation in 1999 and beyond. And because I am caught up in the extreme busy-ness that inevitably accompanies a Legislative session, I appreciate all the more having had time to take the long view.



Greg Grunenfelder

New Regulations Spawn New Design Manual

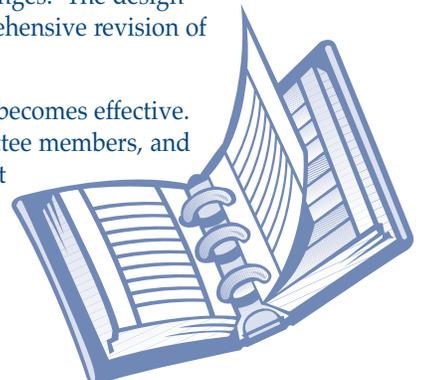
DOH has put the finishing touches on both a new version of Group A water system regulations and a new version of the old *Waterworks Standards*, now titled *Public Water System Design Manual*.

The recent revisions to Group A regulations (WAC 246-290) will become effective on April 9, 1999—31 days after they were filed with the Code Reviser, in Olympia. Also filed was documentation of the years-long process that led to their completion.

Completion of the design manual is intended to coincide with completion of the regulatory changes. The design manual reflects changes to the engineering provisions found in the revised WAC. It is a comprehensive revision of *Waterworks Standards*, the first in over ten years.

DOH will mail copies of the complete text of the revised WAC to all Group A systems before it becomes effective. Copies also will be mailed to local health jurisdictions, consultants, engineers, advisory committee members, and people who have requested copies. To make sure you get a copy of the new regulations, contact Denise Grant, at (360) 236-3097. A summary of significant changes made in the regulation will be posted on the Internet at the Drinking Water home page: www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw.

The new design manual is expected to be ready for distribution by April 30. To be put on a mailing list for the manual and for information about its cost, contact Holly Weber, at (360) 236-3440.



Join Washington WaterWeeks And Promote Safe, Reliable Drinking Water

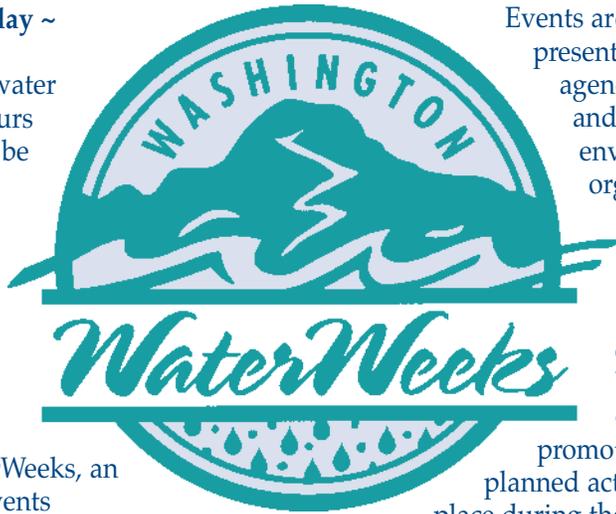
Start planning today ~ stream cleanups, watershed hikes, water treatment plant tours and more - all can be part of 1999 Washington WaterWeeks, August 28-October 3.

The Department of Health is a sponsor of Washington WaterWeeks, an annual series of events designed to help people understand and take action to protect Washington's water resources. Last year, more than 60,000 people participated in 160 WaterWeeks events statewide.

WaterWeeks is a great opportunity for public water systems and others to:

- ◆ Promote the importance of safe, reliable drinking water;
- ◆ Help customers understand the hard work that goes on behind the scenes to deliver water to their taps;
- ◆ Inspire people to do their part to protect and conserve our water resources.

WaterWeeks serves as a marketing umbrella, linking various water-related events through statewide marketing. Marketing efforts include activity guides, posters, banners, a Website and TV, radio and newspaper coverage. **The registration deadline is May 28 if you want to have your event included in the printed activity guide, which lists activities and is distributed statewide.**



Events are planned and presented by public agencies, community and service groups, environmental organizations, schools, tribes, and libraries. While some groups plan new events, others use WaterWeeks as an opportunity to promote already-planned activities that take place during the WaterWeeks

period, August 28-October 3. If you put on year-round activities, consider planning a fall WaterWeeks event that kicks off your program.

Other WaterWeeks sponsors include the state departments of Ecology, Transportation, Natural Resources, Fish and Wildlife, the state Parks and Recreation Commission, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington Sea Grant, Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team, and others.

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For more ideas or additional information, check out the WaterWeeks Website at: <http://www.waterweeks.org>

E-mail WaterWeeks at: waterweeks@waterweeks.org,

or call the WaterWeeks Olympia office at: 360-943-3642.

WaterWeeks Event Ideas:

Help your customers understand the hard work that goes into providing safe, reliable drinking water by planning an open house tour of your water system facilities.

Plan a watershed or aquifer tour to show your customers where their drinking water comes from and your system's efforts to protect it at the source.

Host a community forum to discuss drinking water issues in your community. (See this month's Director's Letter for some intriguing questions to pose participants)

Use the 25th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act and its theme, Protecting Our Health From Source To Tap, as a launch pad for activities.

Sponsor a poster contest, photography contest or another artistic venture with a drinking water theme.



Consumer Confidence Reports Promoted During Drinking Water Week, May 2-8

The American Water Works Association's hotline for small water systems will answer questions and help solve problems related to drinking water or utility operations - all for free! The hotline service is available for systems with fewer than 1,000 service connections in the USA and Canada. The hotline is staffed Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to 4:00 PM. CALL 1-800-366-0107.

The Drinking Water Division is teaming up with a number of water systems to highlight Consumer Confidence Reports during Drinking Water Week, May 2-8, 1999.

Many Washington water systems have plans to issue Consumer Confidence Reports during early May. The DDW is working with several of these systems on a statewide media campaign. The campaign will prompt consumers to read the consumer reports and understand better the effort it takes to provide safe, reliable water to their homes. DDW news releases and other Drinking Water Week materials will be posted in late April on the department's Website at: <http://www.doh.gov>. For more information, contact Janice Keller-Saul, (360) 236-3098 or JKS2303@DOH.WA.GOV.



Drinking Water Week is a national education campaign aimed at helping people understand the importance of safe drinking water. Many drinking water stakeholder groups are involved in promoting Drinking Water Week, both locally and nationally. For more information about Drinking Water Week, including ideas for local events and sample materials, visit the American Water Works Association Website at: <http://www.awwa.org>.

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Fees On Tap for Sanitary Surveys

Beginning July 1, 1999, the Department of Health will charge fees for sanitary surveys. "The question for us has been how to set rates that are fair and consistent," said Gregg Grunenfelder, director of the Division of Drinking Water. "The fee structure should be straightforward and simple to use."

Attempts over the last few legislative sessions to adjust water system operating permit fees to cover increasing drinking water program demands have not been successful. Sanitary survey fees will help cover the cost to the division of the surveys and crucial activities that can not generate fees.

In the majority of Washington counties, the local health jurisdiction will be authorized by DOH to conduct sanitary surveys of smaller systems that use groundwater or purchase their water from another public water system. They will charge water systems directly for their services. Most of these counties will use a local fee structure to establish a charge for surveys. A few (four or five) local health jurisdictions have chosen to contract with DOH for the surveys: LHI staff will conduct surveys of community and non-community systems and will be reimbursed according to fees set by DOH.

More specific information about sanitary survey fees will be published in the June edition of Water Tap. If you have questions in the meantime, call Drinking Water Eastern Regional Office Manager Dan Sander, (509) 456-2457. DOH will continue to conduct special purpose investigations in response to water quality problems or serious complaints and to provide other forms of technical assistance at no cost.

Governor Gary Locke appointed **Mary Selecky** as permanent director of DOH on March 15, 1999. She has served as acting director since October 1998. Selecky's insights on drinking water issues in public health will be featured in an upcoming *Water Tap*.

Tell Us What You Need: Communication and Training Survey

*Thank you in advance for your help! Your answers to the questions below will help the Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) make communication and training decisions that meet your needs. Please fold so the postage-paid panel at the end of the survey is visible, and return by **May 1, 1999**.*

1. Who is filling out this survey?

A. Water System:

- Officer/Board Member
- Owner/Manager
- Field Operator/Field Supervisor
- Administrative Staff

Number of system connections:

- Less than 100
- 100-999
- 1,000 or more

OR

B. Other:

- Consultant/water system service provider
- Local health jurisdiction manager/staff
- Satellite management agency manager/staff
- State government manager/staff
- Other

General Communication

Your answers to the following questions will help us improve our overall communication and customer relations.

2. Do you have access to e-mail? Yes No

3. Are you able to access information via the Internet World Wide Web? Yes No

4. **The Division of Drinking Water communicates in a variety of ways. Do your communications with us in the following areas meet your expectations?** Please rate your experiences using the following scale:

5 = Exceeded my expectations: Excellent customer service

3 = Met my expectations: Helpful, timely, professional service

1 = Did not meet my expectations: Poor customer service

n/a = Had no communication of this type

1-800 number	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Telephone contact.....	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Mail contact	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
E-mail contact	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Visit to division headquarters & regional offices	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Visit to your location	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Division-sponsored meetings, workshops.....	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Interactions at other events	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Overall experiences	5	4	3	2	1	n/a

Other: _____

Comments: _____

5. Check the top 3 ways you prefer to get information about drinking water regulations and other drinking water issues.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mass-mailed information, which you get without asking. | <input type="checkbox"/> Direct contact with your local health department |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information obtained at your request | <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information obtained via the Internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops and conferences |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information obtained via e-mail | <input type="checkbox"/> Videos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Tap (division quarterly newsletter) | <input type="checkbox"/> Audio tapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toll-free telephone line | <input type="checkbox"/> Via professional associations outside of state government (such as American Water Works Assoc., Evergreen Rural Water of Washington and others) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct contact with division regional office in your area | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Direct contact with division headquarters in Olympia | _____ |

If you could change one thing about the division's communication with you, what would it be?

Training

Many drinking water issues are technical or complex, and the best way to communicate them is through training. Your answers to the following questions will help us do a better job meeting your training needs.

6. What methods of training do you find most valuable?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Written instructional materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer or Internet-based instruction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On-site direct technical assistance | <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom training |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informal workshops and conferences | <input type="checkbox"/> Video programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ | |

7. How far are you willing to travel to attend classes and workshops?

- Less than 20 miles 21 - 50 miles 51 - 100 miles More than 100 miles

8. What time of day do you prefer to attend classes and workshops?

- Daytime: between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Evening: after 5 p.m.

9. What time of week do you prefer to attend classes and workshops?

- Monday through Friday Weekends

10. What length of classes and workshops do you prefer?

- Short and sweet: *Sessions of half-day or less covering one topic*
- A full day: *Day-long sessions covering several topics*
- Get it over with all at once: *Sessions over more than one day covering many topics.*
- Back to school: *Short session once a week for multiple weeks.*

11. Check 2 factors below that most influence your decision to attend classes and workshops.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Content/subject matter | <input type="checkbox"/> Distance to travel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Time of day/week | <input type="checkbox"/> Length of course |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CEUs/credits required | <input type="checkbox"/> Cost |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate advance notice | |

12. What learning environment do you prefer?

- Lecture format
- Field trips and other hands-on experiences
- Multi-media presentations
- Small group discussions and exercises

13. Check the top 3 topics on which you would like additional training.

- Getting in and staying in compliance with drinking water regulations
- Water system planning
- Water quality monitoring
- Wellhead and watershed protection
- Budgeting and financial management
- Customer relations and communication
- Other: _____
- Water system engineering
- Operator certification
- Operation and maintenance
- Management and administration
- Water conservation

Water Tap Newsletter

Your answers to the following questions will help us improve Water Tap, the Drinking Water Division's quarterly newsletter.

14. Do you read Water Tap?

- I devour it word for word
- I read most of the articles
- I read or skim some articles
- I do not read it
- I wrap leftover salmon in it

15. When you are finished with Water Tap do you:

- Pass it on?
- Save it?
- Recycle/throw it away?

16. How do you rate Water Tap in the following areas?

5= Excellent • 3= Good • 1= Poor

Easy to read and understand	5	4	3	2	1
Useful information	5	4	3	2	1
Timely information	5	4	3	2	1

17. What amount of information would you like to see in Water Tap on the following topics?

5 = Need more of this type of information

3 = You're providing the right amount

1 = Need less of this type of information

n/a =No opinion

Regulatory/compliance requirements	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Operation and maintenance	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Managing your system	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Budgeting/financial management	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Engineering-related topics	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Division updates	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Case studies of solving problems	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Customer relations	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Water conservation	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Success stories	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Waterborne illness	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Federal/SDWA regulation highlights	5	4	3	2	1	n/a

18. How do you rate the following on-going Water Tap features?

5= Excellent: Information is always useful, understandable and timely
 3= Good: Often useful, understandable and timely
 1= Poor: Information not usually useful, understandable or timely
 n/a= Not familiar with this feature

Education & Training Calendar/Calendar of Events	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Doctor Drip	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Director's Letter	5	4	3	2	1	n/a
Tap Tips.....	5	4	3	2	1	n/a

If you could make one change to make Water Tap more useful to you, what would it be?

Additional comments:



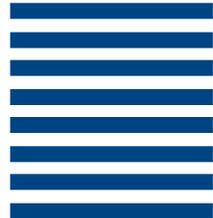
If you have questions regarding this survey, contact Joyce McCollough at (360)236-3096. Your opinions are important to us. Thank you.
 Please fold in half with address showing, use tape to secure and return by May 1, 1999.



State of Washington
 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 Division of Drinking Water
 NewMarket Industrial Campus Building 3
 PO Box 47822
 Olympia WA 98504-7822



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EPA adopts new rules

On December 16, 1998, President Clinton signed into law two new rules under the Safe Drinking Water Act. They are:

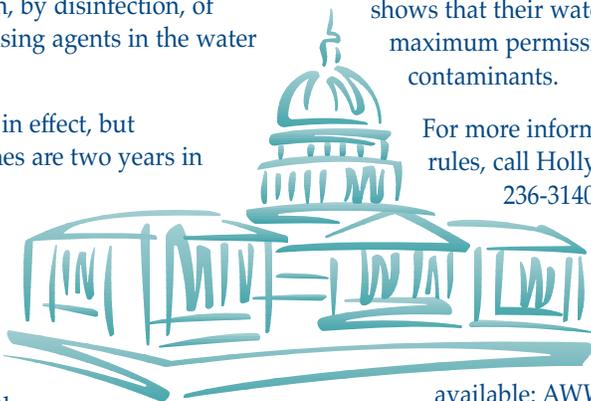
- ◆ Disinfectants/Disinfection By-Products Rule (D/DBPR)
- ◆ Interim Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (IESWTR).

Both of these new rules focus on surface water systems and systems with ground water under the influence of surface water as a source. They were adopted to help protect the public against microbial contaminants and prevent the creation, by disinfection, of possible cancer-causing agents in the water supply.

Both rules are now in effect, but compliance deadlines are two years in the future.

DOH is not likely to adopt state regulations to implement these rules until

December 2000, at the earliest. DOH staff members have talked about implementation with representatives of most of the water systems that will be affected



by the new rules; a letter went out last week reiterating and expanding upon those issues.

Large surface water systems must begin complying with the D/DBPR by December 2001; ground water systems and small surface water systems must do so by December 2003. Most compliance deadlines for the IESWTR are December 2001. However, there are exceptions. For instance, effective last month, all new finished-water reservoirs must be covered. Systems also must, by March 2000, begin monitoring quarterly for certain contaminants, unless they have data that shows that their water does not exceed maximum permissible levels of those contaminants.

For more information about the new rules, call Holly Weber, DOH, at (360) 236-3140. Or take a look at

EPA's Internet site (www.epa.gov). Training and workshops on the rules are also

available: AWWA offers a two-day workshop in Portland, June 8-9. To find out about this and other training opportunities, see the Training and Special Events Calendar, on page 10.



CHECK YOUR MAIL

Water systems should have received a piece of mail from DOH about the Y2K bug. It's part of a strategy to make sure critical systems, including the public water system, minimize and prepare for any potential effects of the bug. DOH's position is that all risks may not be avoidable, but they can be minimized with adequate planning.

DDW Staffer Merits National Recognition

Congratulations to **Cheryl Bergener** on her recent national award. Cheryl received the 1999 Robert McAnespie Certification Officer Award from the Association of Boards of Certification during the association's annual conference, in February.



When the award was presented, Cheryl was acknowledged for her extensive knowledge of operator certification, her leadership and consensus-building skills, and her commitment to protecting public health.

Cheryl has worked for the state for more than 30 years, and has administered the Drinking Water Division's operator certification program for nearly 20 years. Under her direction, the certification program has been recognized as a national model.

Public Invited to Fee Hearing

DOH will conduct a public hearing on proposed revisions to the Division of Drinking Water's fee schedule on Wednesday, April 28. The hearing will be held in Building One of the Airdustrial complex, in Tumwater, and will begin at 10:00 a.m.

The proposed revisions will cover all fees for DOH services and approvals identified in WAC 246-290-990, as well as fees prescribed in WAC 246-292-160 for support of the Operator Certification Program. The new schedule will increase most fees by the amount allowed under Initiative 601 (4.18 %), reduce one fee significantly (the area-wide waiver renewal fee), and identify additional activities for which DOH will charge its hourly fee.

DOH estimates that the net effect will be an overall reduction in fee revenue to the Division of Drinking Water of over \$145,000 annually.

For more information about the proposed fees or the hearing, contact Denise Grant, at (360) 236-3097.

To register call these contacts...

PNWS-AWWA

Pacific Northwest Section
American Water Works
Association

1-877-767-2992

<http://www.pnws-awwa.com>

Lower Columbia Subsection
(360) 696-8177

South Sound Subsection
(360) 491-9250

NW Washington Subsection
(425) 257-8875

ERWOW

Evergreen Rural Water
of Washington

1-509-962-6326

<http://www.erwow.org>

PWTF

Public Works Trust Fund
(360) 586-2472

WASWD

Washington Association of
Sewer and Water Districts

1-800-244-0124

WSEHA

Washington State
Environmental Health
Association

(360) 427-5182

WETRC

Washington Environmental
Training Center

1-800-562-0858

www.ivygreen.ctc.edu/wetrc/

Training and Special Events Calendar March - June 1999

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Mar 8-20	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course and Exam	Vancouver	WETRC
Mar 23-25	21st Annual W/WW Operations Workshop (WOW)	Ocean Shores	WETRC
March 27	Water for Life Reception sponsored by Everett, Tacoma, Seattle water utilities	Downtown Seattle	PNWS-AWWA (206) 297-3024
April 5-11	Washington Public Health Week		
April 6	Ultraviolet Treatment and Reservoirs	Camas	PNWS-AWWA, LC
April 7	Certification, ESA, main flushing and dechlorination	Mt. Vernon	PNWS-AWWA, NW
Apr 15	Clay Valves	Chehalis	ERWOW
Apr 15	Production & Storage & Well Rehab Techniques	West Port	PNWS-AWWA, SS
Apr 29-30	1999 Spring Conf. & Trade Show	Yakima	WASWD
May 5-7	WSEHA Annual Educ. Conf.	Spokane	WSEHA
May 2-8	National Drinking Water Week		
May 12-14	Cross Connection Control Specialist Certification Exam Review	Everett	WETRC
May 12-14	PNWS-AWWA Annual Conference	Tacoma	PNWS-AWWA
May 21	Confined Space Entry	Auburn	WETRC
May 24-28	Water Plant Operator's Certification Review	Vancouver	Op Cert Training (888) 863-8916
June 1	Automatic Control Valve	Lynnwood	WETRC
June 8	Water Audits and Leak Detection	Lynnwood	WETRC
June 8-9	D/DBP-IESWTR Seminars	Portland, OR	AWWA (303) 347-6205
June 8-9	Fire Hydrants: Installation, Operation & Repair	Monroe	WETRC
June 8-10	Chlorination System Operation & Maintenance	Wenatchee	WETRC
June 22-24	Pump Operation and Maintenance	Moses Lake	WETRC

For information about various DWSRF Application Workshops Call PWTF.

- WETRC will offer these courses at various times and locations: Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures; Basic Electrical; Cross Connection Control Regulations Update; Emergency Planning for Water and Wastewater Utilities; Essentials of Electric Motors; How to Prepare and Pass a Sanitary Survey; Leak Detection and Water Audits; and Process Control and Instrumentation.
- EWOW will offer these courses at various times and locations: Consumer Confidence Report Workshop; Operator Certification Review; Small System Filtration Technology; and Wellhead Protection.

Tap Tips...

In December, Tap Tips talked about how to list sources on the WFI (Water Facilities Inventory). In this issue, we will talk about how to identify sources for multiple systems owned by the same owner and how to identify sources for merging systems. When these sources aren't identified correctly, incorrect data shows up in our database.

Many developers have put in multiple Group B system and labeled each system's single source "well #1." If these Group B systems combine as a single Group A system, it will be important to get all the source information from each Group B system transferred over to the correct source number, which is listed under the new combined Group A system's ID number. Ideally, each source will have an individual DOE well tag number. It is easier to identify sources of combining systems if each source is labeled with a specific name at the outset. For example, if Jones Water Systems 1, 2, 3 & 4 were combining into one Group A system, it would be helpful if the Jones system sources were labeled Jones #1 well (for system #1), Jones #2 well (for system #2), etc., as appropriate, on each system's original WFI. The same names could then be used on the new WFI to identify the combined Group A system's sources.

The same level of detail should be used when identifying sources of merging systems. If the purchasing system is going to use the merging system's source or sources, any source added to the purchasing system's WFI should use the name or initials of the merging system. An example would be the Jones Water System (with four sources) purchasing the Black Hills water system (with one source), and adding the Black Hills source to its system. The Jones Water System needs to list the new source (the fifth source for the new, merged system) on its WFI as S05 Black Hills well (or BH well). The merging system's (Black Hills) ID number would then be inactivated.

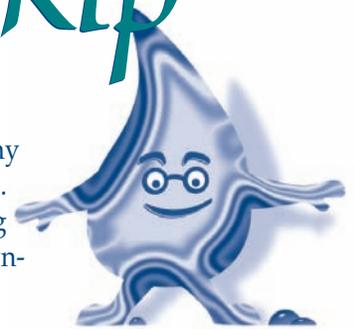
For help updating WFIs, please don't hesitate to call the WFI contact person in your regional office:

Eastern Office: Karla Griffin (509) 456-5076

NW Office: Jennifer Kropack (206) 389-2634

SW Office: Judy Passey (360) 664-9280

Dr. Drip



Dear Dr. Drip:

Spring is coming up fast, and my thoughts turn to spring-cleaning. Do you have any special cleaning tips for public water system owners, like me?

Wanda Doright

Dear Wanda:

It just so happens that Dr. Drip does have special springtime cleaning recommendations for public water systems. And you know how he loves to share!

Prepare a flushing plan and flush your water mains.

You should flush your water mains every year to remove any accumulated sediment. Set up a flushing plan first. Include a schedule and a list of the steps you will take to notify the public about the flush. Identify the hydrants you will use and the order in which the mains will be flushed. Remember that a proper flushing pattern starts at the pressure source (plant, booster station, or elevated reservoir) and works out in a concentric pattern. AWWA Standard C651 sets the desired flushing velocity at 2.5 feet per second.

Inspect and protect your reservoir vents and overflows.

Cover your reservoir vents and overflows with mesh screens so small creatures, like mice and birds, can't get in. Make sure the screens are securely fastened to the opening, are in good condition, and aren't plugged by debris.

Disinfect wells and piping systems that were inactive or shut down in the winter.

In spring, before they are returned to service, systems (or sections of systems) that were closed for the winter have to be disinfected. A written procedure, specific to your system, should be on hand to guide you through the disinfection process. It will tell you how much disinfectant to use, where in the system it should go, how long it should remain there, how to flush it out of the lines, and how to verify that it has been removed. Your last step will be to collect a coliform sample. The disinfection process isn't complete, and your system isn't ready to serve customers, until you've sent in a coliform sample with satisfactory results. (Please mark the sample slip "other," not "routine." Thanks.)



1999 Marks SDWA 25th Anniversary

In December 1999, the United States will observe the 25th anniversary of the signing of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Under the banner of "Protect Our Health From Source To Tap," EPA and other major drinking water stakeholder groups are planning events and activities to celebrate the anniversary, including:

- ◆ Presidential and Congressional proclamations;
- ◆ An essay contest and educational package for schools;
- ◆ A media campaign and public information kit;
- ◆ A special website linked to EPA's homepage (<http://www.epa.gov>);
- ◆ Coordinated stakeholder discussions. (See Director's Letter, page 2)

The year will close with a December dinner and Futures Forum in Washington D.C. It will focus on the challenges of providing safe drinking water for the next 25 years. Representatives from Congress, EPA and the drinking water community in D.C. will attend.

DDW staff are reviewing EPA's plans for honoring the 25th anniversary of the Safe Drinking Water Act and determining how the state wants to acknowledge the anniversary. Stay tuned to *Water Tap* for more information.

In This Issue:

The following people have contributed to the production of this issue of the *Water Tap*: Denise Grant, Gregg Grunenfelder, Jim Hudson, Peggy Johnson, Janice Keller-Saul, Dave Monthie, Judy Passey, Lisa Raysby, Dan Sander, Ronni Woolrich, and Joyce McCollough, editor.

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