the WATER TAP
WASHINGTON'S DRINKING WATER NEWSLETTER

Washington State Department of Health
Environmental Health Programs
Volume 18, #3 - June 2003

Operator Professional Growth Reminder:

All operators certified before January 1, 2001 (including all grandparented operators) must meet their professional growth requirement by December 31, 2003.

How to meet the requirement:

- Accumulate a minimum of three Continuing Education Units (CEU) or college credits for training that is directly relevant to the operation, maintenance or management of a water system; and that has an influence on water quality, public health, or environmental protection, or
- Advance by examination in the Water Works Operator Certification Program to a Level 2, 3 or 4, or achieve certification by examination in a different classification as follows:
- WDM to WTPO, BTO or CCS
- WTPO to WDM or CCS
- BTO to WDM, WTPO, WDS, or CCS
- WDS to WDM, WTPO. BTO or CCS
- CCS to WDM, WTPO, or WDS

Failure to Meet Professional Growth Requirements Could Challenge Small Systems

With the current professional growth cycle ending on December 31, 2003, the water works operator certification program is anticipating losing up to 50% of the grandparented operators.

Failure of these operators to meet their professional growth requirement could result in a significant number of water systems being without an appropriately certified operator and out of compliance with the mandatory water works certification law. (See box to the left for professional growth options.)

For operators needing training there's still time, but it's running out.

As we approach the end of this professional growth cycle, classes are still available (see training schedule, page 14), but operators should plan accordingly, as classes are apt to fill quickly.

Compliance options for water system owners and managers

If you are concerned about losing your mandatory certified operators because they don't meet the professional growth requirement, you have several options:

- Encourage current mandatory operators to meet the requirement. There are many free classes available.

(continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue

The Director's Column

by Gregg Grunenfelder

Be Prepared for the Unexpected

You will be reading quite a bit in this edition of our newsletter about emergency preparedness and planning (pages 6-8).

Community water systems that serve more than 3300 people are required to prepare emergency response plans under the 2002 federal bioterrorism law. However, whether you operate a system affected by this law or not, I hope emergency planning will be a topic all of our readers take seriously and actively take steps to address.

Emergencies come in all shapes and sizes. In the Northwest, the majority of our emergency situations come in the winter and are related to acts of nature such as floods, ice storms, and wind storms. Now would be an excellent time to update emergency response plans and prepare for the future.

In addition to natural disasters, we now have to consider intentional acts to harm a water system, and these situations also need to be addressed in an emergency response plan.

In this edition of Water Tap you will read more about our new Emergency Response Plan guidance document and the training we will be sponsoring on this topic. Proper planning can save valuable time during an actual emergency. Take the issue seriously, do the upfront planning, build the relationships you will need to respond to an actual event, and practice, practice, practice. Don't let your emergency response plan gather dust – it will serve you well if you put good thought into it and keep it a living document in your organization.

Drinking Water Director Gregg Grunenfelder receives Governor's award

Gregg Grunenfelder, Division of Drinking Water Director, has been recognized as a Sustaining Leader under the 2003 Governor's Distinguished Management Leadership Award Program.

In announcing the award, Governor Locke wrote, "Outstanding managers are invaluable assets to state government, and this award offers special recognition to those who have demonstrated excellence in the performance of their responsibilities. Your leadership, initiative, and expertise reflect your strong commitment to public service and your quality management abilities."

> "Your leadership, initiative, and expertise reflect your strong commitment to public service and your quality management abilities."
> *~ Governor Locke*

Environmental Health Programs Director Bill White said, "Gregg has overseen tremendous growth and changes in Drinking Water. He has provided strong leadership, internally and externally, leading the division forward with a new way of doing business. His work ethic and his focus on positive working relationships are an extension of his personal values and commitment to making the world a better place in which to live."

Publication of "Blue Book" Delayed

Revised Chapter 246-290 WAC Group A regulations are on the web

Revision of the so-called "Blue Book" (Group A Public Water Systems, Chapter 426-290 WAC, publication #331-110) has been delayed, and we now expect to have it available in printed form some time this July, with an electronic version available on the division's website by late June.

A link to the State Code Reviser's official version of the current regulations is available now on our website, as is a link to applicable portions of the Code of the Federal Regulations. Click "Rules and Regulations" from the division's home page, http://.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/.

If you responded to an earlier mailing and requested a copy of the revised publication, we will send it to you when they are available.

(Growth Requirements - continued from page 1)

- Identify other employees who could take the exam to become a certified operator and encourage them to do so.
- Hire an appropriately certified operator from outside the system.
- Turn the operation of the system over to a Satellite Management Agency (SMA).
- Retain a contract operator who will operate your system. To obtain a list of contract operators please contact Gael Rose-Kantz at 1-800-525-2536 extension #5.

All of these options require advance planning. If you are going to encourage staff to become newly certified, be aware that the required exams are given only three times a year and applications to take the exams are due three months in advance (see schedule below). There are also classes available that will help people prepare for the exam (see training schedule, p. 14).

For those interested in becoming contract operators

If current trends continue there could be a large demand for operators who qualify as contract operators beginning in 2004. If you meet the minimum qualifications to be a contract operator and wish to be on a contract operator public listing please contact Gael Rose-Kantz at 1-800-525-2536 extension #5.

Certified Operator Exam Schedule

Exam locations and dates	Exam locations and dates	Exam locations and dates	Deadlines for applying to take exams	Deadlines for applying to retake exams
Bellingham Olympia Seattle Spokane Vancouver Yakima	Mt. Vernon Port Angeles Seattle Wenatchee	Pasco		
Oct. 7, 2003	Oct. 8, 2003	Oct. 9, 2003	July 1, 2003	Aug. 5, 2003
Feb. 3, 2004	Feb. 4, 2004	Feb. 5, 2004	Nov. 4, 2003	Dec. 2, 2003

To obtain exam application packets: call 1-800-525-2536 extension #1.

2003 Drinking Water Seminars Scheduled for October, November

Our annual fall Drinking Water Seminars are now scheduled as follows:

October 15 – Spokane
October 21 – Silverdale
October 23 – Mt. Vernon
November 4 – Olympia
November 6 – Yakima

The agenda is not yet entirely firm, but there will certainly be attention to security, emergency planning, arsenic, sanitary surveys, fluoridation, and water resource issues.

As before, the seminars will offer:

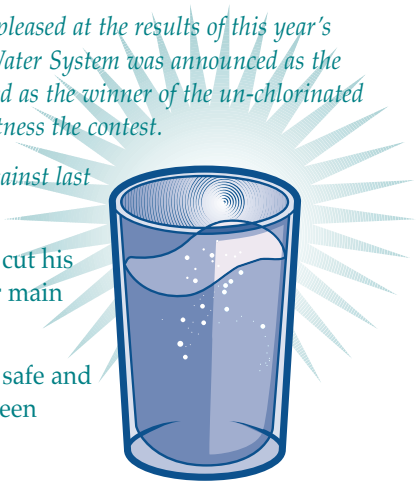
- Timely, interesting topics
- Skilled, knowledgeable presenters
- CEU credit
- An opportunity to meet with your colleagues
- Two tracks for small and large water systems

The full agenda and information on registration will be available later this summer on the web, in a mailed brochure, and in the next issue of *Water Tap*.

Operator Dan Thompson Wins Big in Taste Test Competition

Congratulations to operator Dan Thompson for the great tasting water he produces. Dan was honored—twice—in February at the Evergreen Rural Water conference in Yakima. The following is an excerpt from an article published in a recent Evergreen Rural Water Association newsletter:

> *To say that Dan Thompson, water operator for the City of Oakville and the Malone Water System was pleased at the results of this year's Evergreen Rural Water of Washington Water Taste Contest is an understatement. First, the Malone Water System was announced as the winner of the chlorinated water category of the contest. Then, when the City of Oakville was announced as the winner of the un-chlorinated water category, he stood up and shouted in the middle of the crowd of 200 or so that had gathered to witness the contest.*
>
> *To win the un-chlorinated category was quite an achievement. Dan and the City of Oakville were up against last year's national taste test winner Columbia Rim Water System, a small system near White Salmon.*



Thompson, demonstrating the commitment that contributed to these awards, ended up having to cut his conference time short. He left early the night of the awards ceremony to deal with a broken water main situation on the Oakville system.

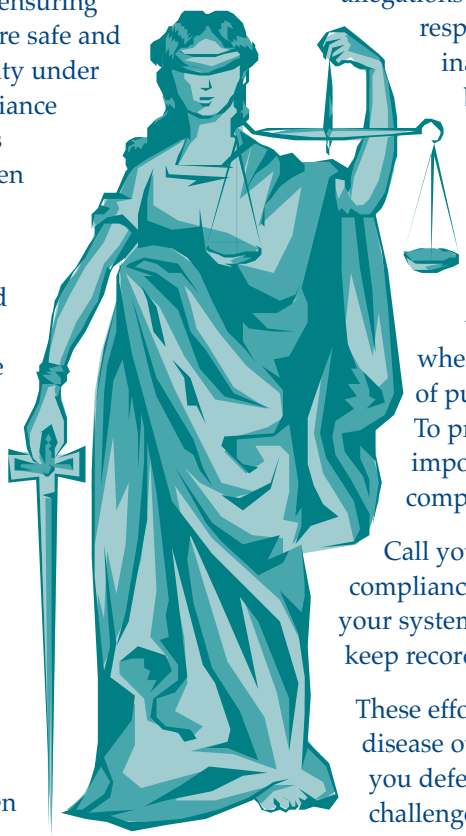
"Dan Thompson is a great example of Washington certified operators who work hard to produce safe and reliable—and tasty —water for their customers," said Gary Rhoades, Executive Director of Evergreen Rural Water of Washington.

Recent Cases Raise Awareness of Potential Liability

Healthy communities need safe and reliable drinking water supplies. In their communities, public water system operators and managers play a huge role in ensuring that the water supplies under their control are safe and reliable. They have the ultimate responsibility under the law to maintain water supplies in compliance with state and federal regulations. With this responsibility comes accountability and, when failures occur, the potential for legal action.

Liability cases in Maryland and Texas associated with disinfection by-products and claims of adverse reproductive outcomes, legal settlements following large waterborne disease outbreaks in Canada, and a recent case here in Washington state all serve as reminders of the potential liabilities of operating a drinking water supply.

Following the deadly waterborne disease outbreak in Walkerton, Ontario in 2000 (where 7 people died and over 2,300 became ill due to E.coli and Campylobacter poisoning) minimum cash settlements of $2500 per person were made. The total economic impact of the outbreak in the Walkerton community (5000 people) has been estimated at 100 million Canadian dollars—60 million of which are associated with illness and death claims Following another waterborne outbreak in North Battleford, Saskatchewan there is a pending settlement of $3000 per plaintiff.



Here in Washington state in 2001, the customers of the Valley Meadows Water System in Lewis County filed a class action lawsuit against their private water company. Several allegations were made, including lack of timely response during a boil water advisory and inadequate chlorination system operation by the company. The jury found in favor of the plaintiffs and awarded $600,000 dollars in damages from the water company. There are 59 homes on the Valley Meadows Water System.

Operating and managing a public water system today is a challenging job where the stakes are high, not only in terms of public health, but also in legal liabilities. To protect health and minimize liability, it is important to do all you can to maintain compliance with state and federal regulations.

Call your regional office and inquire about your compliance status. Go to training classes. Inspect your system. Be responsive to emergencies and keep records of your actions.

These efforts will, most importantly, help prevent a disease outbreak from occurring, but will also help you defend your actions if you're ever legally challenged.

New Publications

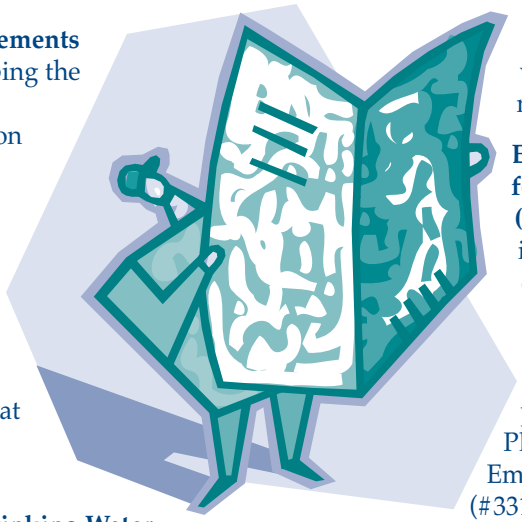
These are the latest publications produced by the Division of Drinking Water:

Slow Sand Filtration and Diatomaceous Earth Filtration for Small Water Systems (#331-204). A 119 page guidance document intended to provide useful information regarding the application, design, and operation of slow sand and diatomaceous earth filtration facilities to the owners, operators, and designers of small water systems that must meet requirements of the surface water treatment rule.

Routine Coliform Montitoring Requirements (#331-205). Two-page fact sheet describing the monthly routine coliform monitoring requirements for water systems, based on the population served and whether a coliform presence was detected in the previous month.

Types of Coliform Violations for Group A Public Water Systems (#331-206). Four-page brochure describing coliform testing in general and the various types of standards violations that result from the detection of coliform bacteria in drinking water samples.

Surface Water as a Source of Public Drinking Water (#331-207). Two-page question and answer sheet about surface water—why it is vulnerable to contamination, how it can be treated, what kinds of regulatory requirements are imposed on public drinking water systems that use surface water sources, and contacts for information and assistance.



Consumer Confidence Reports (#331-209). Two-page fact sheet describing Consumer Confidence Reports, which are yearly reports on drinking water quality and safety that water systems produce for their customers.

Arsenic Treatment for Small Water Systems (#331-210). A 34-page guidance document for small water systems (serving less than 1,000 people) with tools to help them make informed decisions about when and how to treat water that does not meet the arsenic standard.

Emergency Response Planning Guide for Public Drinking Water Systems (#331-211). A 59-page guide with instructions on how to produce a drinking water system emergency response plan. Includes a template for systems to use to produce their own plan. Replaces two outdated 1982 publications entitled Emergency Planning Workbook (#331-029) and Emergency Planning Instructional Guide (#331-030).

A complete listing of the division's publications is on the web at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/public.htm. If you have questions, call Abigail Hughes at 360-236-3164.

Steve Deem Receives Award from AWWA

Steve Deem of the Division of Drinking Water's Northwest Regional Office was the 2003 recipient of the Kenneth J. Miller Founders Award from the American Water Works Association for his outstanding volunteer service to the international humanitarian effort, Water for People.

At this year's annual Water For People gathering in Seattle, keynote speaker Mary Selecky, Secretary of the Department of Health, presented the award, which reads, "Steve has been a leader in the Pacific Northwest Section of Water for People since Water for People's inception in 1992, from selling T-shirts at the Section Conference to establishing the Seattle Chapter of Water for People. He also provided the leadership for the annual Water for Life fundraising event in Seattle, helping to bring water to thousands of people living in nine Central American villages. Steve also served as chair of the Pacific Northwest Section of Water for People, 1994-1996. Steve's dedication to solving this problem embodies the qualities of service and leadership this award is intended to recognize and honor."

Security Training for Water System Operators

Security-related training, funded through an EPA grant, is being provided at no cost to targeted water system operators through a cooperative agreement between the Division of Drinking Water and Evergreen Rural Water of Washington.

The courses are designed to help operators meet EPA and DOH requirements concerning vulnerability assessments and emergency response planning (see related article, p. 8). We have been working hard to incorporate the most up-to-date information about these subjects.

Depending on system size, certain state and federal laws require a water system to conduct a vulnerability assessment and develop or revise an emergency response plan. Please see the article on page 8 for information on EPA requirements for your system size.

Also refer to WAC 426-290-100 (Water System Plan) and 246-290-105 (Small Water System Management Program) for more information about emergency response plan requirements.

We expect these courses to fill up quickly, so it is extremely important that you register early. Operators eligible for this training will receive flyers advertising each course. Dates and locations can also be found on our training calendar (page 14) or on the web at www.erwow.org (Evergreen Rural Water of Washington).

Course outlines, dates, and locations:

Meeting EPA Requirements

(population 3,301-100,000)

- Bioterrorism Act compliance requirements and due dates for community public water systems.
- Six basic elements of a vulnerability assessment.
- How to submit vulnerability assessments, vulnerability certifications, and emergency response certifications.
- Special instructions for water systems owned or operated by the federal government.
- Basic public health information concerning potential contaminants.

These courses were held in early June in Liberty Lake, Yakima, Everett, Tacoma, Olympia, and Vancouver.

How to Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment

- General questions for the entire water system.
- Water sources.
- Treatment plant and suppliers.
- Distribution.
- Personnel.
- Information storage, computers, controls, maps.
- Public relations.
- Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Health vulnerability assessment certification requirements.

Population 3,301-9,999

This course will use the *Security Vulnerability Self-Assessment Guide For Small Drinking Water Systems Serving Populations Between 3,301 and 9,999* as the instructional tool.

June 13, Lacey
June 23, Liberty Lake
June 24, Yakima
June 30, Mount Vernon

Population 10,000-49,999

This course will use the *Vulnerability Self Assessment Tool* (VSAT) as the instructional tool.

July 10, Mount Vernon
July 11, Lacey
July 15, Liberty Lake
July 16, Yakima

Emergency Response Planning

- How to Identify critical information in a case of emergency.
- How to develop specific goals and acceptable levels of service under hazards and recovery conditions.
- Identifying your emergency response contacts.
- How to incorporate your vulnerability assessment into the development of your emergency response plan.
- Necessary immediate actions and procedures to lessen impact of identified emergencies.
- Completing emergency hazard identification and ranking.
- Completing an Emergency Response Plan template.

Population 25-3,300:

June 24, Forks
June 25, Port Angeles
June 26, Shelton

June 27, Aberdeen
July 15, Colville
July 16, Liberty Lake
July 17, Pullman
July 18, Kennewick
July 29, Moses Lake
July 30, Yakima
July 31, Walla Walla
August 1. Olympia
August 12, Oak Harbor
August 13, Bremerton
August 14, Tacoma
August 15, Kelso
August 25, Omak
August 26, Wenatchee
August 27, Goldendale
August 28, Vancouver
October 21, Bellingham
October 22, Mount Vernon
October 23, Marysville
October 28, Tacoma
October 29, Yelm

Population 3,301-100,000:
July 21, Mount Vernon
July 22, Tacoma
July 23, Shelton
July 28, Liberty Lake
August 4, Yakima
August 11, Vancouver

For more information contact:

Systems serving 3,300 or less
Ronni Woolrich, (360) 236-3092,
email: ronni.woolrich@doh.wa.gov

Systems serving 3,301 or more
Johnny Clark, (360) 236-3187, email:
johnny.clark@doh.wa.gov

New *Emergency Response Planning Guide for Public Drinking Water Systems* is Available

The Division of Drinking Water is pleased to announce the release of a new guide to assist public drinking water systems in developing response plans for natural and human-caused emergencies.

Public water systems in Washington are required under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 246-290-415 (2)(b) to have an emergency response plan as part of a water system plan or a small water system management program.

The new guide is divided into two parts. Part 1 contains important emergency response planning elements and provides instructions and examples to help any size water system complete a well-thought-out emergency response plan. Part 2 is a blank template for creating your own plan, and uses the elements and examples from Part 1 as a framework for completing the necessary information specific to your water system.

The guide is available electronically from the division's security web site at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Security/Water_System_Security.htm or call 360-236-3164 to order a copy. Included with the guide is a compact disk, which allows the user to store the guide and final emergency response plan electronically. It also allows the user to print part 2 or other sections of the guide and use them for gathering information.

This guide (#331-211) replaces two outdated 1982 publications entitled *Emergency Planning Workbook* (#331-029) and *Emergency Planning Instructional Guide* (#331-030).

Website and email listserv provide up-to-date information about security alerts and issues

The Division of Drinking Water has developed a security web page and listserv to communicate a variety of security-related information and updates to utilities and the general public.

The security web page contains helpful information, guidance, tools, and resources to assist water systems in complying with EPA's requirement to conduct a vulnerability assessment and update emergency response plans. It is available at **http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Security/Water_System_Security.htm**

The self-subscribe security listserv is the division's method for providing interested parties with security-related notifications and alerts, and when new information is posted on the security web page. It is available at **http://listserv.wa.gov/archives/dohddwsecurity.html.** The site provides instructions for subscribing or un-subscribing to the service.

Vulnerability Assessments Are Coming Due

The time is approaching for many community water systems in Washington State to conduct vulnerability assessments and prepare or update their emergency response plans.

Background

On June 12, 2002, President Bush signed the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 into law. This act added section 1433 to the Safe Drinking Water Act, requiring that each community water system serving a population greater than 3,300:

- Conduct a vulnerability assessment and certify to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) it has done so.
- Submit a copy of the vulnerability assessment to EPA.
- Certify to EPA that the water system has prepared or updated an emergency response plan that incorporates the results of the vulnerability assessment.

Due dates vary by population served

The table below shows the dates by which various size water systems need to comply with the law. Note that the due date for certifying that an emergency response plan has been prepared or updated is **6 months from the date the VA was submitted**, and no later than the date in the table.

Systems serving population of:	Certify and submit VA by:	Certify ERP within 6 months of VA but no later than:
100,000 or greater	March 31, 2003	September 30, 2003
50,000 – 99,999	December 31, 2003	June 30, 2004
3,300 – 49,999	June 30, 2004	December 31, 2004
Less than 3,300	N/A	N/A

To determine the population size served by the water system, EPA will use July 1, 2002 data from the Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).

The data for individual systems is available on the EPA's website at www.epa.gov/safewater/data/getdata.html. Click on "Envirofacts" under #2.

Water systems that sell water to other systems should count the populations served by those systems in determining the total population served.

Submitting your documents

EPA recommends that water systems submit information using an express or courier service such as Federal Express, United Parcel Service, or Airborne which provides tracking and certification of delivery. Using such services will ensure that the submission goes directly to the persons authorized to receive and process the material.

Complete instructions for complying with the EPA requirement and submitting documents are in the EPA January 2002 document entitled *Instructions to Assist Community Water Systems in Complying with the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002*, available online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/security/util-inst.pdf

For more information

If you are unclear about whether your system is subject to these requirements, or which deadlines apply to your system, or if you have additional questions about resources and training opportunities, you can access the Department of Health Division of Drinking Water Security web page at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Security/Water_System_Security.htm or call Scott Decker, Security Coordinator, at 360-236-3162.

Public Forums on Arsenic

DOH seeks input from water systems and communities

For many years, the drinking water standard for arsenic was 50 parts per billion (ppb). The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) tightened the standard from 50 ppb to 10 ppb in January 2001 to lessen people's long-term exposure to arsenic in drinking water.

Not all water systems in Washington are affected; only Group A community water systems and non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems must reduce the level of arsenic in their water to 10 ppb by January 2006. Any new source of drinking water for Group A community water systems and NTNC systems must meet the lower standard of 10 ppb beginning January 22, 2004.

The State Board of Health is considering revising the state drinking water rules to apply the lower arsenic standard to Group B water systems, and to Group A transient non-community (TNC) public water systems The Division of Drinking Water is hosting arsenic forums in three locations in late June to educate water systems and consumers about arsenic in drinking water and get feedback on applying the federal standards to Group B public water systems and Group A TNCs. The dates and locations are:

DATE	LOCATION
Tacoma Thursday, June 19 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.	*King Oscar* Executive Ballroom 8820 South Hosmer 253-539-1153
Mount Vernon Tuesday, June 24 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.	*CottonTree Inn* Mt. Adams Room 2401 Riverside Drive 360-428-5678
Wenatchee Thursday, June 26 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.	*Wenatchee Convention Center* Grand Apple South 201 N. Wenatchee Ave. 509-662-4411

If you need more information about the upcoming arsenic forums, contact Donna Lynch, 360-236-3167.
For more information about the rules process, contact Theresa Phillips at 360-236-3147. You can also visit our Web site at:
http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/arsenic.htm

Legislative Wrap-up

The 2003 Legislature passed three bills containing major water law reform:

- SB 5028 clarifies the relationship between the state's water code and its water pollution control statutes.
- HB 1336 helps fund watershed plan implementation and directs watershed planning units to set timelines for meeting instream flow and water supply objectives.
- HB 1338 contains important certainty and flexibility provisions for water rights held by municipal water suppliers and directs the Department of Health to adopt new water conservation regulations by December 31, 2005. This bill presents significant challenges to the division and public water systems, but the benefits far outweigh the costs.

Other water resource provisions passed during the regular session dealt with the structure of irrigation district joint boards of control, local government use of tax revenue for watershed management, permitting of small irrigation impoundments, and permit exemptions in the groundwater code for clustered development.

The Legislature also approved a $4 million grant program to partially finance the acquisition and rehabilitation of failing public water systems. Up to $1 million will be available to municipal Group A systems that can demonstrate sound drinking water utility management and can be ready to proceed with construction in 2004. More information will be available this summer.

If you have questions, contact Jim Rioux at 360-236-3154 (water resources) or Chris Gagnon, 360-236-3095 (grant program).

Drinking Water Week

Water Systems Recognized for Significant Improvements

The Division of Drinking Water presented the first annual Drinking Water Awards during Washington Drinking Water Week in early May to recognize three water systems that have made significant improvements to protect the public's health.

"Most people don't think a lot about how they get their tap water," said Gregg Grunenfelder, director of the Division of Drinking Water.

"Fortunately some people do, and they are the ones who work at your local water utility. They are dedicated to safe drinking water and we want you to know that we also take that responsibility seriously."

City of Aberdeen

Division director Gregg Grunenfelder presents the award to mayor Mike Wilson and city council president JoAnn Andrews .

A host of problems had plagued the coastal city of Aberdeen's aging water system over the years, but it was a flood-damaged dam that triggered action in 1997. Muddy water flowed through residential water taps. Because of the potential for serious waterborne illness, the Department of Health issued a boil water advisory. City leaders found financial sources to fund a $13.4 million water system improvement project.

Foothills Water Association

Foothills board members, left to right: Pat Schaeffer, Ruth Mackie, Charles LaFleur, Rick Kenney, and Bill Guerinni

Foothills Water Association serves a tiny population by comparison—85 homes in Kangley and Selleck in eastern King County —but problems were not any easier to resolve. Homeowners often boiled their drinking water or purchased bottled water due to threats of waterborne disease from unfiltered water. Foothills sought funding from several sources and managed to construct new facilities and repair the existing system for $1.5 million.

Kershaw Fruit Company

TV cameras record the presentation: Left to right, Debra Harrison and Vern Haysom of Kershaw, Gregg Grunenfelder, and Eastern Regional Manager Dan Sander

Kershaw Fruit Company in Yakima County ships apples throughout the United States and the entire world. The company owns and operates its own water system that serves 75-100 seasonal and year-round employees at their packing plant. In the past, Kershaw had been cited for drinking water monitoring and quality violations because they failed to test water regularly and to follow up on a high level of copper in their water. Division of Drinking Water staff worked with the company, which now has two employees committed to making sure regular tests and reports are made.

Operating Permit Regulations:

Proposed Revisions to Chapter 246-294 WAC

The division is currently revising the drinking water operating permit regulations. This will not include changing operating permit fees because they are established in statute and it takes legislative action to change them.

Objectives:

- Reflect changes already made to Chapter 246-290 WAC drinking water regulations, Chapter 246-292 WAC water works operator certification regulations, and RCW 70.119A.060 satellite management requirements.
- Revise permit categories and criteria to be more closely aligned to public health risk.
- Provide an alternative for systems that lack formal design approval but are operating in accordance with other regulations.
- Provide the ability to develop an alternative schedule for issuance of operating permits so the department can work to resolve an annual budget problem.
- Clarify "water system adequacy" to strengthen communications with local government.

Proposed changes:

- Revise the permit application process to allow the department to develop alternative schedules for applications and issuance of permits.
- Add criteria linked to the yellow permit category for satellite management agency (SMA) requirements for new water systems required to be owned or operated by an approved SMA.
- Link certified operator requirements and water quality monitoring requirements to the red permit category.
- Revise the definition of the yellow category to make it clear that it represents an acceptable level of compliance with basic public health regulations but does not meet planning or SMA requirements and/or is under a compliance agreement. Clarifies that this category is "adequate" for new connections up to the number of approved connections unless limited by a compliance agreement.
- Revise the definition of the blue category from undetermined to an acceptable level of compliance for systems that satisfy basic public health requirements but are lacking design approval (unapproved systems). Clarifies that this category is "adequate" for existing uses but not adequate for expansion.

Expected outcomes when the revised rules take effect:

- Systems that fail to meet operator certification requirement will eventually receive a red permit.
- A blue operating permit will represent systems that lack design approval but are operating in accordance with regulations and don't have any known high public health risks. Blue will be defined as an acceptable level of compliance, and systems will be adequate for existing uses but not allowed to expand. This will undoubtedly provide some relief for small systems that cannot afford to obtain design approval and as a result have had difficulty obtaining food service permits.
- Systems that exceed their number of approved service connections will receive a blue permit if there are no known high public health risks associated with the system exceeding the number.
- Systems that currently have a blue permit but have known high public health risks will eventually receive a red permit if the problems are not addressed in a timely manner.
- Systems that have violations but enter into a compliance agreement will receive a yellow permit.
- Newer systems that have been created after 1995 that were required under 70.119a.060 to be managed by an approved Satellite Management Agency (SMA) will receive a yellow permit if they do not maintain SMA services.

Workshops were held in Moses Lake and Lacey on May 20 and 21 to solicit comments on proposed changes to the regulations.

The tentative timeline for remaining steps in the rule development process is:

June 2003: Stakeholder comment period on 1st draft of regulations.

September 2003: Public hearing.

October 2003: Rule effective.

For more information, contact Theresa Phillips, 360-236-3147.

Filter Backwash Recycling Rule will Affect Some Systems

If your system uses a surface water source and you provide conventional or direct filtration treatment, you may have to meet some new requirements this year under the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule (FBRR).

The final rule was published by EPA in June, 2001, and Washington's state regulation took effect April 27, 2003. The intent is to reduce the risk that microbial pathogens such as Cryptosporidium are concentrated in spent filter backwash water and reintroduced into the plant without adequate treatment.

The FBRR requires Group A public water systems to review their backwash water recycling practices to ensure that they do not compromise microbial control.

Under the FBRR, recycled spent filter backwash water, sludge thickener supernatant, and liquids from dewatering processes must be returned to the head of the plant – prior to coagulation, flocculation, sedimentation (conventional filtration only) and filtration. Systems may apply to the Department of Health for approval to recycle at an alternate location. Filter-to-waste streams are not covered by the rule.

If your system recycles backwash water or the other flows described above, you must submit a recycle notification to the Department of Health by December 8, 2003. The recycle notification must include:

- A plant schematic showing the origin of recycle flows, how recycle flows are conveyed and where they are returned to the plant.
- Typical recycle flow rates, the highest observed plant flow in the past year, and the design flow for the treatment plant.
- The Department-approved operating capacity

Systems have until June 8, 2004 to relocate recycle flows to the head of the plant or obtain approval for an alternate location. A two-year extension is available for systems that need to make capital improvements.

If you believe that your system is subject to the rule, contact your regional office and make sure you are on their FBRR mailing list. The department will be contacting affected systems later this year.

According to our records, the following treatment plants have the capability to recycle flows: City of Chelan, City of Everett, King County Water District 19, Lake Chelan Reclamation District, Olympic View Water and Sewer District, Skagit County PUD 1, Seattle Public Utilities, Thunderbird Park, Thunderbird Terrace, and City of Yakima.

Please contact the Department also if you have the capability to recycle flows, but currently do not recycle. More information is available now on the EPA website at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/filterbackwash.html or by contacting your regional engineer.

Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR) will require more monitoring by some systems

If your system is a Group A community or nontransient noncommunity (NTNC) water system and you add chlorine or ozone to your drinking water during any part of the treatment process, you will have to meet some new requirements beginning in January, 2004 under the Stage 1 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (DBPR).

Surface water systems serving 10,000 or more persons began monitoring under this rule in 2002 and will continue to do so.

The final federal rule was published by EPA in December, 1998, and Washington's state regulation took effect April 27, 2003. The intent is to improve public health protection by reducing exposure to disinfection byproducts (DBPs). The DBPR requires community and NTNC water systems that add chemical disinfectants to monitor disinfectant residuals and DBPs within their distribution systems. Some surface water systems will also need to monitor for DBP precursors in their sources.

All monitoring must be done according to a system-specific monitoring plan that must be developed by the end of January, 2004. The Department of Health will be contacting affected systems later this year to provide more detailed information.

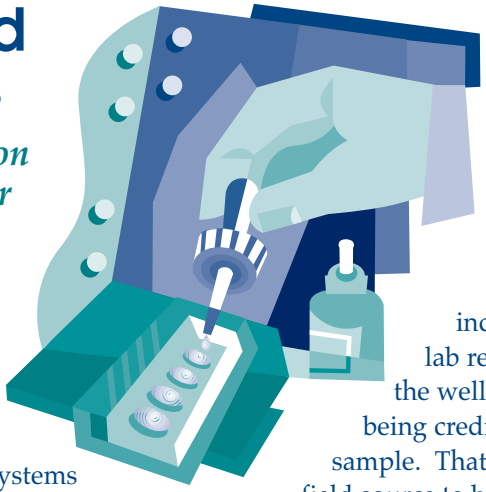
Monitoring requirements under the DBPR are linked to size and type of system, source and treatment types, and the number of treatment plants.

In their monitoring plans, most systems will need to identify locations representing maximum residence time of water in their distribution systems and month of warmest water temperature. Unless you already have this information, consider gathering it this summer. The department also has criteria available entitled "Demonstrating that Multiple Wells are drawn from a Single Aquifer" that systems can use to identify the number of treatment plants they have.

More information is available from your regional engineer or on the EPA website at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/mdbp/dbpfr.html

Well Field Samples

Proper collection is important for compliance



Be sure to fill out lab slips correctly when collecting water quality samples from well fields.

A number of water systems have sources designated as well fields by the Department of Health. Two or more wells can be designated as a well field if both of the following conditions are met:

1) Well log and water quality data for the individual wells indicate that they draw from the same aquifer.

2) All of the individual wells are plumbed into a common pipe with a sampling tap prior to the distribution system. If the water is treated, sampling must be after treatment.

DOH staff sometimes receive incorrectly labeled lab reports that result in the well field source not being credited with the sample. That causes the well field source to be out of compliance with the monitoring requirements and affects eligibility for waivers. Properly labeling samples for the well field source will help us ensure that your well field source gets credit for samples taken.

If you have a designated well field source, it is very important for compliance purposes that you collect your required source water quality monitoring samples from the common tap for the well field. It is also very important for you to put the correct well field source identification (ID) number on the paperwork for the sample.

For example, two wells may be identified individually as source S01 and S02, and they comprise a well field identified as S03. Collect the well field samples from the common tap for the well field, and mark the lab slip with the DOH Source ID for the well field (S03, for example). Also, please indicate, in the "sample location" space on the lab slip, the wells of the well field that were in operation when you collected the sample (for example, S01 and S02 if both were being pumped, or perhaps only S01 or only S02 if only one well was being pumped).

If you have questions about how to properly collect and label water quality samples collected for a well field, please contact your regional office source monitoring staff.

Training and Education Calendar July - Sept. 2003

Date	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone #	Cost/CEU
July 2	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 7-8	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 8	Cross Connection Control and Backflow Basics*	Bellingham	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 8-10	Pump Operation & Maintenance Workshop	Moses Lake	Collene Gonzales	(509) 766-4169	$240/2.1
July 9	Chlorination Basics*	Forks	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 9	Water Meter Basics*	Colville	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.5*
July 9	Cross Connection Control and Backflow Basics*	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 9	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 10	Chlorination Basics*	Port Angeles	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 10	Water Meter Basics*	Pullman	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.5*
July 10	Operations and Maintenance Basics*	Bonney Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 10	How to Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 10-11	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 11	Operations and Maintenance Basics*	Vancouver	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 11	Water Meter Basics*	Walla Walla	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.5*
July 11	How to Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment	Lacey	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 12	Operations and Maintenance Basics*	Yelm	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 12	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 14-15	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 14-15	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 15	Emergency Response Planning*	Colville	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 15	How to Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment	Spokane	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 16	Operations and Maintenance Basics*	Goldendale	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 16	Emergency Response Planning*	Liberty Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 16	How to Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment	Yakima	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 16	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 16	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 17	Operations and Maintenance Basics*	North Bend	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 17	Emergency Response Planning*	Pullman	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 17	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 17-18	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 18	Emergency Response Planning*	Kennewick	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 19	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 21	Emergency Response Planning	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 21-22	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 21-25	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Bellevue	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$695/3.0
July 22	Chlorination Basics*	Omak	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 22	Emergency Response Planning	Tacoma	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 23	Chlorination Basics*	Wenatchee	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 23	Monitoring Alarms, Controls & Auto. for Sm. Water Systems*	Kelso	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
July 23	Emergency Response Planning	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 23	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA

**These courses are designed for small water systems serving 3,300 people or less.*

Training and Education Calendar July - Sept. 2003

Date	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone #	Cost/CEU
July 24	Chlorination Basics*	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 24	Water Meter Basics*	Port Angeles	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.5*
July 24-25	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 26	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 27	Emergency Response Planning*	Colville	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 28	Emergency Response Planning	Spokane	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
July 28-29	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
July 29	Emergency Response Planning*	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 30	Emergency Response Planning*	Yakima	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 30	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
July 31	Emergency Response Planning*	Walla Walla	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
July 31-Aug 1	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 1	Emergency Response Planning*	Olympia	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 2	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 4	Emergency Response Planning	Yakima	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
Aug 4-5	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 5	Wellhead Protection*	Omak	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Aug 6	Wellhead Protection*	Colville	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Aug 6	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 7	Wellhead Protection*	Liberty Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Aug 7	Cross Connection Control and Backflow Basics*	Walla Walla	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 7-8	Adv. Backflow Assem. Testing/Diagnosing/Troubleshooting/Repair	Puyallup	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$275/1.4
Aug 7-8	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 8	Wellhead Protection*	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Aug 8	Cross Connection Control and Backflow Basics*	Kennewick	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 9	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 11	Emergency Response Planning	Vancouver	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7
Aug 11-12	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 11-12	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 12	Emergency Response Planning*	Oak Harbor	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 13	Emergency Response Planning*	Bremerton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 13	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 13	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 14	Emergency Response Planning*	Tacoma	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 14	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 14-15	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 14-15	Water Reuse	Seattle	Mayme Larson	(303) 347-6204	Free/Call
Aug 15	Emergency Response Planning*	Kelso	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 16	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 18-19	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 19	Chlorination Basics*	Colville	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 19-20	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5

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Training and Education Calendar July - Sept. 2003

Date	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone #	Cost/CEU
Aug 20	Chlorination Basics*	Liberty Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 20	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 21	Chlorination Basics*	Pullman	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 21	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 21-22	Adv. Backflow Assem. Testing/Diagnosing/Troubleshooting/Repair	Puyallup	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$275/1.4
Aug 21-22	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 22	Chlorination Basics*	Walla Walla	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 23	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 23-27	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 25	Emergency Response Planning*	Omak	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 25-26	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Aug 25-29	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course & Exam	Puyallup	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$695/3.0
Aug 26	Emergency Response Planning*	Wenatchee	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 26-28	Water Distribution Manager Exam Review	Moses Lake	Collene Gonzales	(509) 766-4169	$220/2.1
Aug 27	Emergency Response Planning*	Goldendale	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 27	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Aug 27-28	Water & Wastewater Utility Emergency Planning & Security	Wenatchee	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$195/1.4
Aug 28	Emergency Response Planning*	Vancouver	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Aug 28	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 2-11	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course (Evenings)	Vancouver	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 3	Basic Mathematics for Small Water System Operators*	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Sept 3-4	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 3-4	Process Control and Instrumentation	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$225/1.4
Sept 3-5	Water Treatment Plant Operator Exam Review*	Vancouver	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/2.1*
Sept 5	Basic & Water Treatment Plant Operator Cert Exam Review*	Chelan	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
Sept 5	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 6	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Vancouver	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 8-9	ERWOW Fall Conference	Ocean Shores	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Call/Call
Sept 8-9	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 8-12	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$695/3.0
Sept 9-10	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 10	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 10-12	Water Distribution Manager Exam Review*	Olympia	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/2.2*
Sept 10-12	Cross Connection Control Specialist Exam Review*	Vancouver	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/2.1*
Sept 11	Water Distribution Specialist Certification Exam Review*	Vancouver	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
Sept 11	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 11-12	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 12	Water Distribution Specialist Certification Exam Review*	Ocean Shores	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
Sept 13	Water Distribution Specialist Certification Exam Review*	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
Sept 13	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 13	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Vancouver	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 15-16	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5

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Training and Education Calendar July - Sept. 2003

Date	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone #	Cost/CEU
Sept 15-16	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 16	Basic Mathematics for Small Water System Operators*	Wenatchee	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Sept 17	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 17	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 16-18	Water Distribution Manager Exam Review*	Richland	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/2.2*
Sept 16-18	Cross Connection Control Specialist Exam Review*	Yakima	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/2.1*
Sept 16-18	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$265/2.1
Sept 18	Basic Mathematics for Small Water System Operators*	Kennewick	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Sept 18	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Richland	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 18-19	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 19	Basic & Water Treatment Plant Operator Cert. Exam Review*	Mt Vernon	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
Sept 20	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 22	Sanitary Surveys*	Omak	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Sept 22-23	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 22-26	Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course	Bellevue	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$695/3.0
Sept 23	Sanitary Surveys*	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Sept 23	Water Sampling Basics*	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7 *
Sept 23	Monitoring Alarms, Controls & Auto. for Sm. Water Systems*	Bremerton	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
Sept 23-24	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 23-24	Competent Person & Cave In Protection Workshop	Moses Lake	Collene Gonzales	(509) 766-4169	$210/1.4
Sept 23-25	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Everett	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$265/2.1
Sept 23-Oct 2	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course (Evenings)	Vancouver	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 24	Sanitary Surveys*	Liberty Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Sept 24	Water Sampling Basics*	Tacoma	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Sept 24	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 25	Basic Mathematics for Small Water System Operators*	Vancouver	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Sept 25	Water Sampling Basics*	Yelm	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Sept 25	Sanitary Surveys*	Pullman	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/Call*
Sept 25	Monitoring Alarms, Controls & Auto. for Sm. Water Systems*	Bellingham	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	Free/0.7*
Sept 25	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 25-26	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 27	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 27	Backflow Assembly Tester Professional Growth Exam	Vancouver	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$105/NA
Sept 29	Water Sampling Basics*	Kennewick	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*
Sept 29-30	Backflow Assembly Tester Refresher Course	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	$205/1.5
Sept 30	Water Sampling Basics*	Goldendale	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	Free/0.7*

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Additional Training Links:

AWWA King County Subsection Web Site – www.kcawwa.org
ERWOW Web Site - www.ERWOW.org
WETRC Web Site - www.ivygreen.ctc.edu/wetrc
AWWA Pacific Northwest Section - www.pnws-awwa.org/

For the complete Training Calendar visit the Drinking Water Homepage and click on Training - www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

NOTE: Links to external resources are provided as a public service, and do not imply endorsement by the Washington State Department of Health.

Tips for Better Nitrate Compliance

Based on regulations established by the Safe Drinking Water Act, nitrate is considered an acute contaminant. Acute means that consumption of nitrate above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L (or ppm) can pose an immediate risk to human health.

In the case of an MCL violation, acute contaminants must be acted on in a specified time frame. For this reason, DOH is increasing its efforts to help water systems meet their requirements for nitrate monitoring and ensure that, if nitrate is above the MCL, they notify their customers in a timely fashion and meet the regulatory requirements for public notification.

The following tips will help you be successful in meeting your monitoring and reporting requirements and respond to an MCL violation in a timely manner.

Nitrate monitoring

Community (COMM) and Non-transient Non-community (NTNC) Systems:

A nitrate sample is required once per year from each active permanent or seasonal source collected after treatment (if applicable) and before entry into the distribution system. If you have had nitrate sample results in the past that were ≥ 5.0 mg/L, you may be on an increased monitoring schedule, which means you must take one sample each quarter.

The best way to find out what your nitrate monitoring requirements are is to refer to your annual Water Quality Monitoring Report (WQMR) that is sent out the first of each year. The WQMR lays out all of your monitoring (chemical and microbiological) for the year and indicates at what time of the year to take your samples. This is important because nitrate analysis is sometimes included on an Inorganic Chemical (IOC) analysis, which is required once every three years. This means that if you to take an IOC sample, it may also count for your nitrate sample.

Transient Non-Community (TNC) Systems:

A nitrate sample is required once per year. Transient Non-community systems should receive their first annual WQMR this summer. DOH will notify you of your nitrate monitoring requirements in the meantime through the use of postcards sent once per year (usually in August). There are some cases in which a TNC system may need to take samples quarterly (sample results have been above 10 mg/L, high fluctuations in results, etc.). Again, DOH will notify you by postcard.

Sample collection and reporting

Contact the laboratory you want to use ahead of time to make sure they do nitrate analysis and find out what equipment you will need and what equipment they may supply (sample kit, cold packs, sample bottles, etc.). Also, try to plan to collect your sample as early in the week as possible. This will give you time to take additional samples if necessary and have them analyzed before the end of the week.

The general sampling procedures for nitrate monitoring are as follows:

1. Freeze a chemical cold pack before collecting samples.
2. Locate a sampling tap that is after treatment (if applicable) but prior to entry to the distribution system.
3. Remove any attachment from the tap such as hoses, filters, screens, or aerators.
4. Flush the water for about 10 minutes or until the water reaches a constant temperature.
5. While water is running and before collecting the sample, fill out COMPLETELY the laboratory form and sample label. Laboratory forms vary, but the following information is very important to complete:
   - Water System ID No.
   - Water System name
   - DOH source number (e.g., SO1)
   - Sample type
   - Date and time the sample was taken
   - Sample location (e.g. faucet, pumphouse)
   - System type (i.e., Group A or B)
   - Sample purpose (usually compliance)
6. Fill sample container bottle to the shoulder of the bottle.
7. Keep all samples refrigerated until you are ready to ship. Once samples are ready to be shipped, package samples, frozen chemical cold pack, and completed sample information form into a container and ship to the laboratory within 24 hours.

Ensure that a copy of the results is sent to DOH. Work with your lab to make sure that all of the information in step 5 above is included in the lab report form and decide whether you or the lab will submit the results to DOH.

Sample results above the MCL

If you receive sample results that are above the MCL, contact your Regional Office Nitrate Contact Staff immediately (see list at end of article). They will determine if a violation has occurred and instruct you on notifying your customers, which must be completed within 24 hours of your notification that a violation has occurred. If you receive the results after business hours or on the weekend, you can leave a message on the Drinking Water Hotline (1-877-481-4901) and someone will contact you as soon as possible.

Compliance

DOH is also putting more effort into notifying systems of nitrate monitoring, public notification, and water quality violations. Continued non-compliance with these elements will lead to enforcement actions. If sampling over long periods of time indicates nitrate levels that are consistently above the MCL, a remediation solution will have to be implemented. DOH is committed to working with water systems to ensure monitoring compliance and continues to investigate applicable and approvable remediation options for nitrate-contaminated sources.

Regional nitrate contact staff

Northwest Regional Office
Steve Hulsman, 253-395-6777

Eastern Regional Office:
Mark Steward, 509-456-2731

Southwest Regional Office
Belle Fuchs or Donna Freier, 360-586-5179

DWSRF applications for 2003 loan cycle are in

Next spring, approximately $25 million in Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) assistance will be going to public water systems in Washington state to fund drinking water infrastructure improvements.

Seventy-one applications from 49 jurisdictions requesting approximately $60 million were received in May for the seventh annual round of DWSRF loans. As with the 2002 loan cycle, funding offers will be limited to high-ranking water quality projects, starting at the top of the priority list and working down until all available funds have been obligated. The approved loans will be distributed in the spring of 2004.

The DWSRF program is jointly managed by the Department of Health and the Public Works Board, along with their fiscal agent, the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development. The program provides low-interest loans to help community and non-profit noncommunity water systems finance infrastructure improvements. The basic interest rate for 2003 projects is 1.5%; distressed counties and disadvantaged communities will be offered a reduced rate. Around $130 million in loans have been committed since the program began in 1997. Washington is a national leader in getting this money out to public water systems.

Start planning now for 2004 applications

It's not too early to prepare for the 2004 application cycle. For example, systems required to comply with the new arsenic drinking water standard can look to DWSRF for financial assistance. The new EPA arsenic drinking water standard of 10 ppb is intended to reduce the risk of adverse health effects from long-term exposure to low levels of arsenic in drinking water. This increased margin of safety comes at an increased cost and will require substantial investment by communities that have arsenic present in drinking water at levels exceeding the new standard.

For more information about the DWSRF program, contact Chris Gagnon, 360-236-3095, email chris.Gagnon@doh.wa.gov, or visit our website at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Our_Main_Pages/dwsrf.htm

IACC provides information on funding and technical assistance through its website and biennial conference

For a comprehensive look at funding and technical assistance providers, go to the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) website at: http://www.infrafunding.wa.gov/

IACC's purpose is to improve the delivery of infrastructure assistance, both financial and technical, to local governments and other jurisdictions. The council is made up of staff from state and federal agencies, local government associations, nonprofit technical assistance firms, and universities.

The IACC sponsors a biennial statewide conference to discuss programs and provide technical assistance for potential projects, including those of publicly-owned and privately-owned water systems. This year's conference will be held October 28-30 in Wenatchee, and will include a workshop designed for privately owned water systems. If you are a privately-owned water system that is in need of funding and technical assistance, the IACC conference may be for you.

For more information, contact Cecilia Gardener, Public Works Board, at 360- 725-5006.

Fee Increases

The Division of Drinking Water held a public hearing on proposed fee increases on May 23rd, 2003 and they were approved by the Department of Health June 2003, to be effective July 2003. The fees will increase by 3.29%, the growth factor (cap) for fiscal year 2003.

The increase in fees is necessary to ensure continued protection of public health by enabling the programs to acquire additional revenue to maintain current service activities and meet program costs.

The fees covered by this increase are:

- Monitoring waivers.
- Plan reviews, including water system plans, review of project reports and review of construction documents.
- Water works operator certification for all classification levels.
- Standard hourly rate.
- Sanitary surveys.

The new fee schedule will be available on the web at: http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/fee_increase

In This Issue

The following people contributed to the production of this issue of the Water Tap: Cheryl Bergener, Johnny Clark, Scott Decker, Derrick Dennis, Kaye Earl, Nancy Feagin, Donna Freier, Chris Gagnon, Gregg Grunenfelder, Rich Hoey, Steve Hulsman, Abigail Hughes, Steve Kelso (Editor), Bill Liechty, Donna Lynch, Meliss Maxfield, Ethan Moseng, Terri Notestine, Sean Orr, Theresa Phillips, Gael Rose-Kantz, Dan Sander, Rich Sarver, Rich Siffert, Paula Smith, and Trace Warner.

The Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water, publishes the Water Tap to provide information to water system owners, water works operators, and others interested in drinking water. Comments and questions are welcome.

Past issues are available by writing to the editor, the Water Tap, Division of Drinking Water, PO Box 47828, Olympia, WA 98504-7828, or email your request to steve.kelso@doh.wa.gov. Past issues are also available on the web at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw

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