# WATER TAP

WASHINGTON'S DRINKING WATER NEWSLETTER

Washington State Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
Office of Drinking Water

Volume 24, #2 - June 2009


# State Supreme Court to hear Municipal Water Law case

On March 3, 2009, the State Supreme Court unanimously agreed to hear the state's appeal of the King County Superior Court ruling that struck down parts of the Municipal Water Law. However, the case may not be set for oral argument until the Supreme Court's fall 2009 or winter 2010 term.

Because a decision on the case is likely one to three years away, we continue to advise all privately owned water systems to plan for the possibility that they will once again be subject to water use efficiency requirements. Until the case is settled, we cannot predict whether any changes to the requirements or deadlines will be made; therefore, we recommend that privately owned systems voluntarily comply.

You can track developments in the case online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/mwl-legal.htm>

## Eastern Regional Office to Move

The Department of Health's Eastern Regional Office will move to a new location in Spokane Valley on June 8, after 10 years at the Freeway Plaza location. Our office is at the new River View Corporate Center in Spokane Valley.

The mailing address is:

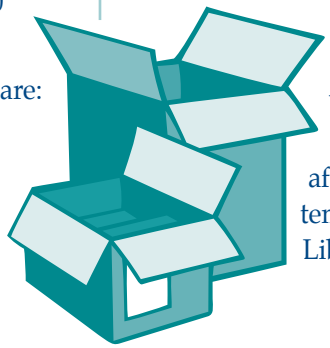
Department of Health
Office of Drinking Water
16201 E. Indiana Ave., Suite 1500
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

The main phone and fax numbers are:

Phone (509) 329-2100
FAX (509) 329-2104

The Eastern Regional Office houses several programs with about 45 staff from the Environmental Health and Health Systems Quality Assurance divisions. The largest program is the Office of Drinking Water, with 18 staff.

The old location could not accommodate upgrades to information and communications infrastructure, or additional program space. So, last summer, the Washington State Department of General Administration and our Office of Facilities and Business Services led a search for the new location.



Staff are glad to be settling in to their new location after working at a temporary location in Liberty Lake.

## Inside This Issue

# The Director's Column

by Denise Addotta Clifford

## Slicing the Economic Recovery Pie Took Thought, Care

As I write this column, many issues are swirling that may be yesterday's headlines by the time you read it.

- "Legislature Gulps, Cuts Billions From State Budget"
- "Water System Projects Chosen for $38.5 Million In Federal Stimulus Funding"
- "State Agencies Brace for Staff and Budget Cuts"

I know just about all of you are feeling the economic squeeze, just as we are, and some of you are disappointed your project wasn't selected to receive federal recovery funds. That awareness made the selection process all the more difficult, so my staff took special care to ensure fairness and transparency.

Here's some behind-the-scenes information about the process we used to score your applications.

We assembled a team of 15 staff members, including engineers and other representatives from our regional offices, to evaluate applications and help formulate our ranked list of projects.

The American Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) required us to use half the money to provide up to 100 percent loan forgiveness for projects in economically distressed areas, based on median household income and unemployment figures. Another 20 percent had to go for green projects that improve water use efficiency. The "buy-American" provision requires each selected project to use American-made materials.

All selected projects also had to demonstrate they could have shovels in the ground by February 16, 2010, and we had to give high priority to those that could begin by June 16, 2009.

For a complete list of funded projects, go to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/economic-rec.htm>

You can monitor the progress of these projects at <http://www.recovery.wa.gov>

While addressing high public health needs was our first scoring criterion, all these other provisions also had to be part of scoring and ranking projects.

Each project selected had unanimous consensus from the review team. The public also had time to review the draft list of projects and make comments before the Public Works Board approved the list on April 27.

I believe many of these projects will fix longstanding public health problems. In addition, I am personally heartened that the funds will help create or maintain jobs in communities around the state.

We received nearly 350 applications requesting more than $415 million, which underscores the great need for infrastructure funding assistance in our state. The good news is that we'll still be able to disburse federal funding through our typical State Revolving Fund loan process this fall (about $40 million this year).

We will help systems that did not receive ARRA funding re-apply in a streamlined fashion for these low-interest loans. Because so many of our communities have been hit hard during these tough economic times, we are also evaluating a revision to our Drinking Water SRF rule that may include the possibility of loan forgiveness.

As you know, the drinking water program is not exempt from the effects of a lean budget either. We are still figuring out how best to run the program with limited funds.

I will focus on our core public health responsibilities and advocate for the work we do that makes us fully able to assist you in keeping water safe to drink.

Denise A. Clifford

# Drinking Water Week awards celebrate those who provide safe water

Responding to vandalism or making sure bacteria doesn't get into tap water, Washington's drinking water professionals face challenges every day while providing safe, reliable drinking water to the five million citizens on public water systems. The Department of Health Office of Drinking Water (ODW) recognized several of these outstanding individuals and organizations for their efforts during National Drinking Water Week, May 3-9.

## Drug Abuse Prevention Center, Cowlitz County: "Grace under Pressure"

The "Grace Under Pressure" award recognizes how well Cindy Jones (left), operations manager, Eric McCrandall (center), facilities manager, and Floyd "Gus" Nolte, executive director, responded after an intruder poisoned the well at the Drug Abuse Prevention Center near Castle Rock last year. The staff kept residential drug treatment patients calm and safe during a month-long ordeal that involved a criminal investigation, taking more than 100 water samples, bringing in an alternate water supply and portable showers and toilets, and ultimately cleaning the Center's reservoir and distribution system. The crime remains unsolved.

## Brad Lake and Sean Bauer, City of Kent: "Friends of Drinking Water"

ODW Director Denise A. Clifford recognized Brad Lake (right) and Sean Bauer as "Friends of Drinking Water" for their exceptional commitment to providing safe, reliable drinking water to customers in the City of Kent and neighboring water systems. As Public Works Water Superintendent, Lake promoted the idea of Kent providing certified operator services to neighboring systems. He devoted his own time to help resolve their water issues and to develop regional planning groups. As Water Quality Supervisor, Bauer facilitated many of the improvements to failing systems surrounding Kent. In addition to working for the city, Bauer provides contract operator services to three small public water systems. He is a member of the Operator Certification Advisory Committee and actively promotes drinking water issues.

## Cary Eller, Chelan County: "Operator of the Year"

Cary Eller, water quality program coordinator for Chelan County Public Utility District, is the "Operator of the Year." Eller manages the PUD's main water system and several other district-owned systems. He also works as a contract operator and manages 12 water systems in Chelan, Douglas, and Grant counties. He took on systems with no operators and those with challenging problems such as arsenic. Eller earns praise for being conscientious and effective, and focusing on preventing rather than reacting to problems.

*(Continued on Page 7)*

# Water Supply Forecast Summer 2009

### *When is a drought a drought? It all depends on when you ask the question!*

We produce this water supply forecast every spring in an effort to explain how the water supply will look over the summer and into the fall. The trick is, you are reading this in June, but we wrote it in April. In most years, winter weather patterns and snowpack trends provide some pretty good indications or "tracks" to follow when we make our water supply forecast. But this year, all bets are off!

It has been a winter of records—both highs and lows. Conditions have ranged from imminent drought to near-record snowpack. It just depended on when you asked the question and where you looked.

As we started drafting this article in early March, conditions projected low spring and summer streamflow. Another dry summer seemed to lie ahead. At that time, despite record December snows in a number of places, and cold January temperatures everywhere, snowpack in the Cascades was well below normal. It looked as if we were heading for drought in parts of the central and northern Cascades, and even in the Olympics.

At the same time, Spokane was setting records for snowfall. Temperatures across the state were lower than normal throughout the winter and early spring. That helped keep the spring snows in the mountains.

What a difference a month can make! In April as we edited this article, snowpack had returned to normal or above normal levels for most of the state. They say "March comes in like a lion and goes out like lamb." It definitely came in like a lion, but the lamb didn't make an appearance for some time. In areas of southwestern Washington, the snowpack was approaching the record levels of 2008. Although the snowpack was still low in the upper Columbia and the eastern Olympics, even there, it had improved significantly.

As of early May, it looks as if we have dodged another drought. It is a good forecast. But remember what a difference a month can make…

Water supply forecasts for the state are normal or above normal spring and early summer streamflow. That is good news for lakes, reservoirs, streams, groundwater, fish, farmers, and everyone who drinks water. It is still going to be a "tight" water year for the Okanogan and portions of the upper Columbia Basin, but the cooler than normal spring has helped there as well.

Despite the ups and downs, it has been a winter of records. The 2008-09 snow season tied for the sixth snowiest at SeaTac Airport, with 23.3 inches. At the Spokane Airport, the season buried the 1949-50 record under more than 93 inches of snow. The snow season is defined unofficially as October 15 through April 15.

For more information and updates on Washington's water supply, its weather and climate forecasts, visit the Office of the Washington State Climatologist online at <http://www.climate.washington.edu>

## New phone numbers for Washington Certification Services

You may now contact the staff at Washington Certification Services at these new numbers:

Toll-free in Washington (877) 780-2444

Local or out-of-state (253) 288-3357

Washington Certification Services at Green River Community College administers the Waterworks Professional Growth Program, as well as the Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Program and examinations for the Department of Health.

# Rulemaking

## *Folding, stuffing, mailing rulemaking notices a thing of the past*

Starting July 1, we will no longer mail rulemaking notices to stakeholders and interested parties. Instead, we will distribute the notices by e-mail.

### For up-to-date rulemaking information

We will use a Listserv (special e-mail list) to send rulemaking notices. To subscribe, go to our rules Web page at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/regula.htmt> See "Highlights" on the right side of the page.

### Current rulemaking activities

- Federal Rule: Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule
- Federal Rule: Groundwater Rule
- Drinking Water Laboratory Data Reporting Rule

### Additional information available on our Web page

- Rule publications
- Link to the Code Reviser's Web site
- Link to the Department of Health's Rules Web site
- Link to the EPA's Web site

For more information about our rulemaking activities, please visit our Rules and Laws Web page at the address above, or call Theresa Phillips, lead rules coordinator, at (360) 236-3147, or Michelle Austin, policy coordinator, at (360) 236-3156.

# Groundwater Sources: Install Source Water Sample Taps by December 1, 2009

The Groundwater Rule will require many water systems to collect source samples and have them tested for a fecal indicator. The rule goes into effect at the federal level on December 1, 2009, for all Group A water systems. However, the sampling aspect of this rule may require your attention sooner.

The Groundwater Rule will require water systems with groundwater sources to sample each groundwater source whenever the system has a positive total coliform result under the Total Coliform Rule routine sampling. Groundwater systems that provide and monitor for 4-log virus inactivation will not be required to do source monitoring.

To meet the monitoring requirements, these water systems are expected to have a source tap available at each applicable groundwater source by December 1, 2009. Each tap should be located as close to the source as possible, and should be upstream of any pressure tank, storage tank, or treatment system.

Initially, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will implement the rule in Washington. The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) plans to assume regulatory oversight by January 2011.

### For more information

You can get the following ODW publications online at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/publications/publications.cfm> or by calling (800) 521-0323:

- ***Source Water Sample Taps*** (331-436) describes desirable features of sample taps.
- ***Preparing for the Groundwater Rule*** (331-390) explains how to prepare for the rule.

Call Theresa Phillips, ODW rules coordinator, at (360) 236-3147 or e-mail theresa.phillips@doh.wa.gov

# New & Revised Publications

***Computer-based testing for waterworks certification*** (331-424) – New! Four pages explain the benefits of computer-based exams for operator certification and how operators can apply to take the exams.

***Records Retention Reminder*** (331-431) – New! One page explains how long public water system owners and operators must keep records at their utility or a nearby location.

***Municipal Water Suppliers: Service areas in planning documents*** (331-432) – New! 2-page fact sheet explains the new service area requirements and definitions municipal water suppliers should understand when they develop their planning document.

***Privately owned systems: Service areas in planning documents*** (331-433) – New! 2-page fact sheet explains the new service area definitions privately owned systems should understand when they develop their water system plan or small water system management program.

***Arsenic in Drinking Water*** (331-167) – Revised. Two pages of answers to questions on arsenic in drinking water sources, health effects, standards, where it is found, and what can be done about it.

***Important information for private well owners*** (331-349) – Revised. Four pages explain private well owners' responsibility to test their water to ensure it is safe to drink; when to test; and rules associated with using a private well.

***Preparing for the Groundwater Rule*** (331-390) – Revised. 2-page fact sheet includes several things you can do to prepare for the GWR before its December 1, 2009, compliance date.

For copies of Office of Drinking Water publications, visit the Web site at <https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/eh/dw/publications/publications.cfm> or call (800) 521-0323.

Use our Listserv to get e-mail copies of new and revised publications. Sign up at <http://listserv.wa.gov/cgi-bin/wa?SUBED1=wa-drinkingwaterpub&A=1>

*Publicly owned systems*

## Submit your annual water use efficiency report online before July 1, 2009

The deadline for submitting your annual water use efficiency report to us and your customers is days away. Chapter 8 of the newly revised ***Water Use Efficiency Guidebook*** (331-375) provides instruction to help you fill out the report.

**Please do not include any other materials (such as the water use efficiency section from your water system plan, pictures, or examples of educational brochures) in your report, unless we specifically request it.**

Remember, when reporting to us, you must use the online form.

**Follow these steps to submit your report:**

1. Go to <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/programs/wue.htm>
2. On the right side of the page, click on ***Annual WUE Performance Report Form*** (DOH Form 331-376).
3. Complete the form.
4. Save it to your computer with your water system's name.
5. E-mail the completed form to WUE@doh.wa.gov by July 1.

If you have questions or concerns about completing your report, call Mike Dexel, water resources lead, at (360) 236-3154 or e-mail michael.dexel@doh.wa.gov

# Lab Corner

It has come to our attention that several laboratories and water systems have new staff working with water samples. Whether you're new or you've been around awhile, did you know that …

… Laboratories provide services to more than 17,000 public water systems in Washington?

… There are just over 100 labs in Washington and across the country certified to test samples for Washington's public drinking water systems?

… Department of Ecology and Department of Health work together to create a list of laboratories certified to test drinking water samples?

… We created the lab reporting form templates to match the data on our computer screens so we'd have the most effective and efficient data entry?

… In one year we enter data for about 4,000 chemical and radionuclide samples and about 120,000 microbacteria samples?

… You must get your monthly coliform lab slips to our data entry staff by the 10th of the following month to avoid monitoring violations?

… If a water system takes a source sample for testing, but fails to put the source number on the lab slip, we can't enter the data into the computer system and a violation will be issued?

We deeply appreciate the work you do collecting and testing samples, and allowing us all to help protect the public's health from unsafe drinking water.

### Lab Slip Tips

*Five essentials for source monitoring compliance*

Fill out lab slips correctly and completely with the following:

1. Correct System Name
2. Correct System ID Number
3. Correct Source Number(s)
4. Collect Date
5. Sample Purpose: RC (Routine Compliance)

If information is missing, Department of Health may reject your lab slip as a compliance sample. You can find the system name, ID number, and source number(s) on your Water Facilities Inventory (WFI) form.

## *Drinking Water Week...* *(Continued from Page 3)*

### Port of Walla Walla, Burbank Business Park Water System: "Going Above and Beyond"

Port of Walla Walla Commissioners Fred Bennett (left) and Paul Schneidmiller celebrated Drinking Water Week with ODW Director Denise Clifford. The Port was recognized for "Going Above and Beyond" by developing the Burbank Business Park Water System. The $3.5 million project offers a central water system for the business park and its neighbors, which helped eliminate individual wells. The Port now supplies water to the Columbia School District, which allowed the district to stop using nitrate-contaminated wells. The Port also plans to provide a better water source for the 100 residential customers of the Columbia View Water System in Burbank.

# Training and Education Calendar: June - September 2009

| Date | Topics | Location | Contact | Phone # | Cost/CEU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June 11 | Managing and Owning a Public Water System | Spanaway | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| June 11-12 | Water Meters and Metering | Mt. Vernon | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $279/1.4 |
| June 15 | Water Use Efficiency Rule Review | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| June 16 | Getting Ready for Funding | Kelso | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/TBA |
| June 16-17 | Advanced Backflow & Cross Connection Control | Lakewood | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $210/$235/1.4 |
| June 16-18 | Pumps and Pumping in Water and Wastewater Facilities | Yakima | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $325/2.1 |
| June 17 | Asbestos Cement Pipe Handling & Respiratory App | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $75/$100/0.5 |
| June 17 | Being Prepared for Your Sanitary Survey | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $169/0.7 |
| June 17 | Getting Ready for Funding | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/TBA |
| June 18 | Backflow Assembly Troubleshooting & Repair | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| June 18 | Getting Ready for Funding | Bellingham | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/TBA |
| June 18-19 | Competent Person For Cave-in Protection | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $249/1.4 |
| June 22-26 | Entry Level Water System Basics | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | TBA/0.7 |
| June 24-25 | Advanced Backflow & Cross Connection Control | Lakewood | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $210/$235/1.4 |
| July 6-10 | Backflow Assembly Tester Certification | Auburn | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $665/3.7 |
| July 7 | Getting Ready for Funding | Yakima | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/TBA |
| July 8 | Getting Ready for Funding | Tri-Cities | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/TBA |
| July 8 | Interpreting Utility Maps & Drawings | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| July 8 | Water Distribution Specialist 1-Day Exam Review | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| July 9 | Getting Ready for Funding | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/TBA |
| July 10 | Asbestos/Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures | Longview | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $160/0.7 |
| July 10 | Interpreting Utility Maps & Drawings | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| July 14 | Introduction to Water Rights | Coupeville | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $90/$115/0.6 |
| July 16 | Introduction to Water Rights | Wenatchee | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $90/$115/0.6 |
| July 22 | Competent Person for Cave-in Protection | Vancouver | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| July 22-23 | Fire Hydrants: Installation, Testing, Operation & Repair | Auburn | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $255/1.4 |
| July 22-24 | Wastewater Collection System Op & Maintenance | Spokane Valley | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $325/2.1 |
| July 27-28 | Adv Backflow Assembly Test, Troubleshoot & Repair | Auburn | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $295/1.4 |
| July 28 | Water Distribution Useful Tools and Practices | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| July 28-31 | Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Exam Prep | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $420/$445/2.8 |
| Aug. 4 | Water Distribution Specialist 1-Day exam Review | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Aug. 5 | Basic Water Chemistry | Yakima | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Aug. 5-7 | Water Works Basics | Everett | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $295/2.1 |
| Aug. 6 | Asbestos Cement Pipe Handling | Vancouver | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Aug. 10-14 | Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course | Spokane Valley | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $665/3.7 |
| Aug. 10-14 | Backflow Assembly Tester Certification Course | Auburn | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $665/3.7 |
| Aug. 11 | Funding Sources & How to Apply | Woodland | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/0.5 |
| Aug. 11 | Interpreting Utility Maps and Drawings | Colville | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Aug. 12 | Funding Sources & How to Apply | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/0.5 |
| Aug. 13 | Funding Sources & How to Apply | Mt. Vernon | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/0.5 |
| Aug. 14 | Basic Electrical | Tri-Cities | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Aug. 18-19 | BAT 2-Day Professional Growth Exam Review | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $210/$235/1.4 |
| Aug. 20 | Competent Person for Cave-in Protection | Omak | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Aug. 25 | Funding Sources & How to Apply | College Place | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/0.5 |
| Aug. 26 | Funding Sources & How to Apply | Moses Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/0.5 |

# Training and Education Calendar: June - September 2009

| Date | Topics | Location | Contact | Phone # | Cost/CEU |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug. 26-28 | Water Works Basics | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $295/2.1 |
| Aug. 27 | Funding Sources & How to Apply | Wenatchee | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | Free/0.5 |
| Aug. 28 | Asbestos/Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures | Spokane Valley | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $160/0.7 |
| Aug. 28 | Water Use Efficiency Rule Review | Yakima | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Sept. 1-2 | Competent Person for Cave-in Protection | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $249/1.4 |
| Sept. 1-3 | ERWOW Fall Conference | Ocean Shores | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $135/$160/TBA |
| Sept. 8 | Reviewing the WAC | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Sept. 9-11 | Cross Connection Specialist Exam Review | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $225/$275/2.1 |
| Sept. 9-11 | Pumps and Pumping in Water and Wastewater Facilities | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $325/2.1 |
| Sept. 9-11 | Water Distribution Manager Exam Review | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $225/$2752.1 |
| Sept. 10 | BTO/WTPO OIT and Level 1 Cert Exam Review | Everett | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $120/0.7 |
| Sept. 15 | BAT 1-Day Professional Exam Review | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Sept. 15-17 | Cross Connection Control Basics and Exam Review | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $295/2.1 |
| Sept. 15-17 | Water Distribution Manager Exam Review | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $225/$275/2.2 |
| Sept. 15-17 | Water & Wastewater Disinfection | Leavenworth | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $315/2.1 |
| Sept. 17 | BAT 1-Day Professional Exam Review | Shelton | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Sept. 18 | BTO/WTPO OIT and Level 1 Cert Exam Review | Leavenworth | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $120/0.7 |
| Sept. 18 | Incident Command System & NIMS Training | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $140/0.8 |
| Sept. 18 | Reviewing the WAC | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Sept. 18 | Water Quality Complaints: Response, Investigation & Rec | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $140/0.8 |
| Sept. 21 | Advanced Math for WTPO | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $60/$85/0.4 |
| Sept. 22-24 | Cross Connection Specialist Exam Review | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $225/$275/2.1 |
| Sept. 22-24 | Water Treatment Plant Operator Exam Review | Olympia | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $225/$275/2.1 |
| Sept. 23-24 | Competent Person for Cave-in Protection | Richland | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $249/1.4 |
| Sept. 23-25 | Basic Electrical | Everett | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $305/2.1 |
| Sept. 25 | Confined Space Entry Training | Liberty Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $105/$130/0.7 |
| Sept. 25 | Confined Space Entry | Richland | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $149/0.7 |
| Sept. 28 | Hach Water & Wastewater Analysis | Issaquah | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $90/$115/0.6 |
| Sept. 29 | Advanced Control Valves | Vancouver | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $85/0.7 |
| Sept. 29 | Advanced Math for WTPO | Moses Lake | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $60/$85/0.4 |
| Sept. 30 | BTO/WTPO OIT and Level 1 Cert Exam Review | Lacey | WETRC | 1-800-562-0858 | $120/0.7 |
| Sept. 30 | Reviewing the WAC | Issaquah | ERWOW | 1-800-272-5981 | $90/$115/0.6 |

***Our training calendar is updated quarterly; please visit the additional training links for current information.***

For information about distance learning activities, call Certification Services, Green River Community College at (877) 780-2444.

## Additional Training Links:

AWWA King County Subsection Web site <**http://www.kcawwa.org/**>

ERWOW Web site <**http://www.erwow.org/**>

WETRC Web site <**http://www.wetrc.org/**>

AWWA Pacific Northwest Section Web site <**http://www.pnws-awwa.org/**>

EPA Electronic Workshops Web site <**http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa/electronic.html**> (No CEU assigned to these courses.)

Partnership for Water Conservation <**http://www.partners4water.org**>

***For the complete Training Calendar, visit the Drinking Water Homepage and click on Training - <http://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.*

# Take a Closer Look at Service Connections

## *Updating Your Water Facilities Inventory*

Each year, we ask Group A public water systems to update their water facilities inventory (WFI) forms. It is very important for us to have an accurate estimate of how many people each water system serves. So, earlier this year, we contacted smaller community water systems to tell them how to record multi-family residential dwelling units on the WFI form. We'll do the same for larger community water systems later this year.

One purpose of the WFI is to provide an accurate profile of each water system. This allows us to establish the number of people likely affected in a water emergency. If we have an incomplete picture of how many dwellings a water system serves, the number of residents affected will most likely be under-reported.

Total residential service connections include all single-family homes and all dwelling units in multi-family residential housing. In the past, your utility may have counted a multi-family structure as a single service, but the Washington State Legislature defined each multi-family dwelling unit as a separate service connection. We suggest using 2.5 persons per dwelling when estimating your residential population.

The WFI form has always requested the number of multi-family residential units on Lines 26B and 26C. Until now, we haven't clearly communicated the importance of accurately recording this information.

Changes to the residential population served, number of connections, or both, may affect a utility's obligations under one or more of the following drinking water program areas:

- Operator certification requirements and fees.
- Operating permit fees.
- Routine monthly coliform monitoring requirements.
- Lead and copper monitoring requirements.
- Planning and water use efficiency requirements.

After receiving your WFI update, we will notify you of any changes in your regulatory obligations. We will work with you to set reasonable timelines to meet any new obligations.

*(Continued on Page 13)*

**Wrong!**
The utility counted its apartment buildings and other multi-family residences on Line 25A as if each were a single-family home. Based on 2.5 people per dwelling, the utility reported 2,300 residents.

**Correct!**
The utility included the number of multi-family buildings and units. This allows the utility to better estimate the number of residents the water system serves. Based on 2.5 people per dwelling, the utility now reports 3,000 residents.

| | ACTIVE SERVICE CONNECTIONS | DOH USE ONLY! CALCULATED ACTIVE CONNECTION | ACTIVE SERVICE CONNECTIONS | DOH USE ONLY! CALCULATED ACTIVE CONNECTION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **25. SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCES (How many of the following do you have?)** | | | | |
| A. Full Time Single Family Residences (Occupied 180 days or more per year) | 920 | | 900 | |
| B. Part Time Single Family Residences (Occupied less than 180 days per year) | | | | |
| **26. MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (How many of the following do you have?)** | | | | |
| A. Apartment Buildings, condos, duplexes, barracks, dorms | | | 20 | |
| B. Full Time Residential Units in the Apartments, Condos, Duplexes, Dorms that are occupied more than 180 days/year | | | 300 | |
| C. Part Time Residential Units in the Apartments, Condos, Duplexes, Dorms that are occupied less than 180 days/year | | | | |
| **27. NON-RESIDENTIAL CONNECTIONS (How many of the following do you have?)** | | | | |
| A. Recreational Services (Campsites, RV Sites, Spigots, etc.) | | | | |
| B. Institutional, Commercial/Business, School, Day Care, Industrial Services, etc. | | | | |
| **28. TOTAL SERVICE CONNECTIONS** | | 920 | | 1,200 |
| **29. FULL-TIME RESIDENTIAL POPULATION** | | | | |
| A. How many residents are served by this system 180 or more days per year? | 2,300 | | 3,000 | |

# Using Interruptible Water Rights for Public Water Supplies

It may seem counterintuitive for the Office of Drinking Water (ODW) to think about approving an interruptible water supply. After all, our mission is to ensure safe and reliable drinking water, and an interruptible water right—one that may not be available for year-round use—doesn't seem very reliable. However, a recent agreement between the departments of Health and Ecology makes it possible for us to approve an interruptible water supply under the right conditions.

The agreement is part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the agencies. It makes it possible for water systems and developers to meet water demands by purchasing or leasing interruptible water rights. However, because there are inherent risks in using interruptible water rights, these systems must control water demands with aggressive water use efficiency measures.

ODW and Ecology will work together to ensure that new and expanding water systems with interruptible water rights have successful water-use strategies.

It is an enormous challenge to meet the water demands of a growing population, agriculture, and industry while, at the same time, protecting and setting instream flows. Therefore, Ecology has issued fewer new water rights across the state.

Using water efficiently is often the least expensive way to obtain the next source of supply, but it isn't always enough. As a result, water systems, growing communities, and developers must look elsewhere for new supply sources.

Ecology often advises those seeking water supplies to look for existing transferable water rights. But, sometimes available water rights aren't year-round rights.

## Buying interruptible water rights

Developers can buy water rights to meet growing population needs from the agricultural community. However, agricultural water rights are permitted only for seasonal use, leaving developers to solve the issue of obtaining sufficient water to meet year-round domestic needs.

For example, in 2005 a farmer sold part of an apple orchard, along with a 1950-priority-date water right, to a prospective developer. Two issues made this water right interruptible:

1. The farmer could only use the water right during the summer for irrigation needs.
2. In 1975, Ecology set an instream flow on the water source. An instream flow works just like a water right.

When the developer converted the farmer's 1950 water right from summer use to year-round use, it appropriated water it never had during the winter. Therefore, the seniority date for the winter portion of the developer's water right is 2005, when the conversion occurred. That means the developer's water right maintains seniority over Ecology's instream flow during the summer. However, it is junior to Ecology's instream flow during the winter.

In this example, we might suggest that the developer work out a mitigation approach with Ecology to compensate for potential affects to the instream flow during times of interruption. After Ecology approves mitigation, the water right is not at risk of interruption. Acceptable mitigation options may include aquifer storage and recovery, or direct augmentation of reclaimed or raw water to the affected river.

If Ecology doesn't approve a mitigation approach, the developer may successfully rely on a portfolio of non-interruptible water rights to meet water demand during periods of interruption. Many larger water systems have and use these additional water rights to meet demand.

To avoid exceeding the total amount of water available during the period of interruption, the water system must control water demands by proposing aggressive water use efficiency measures. This may include:

- Mandatory curtailment
- Ordinances
- Water budgets
- Restrictive covenants or bylaws
- Limit water use to indoor use only. Often utilities establish an amount of water necessary to maintain a minimum level of service to meet those indoor needs (typically no less than 200 gallons per day).

ODW must review the water system's proposed curtailment measures. When ODW and the system agree that a plan meets the reliability criteria, Ecology can process the water right application.

## Leasing water rights

Leased water rights can be interruptible for a long period, although not due to an instream flow. There is risk inherent in leasing a water right. If the owner does not renew the lease agreement, the water system may not have sufficient water rights to meet demand in perpetuity.

*(Continued on Page 12)*

# Water Use Efficiency Evaluations for Industrial Customers

Does your utility have industrial customers that are large water users? Would you or your customers benefit by improving industrial water use efficiency? Are you looking for ways to increase water efficiency to meet your goals or gain additional service connections? If so, contact the technical assistance engineers at Department of Ecology for free evaluations.

Yes! Ecology offers technical assistance that is not regulatory. The Technical Resources for Engineering Efficiency (TREE) team operates under a separate, non-regulatory statute. The team provides free evaluations for companies wanting to reduce water use and wastewater generation. Advice from the team is non-binding, and companies choose whether they want to implement suggestions provided to them.

Since 1998, this team has worked with more than 30 facilities to reduce their consumption of natural resources, including water. Savings at each facility varied between 500 and 200,000 gallons per day, depending on the type and size of company. Additional information is online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/hwtr/TREE/projects.html>.

Here's what one plant manager the team worked with had to say: "TREE definitely pointed out areas (of improvement) by helping us quantify them. TREE was absolutely worth our time!"

If the TREE program could help you improve water use efficiency within your water system by working with an industry that consumes a lot of water, you might suggest the company contact the TREE team.

The team works with small- and medium-sized industrial facilities when the companies request assistance. This is voluntary and the team offers an initial, no-risk consultation. Companies can contact the team, request verbal information or a site visit, and meet with one or two team members. The company can then decide whether it wants to pursue options with the team.

The team measures water use in the facility, considers the payback period the company desires, and provides options on how to reduce water use without compromising product quality. Reductions in material and utility costs help make companies more profitable.

The goal is to help industries save money while reducing their environmental footprint. The team also can provide technical assistance on reducing hazardous and solid waste generation, wastewater treatment improvements, process improvements and energy efficiency.

### For more information or to schedule an initial consultation, call:

- Michelle Costenaro, P.E., at (425) 649-7143 or e-mail MCOS461@ecy.wa.gov
- Lynn Coleman, P.E., at (360) 407-6738 or e-mail LCOL461@ecy.wa.gov

## *Water Rights...* *(Continued from Page 11)*

Water systems will fare best if they lease water rights from a federal agency, such as the Bureau of Reclamation. These agreements are often non-revocable and renewable in perpetuity.

Lease agreements with non-federal entities, such as farmers, are not as reliable. Therefore, there are separate guidelines for lease agreements with non-federal agencies. ODW may still approve a non-federal lease if the system can meet our reliability criteria.

To gain approval, systems that lease water rights from non-federal entities must have even more aggressive water efficiency plans to curtail water use, such as banning all outdoor water use year-round.

The future of our water resources is changing all the time. With change comes responsibility to ensure the water systems we regulate can provide a safe and reliable water supply—within the limitations of their water rights.

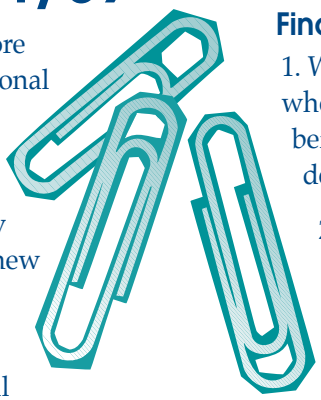
### For more information

The MOU is online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/rights/muni_wtr.html> Click on Appendix H, Interruptible Water Rights.

If you have questions about this change, please call Mike Dexel, water resources policy lead, at (360) 236-3154.

# Waterworks operator professional growth deadline is 12/31/09

All waterworks operators certified before January 1, 2007, must meet the professional growth requirement by December 31, 2009, to be eligible for certification renewal in 2010. If you do not satisfy the professional growth requirement by the deadline, you will not be able to renew your certification.



Operators certified between January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2009, have until December 31, 2012, to meet the professional growth requirement the first time.

Washington Certification Services (WCS) at Green River Community College in Auburn administers the waterworks operator professional growth program. WCS follows criteria established by the Department of Health (DOH).

## How to meet the requirement

Most waterworks operators meet the requirement by completing relevant training and earning at least 3.0 continuing education units (CEU) or college credits. All training applied toward this requirement must meet DOH evaluation criteria and be completed within an operator's professional growth reporting period.

Operators may also meet the requirement by passing an exam to advance within the water distribution manager or water treatment plant operator classifications at a level 2, 3, or 4, or by achieving certification in a different classification as approved by DOH.

## Find out if you met the requirement

1. WCS will mail a reminder to each certified operator who has not met the requirement at least six months before the professional growth reporting period deadline. **Be sure to report address changes to DOH.**

2. When an operator meets the professional growth requirement, WCS sends the operator a completion letter and official transcript, and notifies DOH that the operator has met the requirement.

3. Waterworks operators can check their professional growth transcript and status online at <http://www.wacertservices.org> Use the quick link to View Professional Growth Report, then follow the instructions to create your personal username and password.

## If you don't meet the requirement

If you do not satisfy the professional growth requirement by the deadline, you will not be able to renew your certification. It will be invalid. You will not be eligible to appeal the inactivation of your certification to DOH.

## Get up-to-date information

Visit Washington Certification Services online at <http://www.wacertservices.org> or call (877) 780-2444.

## *Service Connections...* *(Continued from Page 10)*

Please begin preparing now to update your WFI to account for all multi-family dwellings in the apartment, condominium, and other multi-family buildings your utility serves. Also, be sure to report any non-residential connections on lines 27A or 27B.

Thank you for taking a closer look. If you have questions, call your regional WFI administrator:

Northwest Region: (253) 395-6751
Southwest Region: (360) 236-3049
Eastern Region: (509) 329-2100

# Reminder

You must send your Consumer Confidence Report to your customers and the Office of Drinking Water by July 1, 2009.

# BAT professional growth exam deadline quickly approaching

More than 900 backflow assembly testers (BATs) must still apply to take their professional growth exam. If you were certified before January 1, 2007, and you do not pass your professional growth exam by December 31, 2009, you will not be eligible to renew your BAT certificate. To become certified again, you will have to apply for and pass the BAT certification exam.

Washington Certification Services (WCS) at Green River Community College in Auburn administers the backflow assembly tester (BAT) professional growth program. WCS follows criteria established by the Department of Health (DOH).

We ensure that WCS schedules more than enough exam dates during the reporting period to accommodate all certified BATs. However, about 75 percent of BATs wait until the last year of the reporting period to apply for an exam. The longer you wait, the greater the chance that some exams will be full. BATs cannot appeal loss of certification for failing to plan ahead. So, apply soon to secure your choice of exam dates.

## It's easy to apply for a BAT professional growth exam

Visit WCS online at <http://www.wacertservices.org> Select an exam date and location, fill out the most current application, and mail it with a check or money order for $145. WCS must receive applications by the published deadline, which is 10 working days prior to the exam. Space is limited. Don't wait because some exams may fill before the application deadline.

## Applying for another professional growth exam

WCS must process your professional growth exam and confirm the official results before you can apply for another exam. Processing could take up to three weeks. So, if you wait until December to take your exam and do not pass, you may not have time to meet the application deadline for another exam.

## If you don't pass your exam by December 31

You will not be eligible to renew your BAT certification. It will be invalid. If you can't apply for an exam because you waited too long, or you don't pass the exam by the reporting period deadline, you are not eligible to appeal the inactivation of your certification to DOH.

## To get up-to-date schedules, applications and information

Some dates are listed below. For up-to date information, visit Washington Certification Services online at <http://www.wacertservices.org> or call (877) 780-2444.

**2009 Backflow Assembly Tester Exam Schedule**

| BAT Certification Examinations | | | BAT Professional Growth Examinations | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Auburn | Spokane | Vancouver | Auburn | | Spokane | Vancouver |
| July 20<br>Aug. 17<br>Sept. 21 | Aug. 17 | July 20 | July 16<br>July 17<br>July 24<br>July 27<br>Aug. 21<br>Aug. 24 | Aug. 28<br>Sept. 11<br>Sept. 14<br>Sept. 18<br>Sept. 25<br>Sept. 28 | July 17<br>July 27<br>Aug. 21<br>Aug. 24<br>Sept. 18<br>Sept. 28 | July 21<br>Aug. 21<br>Sept. 17 |

Washington Certification Services may add dates and locations based on demand. For the most up-to-date exam schedule and information about applying for an exam, visit <http://www.wacertservices.org>

# Save money and water this summer


Did you know that outdoor water use accounts for about 50 percent of average household water use? In fact, lawn and garden irrigation is often the single highest water user. In some communities, a single-family household may use as little as 200 gallons per day during the winter months, but 1,000 gallons per day or more to irrigate lawns and gardens during summer.

The Irrigation Association established July as "Smart Irrigation Month." You can prepare for the highest peak summer months of outdoor water use by asking your customers to evaluate just how much water their lawns and gardens really need, and irrigate efficiently.

Less is more when watering the lawn. Watering too much and too often results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus, yet most homeowners unknowingly overwater, wasting money every time they take out the hose or turn on the sprinklers.

Advances in electronics and communications make it possible for automatic sprinkler systems to monitor climate, site conditions, or soil moisture, and automatically adjust a watering schedule. With some simple practices, customers can make old irrigation systems in their yards more efficient, lower their water bills, reduce run-off and eliminate waste. They can save money and help conserve the local water supply at the same time.

Here are some tips to share with customers, or use on your own residential or water system property. These tips will help keep money in your wallet instead of sending it down the drain.

**Re-evaluate watering schedules and devices for each zone in your irrigation system.** "Scheduling" accounts for the type of sprinkler, sun, or shade exposure and the soil type for the specific area. The same watering schedule should almost never apply to all zones in the system.

You may be able to replace some of your old sprinklers with micro or drip irrigation components. The water savings from switching may be substantial. Micro irrigation includes drip (also known as trickle), micro spray jets, micro-sprinklers, or bubbler irrigation to irrigate slowly and minimize evaporation, runoff and overspray. Micro irrigation works well in gardens and around trees and shrubs and minimizes water loss from evaporation or runoff.

**Inspect your system monthly.** Leaks waste a lot of water. Check for leaks, broken or clogged heads, and clean micro-irrigation filters.

**Get a professional system audit.** A certified irrigation professional can design, install, maintain, or audit your system to ensure optimal efficiency using the proper amount of water to maintain a healthy landscape. Find out whether your irrigation contractor is a WaterSense partner, which means he or she is certified through a program that focuses on water efficiency.

**Install a soil moisture sensor or rain shutoff switch.** They turn the system off in rainy weather and can be retrofitted to almost any system. When the rain stops the system picks up right where it should. These long metal probes measure soil moisture content at the root zone. Basic sensors turn off the system when water is adequate; "smart" models turn on the system to maintain correct moisture levels.

**Consider "smart" technology.** Climate- or soil moisture sensor-based controllers evaluate weather or soil moisture conditions and then calculate and automatically adjust the irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of your landscape.

Smart systems keep your grass green by watering only as much as needed. Using weather or site data to automatically determine when and how long to water, your sprinklers apply just enough water at exactly the right time in each zone of your yard.

**Water at the optimum time.** To reduce evaporation, water between the evening and early morning—when the sun is low or down, winds are calm, and temperatures are cool. You can lose up to 30 percent of water to evaporation by watering mid-day.

See how much water and money you can save this summer by giving some of these water-efficient irrigation practices a try! Our best advice for a healthy, drought- and stress-tolerant lawn and landscape: use less water.

Learn what you can do to operate your sprinkler system at peak efficiency throughout the year at <http://www.smartirrigationmonth.org/>

# Got e-mail? Let's save paper and money!

The Office of Drinking Water has e-mail addresses for about 75 percent of Group A community and non-transient non-community water systems. Do we have yours?

We will still use paper when necessary, but we are finding more and more opportunities to provide quick information using e-mail. For example:

- We sent reminders to water systems before the end of a compliance period to help them avoid potential violations.
- We shared important information about the Economic Recovery Act and recovery funding opportunities for water systems.
- We sent messages to systems in Eastern Washington about the recent Eastern Regional Office move.
- We sent a note about our decision to cancel the Drinking Water Seminars this fall.

Don't miss out! In these tough economic times, you can join us as we save resources and help you at the same time. All you need to do is to make sure that your system's current e-mail address is on your Water Facility Inventory Form. You can also send your system name, ID number, and e-mail address to odw.mail@doh.wa.gov

## In This Issue

The following people contributed to the production of this issue of *Water Tap*:

Michelle Austin, Peggy Barton, Brad Brooks, Denise A. Clifford, Carolyn Cox, Mike Dexel, Lynn Coleman, Donna Lynch, Chris McCord, Judy Passey, Dick Pedlar, Theresa Phillips, Aniela Sidorska, George Simon, Ginny Stern, Amy Swecker, Dorothy Tibbetts, Scott Torpie and Linda Waring.

The Department of Health Office of Drinking Water publishes Water Tap quarterly to provide information to water system owners, waterworks operators and others interested in drinking water.

Mary Selecky, Secretary of Health

Gregg Grunenfelder, Assistant Secretary of Health
Environmental Health Division

Denise A. Clifford, Director
Office of Drinking Water

Comments, questions, story ideas, articles and photographs submitted for publication are welcome. Please address correspondence to Linda Waring, Water Tap, Office of Drinking Water, P.O. Box 47822, Olympia, WA 98504-7822, or e-mail linda.waring@doh.wa.gov. Past issues are available by contacting the editor or visiting the Web site at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/watertap.htm>

DOH PUB. #331-200 *printed on recycled paper*

Visit the Office of Drinking Water online at
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/default.htm>

**Department of Health**
Office of Drinking Water
PO Box 47822
Olympia, WA 98504-7822
(800) 521-0323

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
WA STATE DEPT
OF PRINTING 98501