

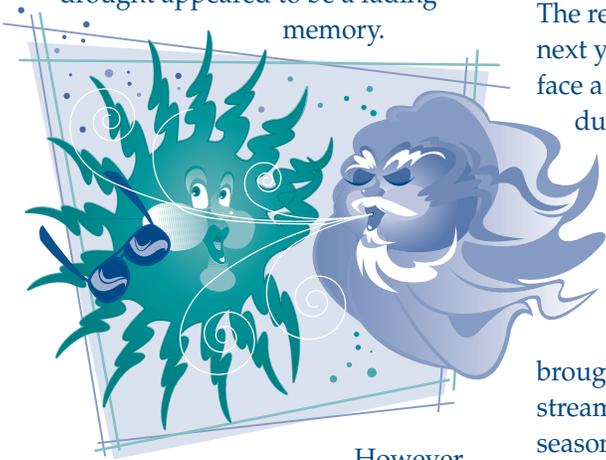


WATER TAP

WASHINGTON'S DRINKING WATER NEWSLETTER

Water supply outlook for 2007- Are you ready for El Niño?

Hydrologically speaking, 2006 was a year of extremes. Last winter produced near-record runs of continuous rainy days. In January Seattle, Spokane, and Olympia all reported precipitation totals 200 percent above normal. By the end of March, snowpack in the mountains had returned to normal or above-normal levels. The 2005 drought appeared to be a fading memory.



However, in the Northwest, nothing is simple when it comes to weather and water!

A warm May marked the beginning of one of the hottest and driest summers on record. Even with a wet winter, the midsummer stream flows were near record lows. In early September, Governor Gregoire directed the Department of Ecology to issue an emergency drought declaration for the northwest portion of the Olympic Peninsula.

Even without a formal drought declaration, many public water systems found themselves ramping up their conservation activities to deal with increased consumer demand and dropping water levels. Summer in the Northwest is the driest time of year, but this summer was really dry! Late season rainfall was less than 20 percent of normal.

The regional weather forecast for next year suggests Washington will face a mild El Niño weather pattern due to warmer-than-normal temperatures in the Pacific Ocean. In general, El Niño conditions tend to produce warmer, drier-than-average winters in the Northwest. Past El Niño winters have brought us low snowpack and low stream flows, and can trigger late season droughts affecting both groundwater and surface supplies. Warmer-than-normal winter temperatures can also trigger localized winter flooding, even in low-water years.

Since 2001, Washington water systems have repeatedly faced floods and droughts, often in the same year. Planning and emergency response are key to handling whatever our fickle Northwest climate sends us. So use the past few years as a guide

(Continued on Page 10)



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Know of a system or operator that deserves recognition? See page 15.

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THE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

BY DENISE ADDOTTA CLIFFORD



Greeting the challenges of the New Year

This past year has been a time of visible change for the Office of Drinking Water:

our headquarters and Southwest Regional Office moved into a brand-new, five-story brick building in Tumwater. Now, after three decades in crumbling portables, we're getting used to such luxuries as meeting rooms with matching chairs and plumbing that actually works.

As always, it's been a busy year with plenty of challenges: key staff retired or left us for far horizons, taking years of experience with them; eager recruits joined us, bringing new perspectives and fresh ideas; and, as always, we've attempted to interpret the will of the state Legislature, Congress, and EPA in ways that water systems can accomplish while keeping drinking water safe for five million Washingtonians.

As you well know, there's never a dull moment in the regulation of drinking water. It includes some of the hottest policy topics around: terrorism, growth management, water rights, E. coli, fluoridation, drought, pollution, and arsenic in school drinking water – to name just a few of the headline makers that touched our work in 2006.

There are enormous challenges in front of us, too. Here are a few things on the horizon:

- Based on our August hearings, we will be making some minor clarification changes to our Water Use Efficiency Rule before putting it into final form. We anticipate the rule will be adopted by the end of 2006 and effective in January 2007
- We know that the Group B regulations created in 1993 aren't working as intended, and, along with our partners in local health, we are trying to figure out a realistic approach that will help protect people who drink from individual and small-group wells. Our plan is to take recommendations to the State Board of Health in 2007.
- We'll be evaluating our own program's effectiveness in light of ever-shrinking resources and ever-growing responsibilities. Are there things we do now that we should scale back on? Or is the need compelling enough to ask for more resources?

Indeed, there's never a dull moment in the world of drinking water. I look forward to another challenging, rewarding year of working with you to ensure the people of our state have safe and reliable drinking water.

Survey says systems find Water Quality Monitoring Reports useful

Last March, when we mailed the 2006 Water Quality Monitoring Reports (WQMR) to roughly 1,800 water system operators, we included a survey to ask if they find the WQMR useful. Some 420 operators returned completed surveys to us. They represent all sizes of water systems from all over the state.

Most operators said they want to receive the WQMR earlier in the year. Many said that, because they get their WQMR as late as March or April, they were doing unnecessary sampling or were not informed in time to do required sampling. We know this has been a problem and we are working to solve it.

(Continued on Page 7)



Planning Alert

Attention Water Systems and Consultants!

Most Group A systems must do some level of planning. The type of plan you need to do depends on the size of your system and the situation. For guidance see **Planning requirements for public water systems*** (DOH Pub. #331-202) published by the Office of Drinking Water (ODW).

When it's time to send your Water System Plan (WSP), WSP update, or Small Water System Management Program (SWSMP) to the Office of Drinking Water, please include your system's:



✓ *Water Rights Self-Assessment*

Department of Ecology reviews this information in your Water System Plan. If you have questions about your water rights, work with Ecology before you complete your planning document. Self-assessment forms are on pages 28 and 29 of the **Water System Planning Handbook*** (DOH Pub. #331-068).

All Group A systems must complete the following:

- Table 3 – Existing Water Rights Status
- Table 4 – Forecasted Water Rights Status



✓ *Municipal Water Law Forms*

To comply with the new law, you also must include in your planning document some forms that aren't in the Planning Handbook. You can find the forms in **Municipal Water Law: Interim planning guidance*** (DOH Pub. # 331-256)

All Group A systems must complete both of the following:

- Attachment 2, General Approval Checklist.
- Attachment 5, Consistency Statement Checklist. (This needs local government signatures, so allow time to get the form signed before you send us the first draft plan.)

All Group A water systems with more than 1,000 connections also must complete:

Attachment 9, Water Reclamation Checklist.

Preplan Meetings Recommended for WSPs

We encourage you to meet with your regional planner and engineer before you prepare your WSP, or a SWSMP you are required to submit to ODW. We can help you focus your efforts and make sure you know the other critical parts we look for in a plan. There is no charge for these meetings.

For more information

If you have questions, or you would like to schedule a preplan meeting, please call:

Eastern Regional Office - Megan Nicodemus, Regional Planner (509) 456-2717

Northwest Regional Office

Richard Rodriguez, Regional Planner: King, Pierce, San Juan, Snohomish, Whatcom (253) 395-6771

Jennifer Kropack, Regional Planner: Island, Pierce, Skagit (253) 395-6769

Southwest Regional Office - Karen Klocke, Regional Planner (360) 236-3031

*ODW publications are online at <http://www4.doh.wa.gov/dw/publications/publications.cfm>

You think you have challenges at your water system? Check this out!

South Bend

During the last two decades, Department of Health has been working hard to get many systems to cover their open concrete reservoirs. The City of South Bend is a success. Staff there installed a flexible liner and cover on their 4.2 million gallon reservoir in 1972.

Unfortunately, nothing lasts forever. That is why Capital Improvement Plans are so important!

In 2003, a sanitary survey revealed that many holes in the cover were allowing contamination into the finished drinking water. Since then, the city and DOH have had many discussions as the staff wrestle with questions such as: What is the best way to fix the problem? Is the best alternative a new reservoir or a new cover? How do we keep water safe in the meantime?

At the same time, representatives from the Small Communities Initiative are helping the city decide what it can afford and what it needs to do.

Although grappling with these issues was a challenge, things became even more complicated last January. Operator Jerry Moran was on his daily rounds when he noticed some of the aluminum caps that hold the liner and cover in place were missing.



Aluminum plates are missing from the South Bend reservoir. (Foreground of photo)

Someone had made it through site security and worked hard to pry off a number of the aluminum brackets. Jerry found some stockpiled near the

reservoir; more were missing. He immediately contacted the sheriff's office.

The sheriff's department concluded that the situation was likely vandalism and theft, and not an attempt to contaminate the water supply. They arrested two suspects thanks to a local scrap-metal dealer who reported that two brothers, local residents, offered to sell the aluminum brackets to him.

The thieves learned that tampering with public water supplies is a federal offense. With plea-bargains, they received one to three months of jail time and fines up to \$5,000.

The city learned that frequent inspections pay off. They also learned ways to improve security. Despite these challenges, water system staff continue to provide and protect a safe drinking water supply for their customers.

Long Beach

When Long Beach Operator Rick Gray arrived at work one day in April this year, he noticed that incoming raw water flow from the city's Dohman impoundment was quite low.

He drove out to inspect the impoundment, where he saw the outlet pipe had ruptured, creating a huge hole in the side of the dam. Water was rushing through the hole, draining the 19-million-gallon reservoir without control. Not the best way to start a day.

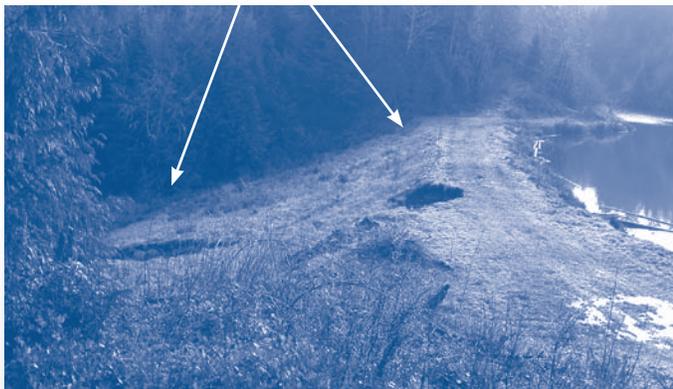
The state Department of Ecology's Dam Safety Section responded to inspect the damage. No local properties were in danger, but the town's water supply was in jeopardy.

City engineers immediately began designing the fix. They chose a new 18-inch HDPE drainpipe encased in concrete. The project – expedited from design through construction – took only four months and cost about \$500,000.

Because it was a relatively low demand time of year, Long Beach was able to sustain its water supply by using secondary reservoirs. Redundancy to the rescue!



Dohman Reservoir, a 32-million-gallon impoundment for the City of Long Beach (above) emptied when the outlet drain pipe deteriorated, causing a huge hole in the dam (below).



The city used the down time to refurbish pumps and conduct maintenance. Staff also wanted to remove sediment from the drained reservoir, but they were more concerned about having the impoundment back in service by August. This was a good choice during this dry year.

Longview

Aerial pictures confirmed what Longview operators thought they were seeing early this year. A giant sandbar in the Cowlitz River has settled on the doorstep of the intake for the city's water treatment plant.

Plant personnel are concerned that the sand will clog the intake pumps and reduce raw water flow to the plant.

Sand bars are a frequent phenomenon on the Cowlitz River. Originating at the mouth of the Toutle River, they are the result of washed-down sediment and ash from the 1980 Mt. St. Helens eruption. They move rapidly and can appear overnight.

However, this is the first sandbar to settle in this critical location.

A sandbar in the Cowlitz River has settled on the doorstep of the intake for the Longview water treatment plant.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for dredging on the Cowlitz River. City officials worked closely with the Corps to see what they could do about the sandbar without harming the river—and while meeting all permit requirements from various agencies.

They decided to construct a small dam in front of the intake to protect the water supply. They also removed some sediment directly in front of the intake. Staff at the Longview water treatment plant must remove grit, as necessary, and monitor its four 150-horsepower, 5,500 gpm raw-water pumps closely. Extra wear and tear from the sand could cause costly downtime.

As a long-term solution, city officials are considering groundwater to supplement or replace the surface supply. Until then, operators must watch the river and the treatment processes to make sure they can deliver a safe and reliable supply of water to customers.

Managing Water Loss



To help water systems manage their limited drinking water resources, *Water Tap* is presenting a three-part series. In September, we introduced Joe Godwin of American Leak Detection. Godwin explained the difference between leaks and non-revenue water loss, and provided tips to help systems prioritize their leak detection efforts.

Godwin says you can't completely avoid water loss, but you can manage it. This month, Godwin tells us how we can manage water loss by using a water audit. In March, *Water Tap* will consult with the experts again as we consider how to develop a leak detection survey.

Water Tap (WT): What is a water audit?

Godwin: A water audit is a management tool used to determine how efficiently the system is operating and where losses may be occurring. It identifies water losses by tracking the volume of water entering a water system and the volume that leaves the system for authorized uses.

Authorized uses include more than the water a system sells. They also include internal uses such as water for maintenance and operations. Authorized uses are:

- Metered customers (billed and unbilled).
- Internal uses – hydrant flushing, system flushing, filter backwash, tank cleaning, fire protection.

WT: Why would a water system commit the time and resources to do a water audit?

Godwin: Many times we limit our options by assuming we know where our losses are. The value of an audit is differentiating between real losses and apparent losses.

WT: What is the difference between a leak detection survey and a water audit?

Godwin: A water audit is the accounting method for determining where losses may be occurring. A leak detection survey is the physical evaluation of a water system to identify specific leaks.

WT: When should a system do a water audit?

Godwin: Many water systems conduct routine, annual audits while others suffer from “out of sight, out of mind” syndrome, particularly when water is plentiful and inexpensive. Use a water audit when you must:

- Save money. Remember, water loss occurs when water

the system paid to obtain, treat and pressurize leaves the system before it reaches customers.

- Tighten up your system. This is a good way to find errors in your records and meters.
- Determine how serious your water loss is.
- Obtain grants and loans. The audit may be a loan condition.
- Meet regulatory requirements.

WT: What are the benefits of accounting for my water?

Godwin: Water loss is any water leaving your system that you can't legitimately account for. The benefits include:

- Better public health protection. By nature, leaks can be a cross connection.
- Reduced wear on equipment, postponing the need for costly capital improvements.
- Lower operating costs for treating, pumping and storing water.
- Improved public relations, a natural result of improving service.
- Lower insurance costs and reduced system liability.
- Compliance with state requirements.
- Ensure future water supply.



Good water management begins with regular and accurate meter reading.

WT: How do I conduct a water audit?

Godwin: For smaller water systems, a water audit is pretty straightforward. To be successful, you need a team of key players to help you. This team might include the system operator, manager, bookkeeper, field staff, and users.

The steps for completing a water audit are:

1. Collect records for a specific review period (usually one year).

2. Calculate how much water enters and leaves the system during that time period (this is based on source and service meter readings).
3. Test meters for accuracy.
4. Estimate the amount and cost of water loss.
5. Determine possible reasons for water loss (including leaks and unauthorized uses such as theft, hot taps for development and road work near your system).
6. Analyze results to determine the improvements you may need.

WT: *Are there resources available to help me?*

Godwin: Yes. See the list below and check out the toolbox (on page 9) for some helpful resources. Also, stay tuned for the next **Water Tap** where we'll discuss the leak detection survey, the final step in managing the water you use.

Evergreen Rural Water of Washington
<http://erwow.org/>

American Water Works Association
<http://www.awwa.org/waterwiser/>

National Drinking Water Clearing House
http://www.ndwc.wvu.edu/ndwc/ndwc_index.htm

Call the Washington State Department of Health Office of Drinking Water at (800) 521-0323 or the:

Southwest Regional Office (360) 236-3030

Northwest Regional Office (253) 395-6750

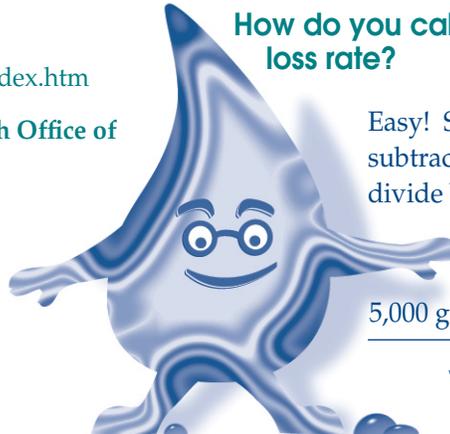
Eastern Regional Office (509) 456-3115

Ways to Reduce Water Loss

- Meter all service connections.
 - Even if you don't bill consumers, you will know how much water they use.
 - Helps find leaks.
 - If you don't have meters, develop and implement a plan to install them.
- Keep records on water used for system maintenance.
- Improve record keeping.
- Have meters tested for accuracy.
- Reduce unauthorized uses such as theft.
- Develop and implement a water-loss control action plan.
- Complete a leak detection survey.

Dr. Drip:

How do you calculate a system's water loss rate?



Easy! Start with the Total Water In, subtract Authorized Uses and then divide by Total Water In.

For example:

$$\frac{5,000 \text{ gallons} - 3,750 \text{ gallons}}{5,000 \text{ gallons}} = 25\% \text{ water loss}$$

Survey Results *(Continued from Page 2)*

Overall the results were positive.

- 86% said they understand the different parts of the WQMR "mostly" or "completely." Only 1 percent said they don't understand the different parts.
- 93% said the WQMR is "somewhat" or "very useful" for scheduling the collection of required samples.
- 67% said they would use an online version of the WQMR if it were on the Internet. ODW plans to have the WQMR available online, possibly in 2008.

While the WQMR appears to be very useful for many water system operators, we recognize there are some things we can do to make it better. Based on survey results, we are looking at process changes we can make to get the WQMRs out sooner and still accurately schedule sampling requirements for the year.

We made some of the language used to explain the frequency of the monitoring requirements clearer and more understandable. We will continue looking for ways to make the WQMR an even more useful tool for you in the future.

Reminder

Professional Growth Submittal Deadline for Water Works Operators



All water works operators certified before January 1, 2004 must complete any training they are using to meet the professional growth requirement by December 31, 2006.

If you completed training before December 31, 2006, you must make sure that the required documents for evaluation are submitted to Certification Services at Green River Community College by February 15, 2007.

If the training is accepted and meets your professional growth requirement, you will be notified of your eligibility to renew your water works certification for 2007. Department of Health's final renewal payment deadline is February 28, 2007.

For questions and submittal forms, call Certification Services at (800) 562-0858 or (253) 288-3369.

2007 Operator Certification Examination Schedule

Dates, times and locations are subject to change due to site availability. Applicants will receive a letter four to six weeks before the exam date.

If you have questions about the examination process, or to order an application packet, call Larry Granish at (800) 525-2536, ext. 1, or e-mail larry.granish@doh.wa.gov

You can also order an application packet online at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/opcertification.htm

Exam Location and Date	Exam Location and Date	Exam Location and Date	Exam Location and Date	Application Deadlines	Retake Application Deadlines
Bellingham Olympia Port Angeles Seattle Spokane Vancouver Yakima	Mount Vernon	Seattle Wenatchee	Pasco		
February 6, 2007	February 9, 2007	February 7, 2007	February 8, 2007	November 8, 2006	December 8, 2006
June 5, 2007	June 8, 2007	June 6, 2007	June 7, 2007	March 7, 2007	April 4, 2007
October 2, 2007	October 5, 2007	October 3, 2007	October 4, 2007	July 5, 2007	August 6, 2007



Water Use Efficiency Rule Update

Based on our August hearings, the Office of Drinking Water will be making some minor clarification changes to our Water Use Efficiency Rule before putting it into final form. We anticipate the rule will be adopted by the end of 2006 and effective in January 2007.

Up-to-date information is online at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/municipal_water/water_use_efficiency_rule.htm



If you have a resource you'd like to share with other readers, please send an e-mail to linda.waring@doh.wa.gov

Free Water Audit Software

The American Water Works Association offers online Water Audit Software free to all users. The Water Loss Control Committee developed the software as a useful and easy way to begin your audit process. You enter your water supply and customer billing data, and general system information such as production and retail costs, length of mains, number of service connections and average system pressure. Using these data, the software calculates values of several performance indicators, which provide a reliable means to set goals, track loss control progress and benchmark with other water utilities. Visit AWWA online at <http://www.awwa.org/WaterWiser/waterloss/Docs/WaterAuditSoftware.cfm>

EPA Small Systems Information and Guidance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently developed a Web page with tools specifically designed to help small-system owners and operators manage their systems and meet regulatory requirements. It includes a variety of topics, such as best-practices guides on how to talk to your decision makers, cross-connection control, and simple tools for effective performance known as the STEP guide series. Check it out at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm#two>

How-to manual: Update and enhance your local source water protection assessments

EPA published this manual to help source water protection partners protect the raw sources of their drinking water from potential contamination. The 36-page manual is online at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sourcewater/pubs/update_enhance_assessments.pdf

Funding for Water Systems

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

2006 Priority Project List

The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) has applied for 2006 Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) project loan funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

We anticipate receiving the grant award in late winter or early spring, with contracts executed shortly after that. Because of the volume of applications received, only the highest priority projects will receive funding offers.

Lists of eligible and ineligible projects are online at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/dwsrf.htm

More funding information will be in the February **Water Tap**, a special edition focusing on the DWSRF.

2007 Application Cycle

2007 program guidelines and application form will be online soon at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/our_main_pages/dwsrf.htm



Especially for Small Systems

New Group A Small Water System Sanitary Survey Checklist

Third party qualified sanitary surveyors (QSS) will soon use a new checklist when conducting sanitary surveys of small Group A water systems. This checklist will be available in time for the 2007 survey season.

The Office of Drinking Water (ODW) finalized the new checklist in October 2006 following two years of collaboration between ODW and its stakeholders in the Third Party QSS Program. Their efforts included a pilot study with six local health jurisdictions representing counties across the state, two years of testing in the Third Party QSS training series, and comments collected from local health jurisdictions at several regional quarterly meetings.

The original sanitary survey checklist, in use for several years, no longer met ODW's mission to ensure water systems' capacity to serve safe and reliable drinking water. The new checklist is more comprehensive to meet these needs, and does a better job of:

- Meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's eight required elements of a sanitary survey.
- Evaluating operations and maintenance practices.
- Tracking development of management tools and financial viability, such as the Small Water System Management Program.
- Documenting potential high-public-health-risk deficiencies.

We are developing a companion field guide to help Third Party QSS when they conduct sanitary surveys. The field guide will explain how to interpret the questions, suggest questions to ask the water supplier, and provide recommended deficiency language and regulatory references surveyors can use when writing their report.



For more information

The new checklist or other information about the Third Party QSS Program is online at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Programs/ss_third_party.htm

For more information about the Third Party QSS Program, please call Sara Brallier at (360) 236-3180 or e-mail sara.brallier@doh.wa.gov

Water Supply Outlook for 2007 *(Continued from Page 1)*

and ask yourself the following questions:

- ◆ Have your sources been flooded by winter rains?
- ◆ Has your system had to struggle with late-season low-water conditions?
- ◆ Have you had trouble with unreliable water sources or equipment?
- ◆ When was the last time you checked your emergency well?

The weather forecast does not guarantee droughts and floods for 2007 but the odds are better than average it will be another challenging water year. Take some time

now to review your water shortage response plan, look at and test your emergency sources, and talk to your customers.

For help preparing a water shortage response plan, visit us online at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/Publications/331-316_water_shortage_response_plans.htm

For more information about the current water supply conditions in the state, visit the Department of Ecology online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/ws/wtrsuply.html>

Training and Education Calendar: December 2006 - February 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Cost/CEU</u>
Dec 8	BAT Professional Growth Exam	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/NA
Dec 8	Backflow Incident Investigation & Response	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$115/0.7
Dec 8	Chlorine Safety for Water and Wastewater Operators	Everett	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/0.7
Dec 11-13	Basic Electrical	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$50/\$275/2.1*
Dec 12	Stage 2 Disinfection By-Product Rule	Mt Vernon	ERWOW	1-800272-5981	\$105/\$125/0.6
Dec 12	Storage Tank Disinfection	Shelton	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$50/0.5*
Dec 12	Water & Sewer Underground Utility Locating 2006	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$50/\$110/0.5*
Dec 13	Storage Tank Disinfection	Longview	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$50/0.5*
Dec 13	Weapons of Mass Destruct Awareness for Public Works	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$75/0.5
Dec 13-14	CEU Roundup	Mt. Vernon	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$95/\$180/1.4
Dec 13-14	BAT Refresher Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$220/1.5
Dec 13-14	Process Control & Instrumentation	Everett	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$50/\$235/1.4*
Dec 14	Asbestos Cement Pipe Work Practice Procedures	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/NA
Dec 15	BAT Professional Growth Exam	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/NA
Dec 15	Basic Pump Operation and Maintenance	Everett	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$50/0.7*
Dec 16	BAT Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/NA
Dec 19	Professional Growth Wrap-Up 1 (a.m. session)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$45/0.3
Dec 19	Professional Growth Wrap-Up 2 (p.m. session)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$45/0.3
Dec 20	Professional Growth Wrap-Up 3 (a.m. session)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$45/0.3
Dec 20	Professional Growth Wrap-Up 4 (p.m. session)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$45/0.3
Dec 21	Professional Growth Wrap-Up 5 (a.m. session)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$45/0.3
Dec 21	Professional Growth Wrap-Up 6 (p.m. session)	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$45/0.3
Dec 27	BAT Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/NA
Dec 27-28	BAT Refresher Course	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$220/1.5
Dec 29	BAT Professional Growth Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/NA
Jan 2-4, 07	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$275/2.1❖
Jan 5	Water Distribution Specialist Cert Exam Review	Spokane Valley	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$50/0.7*
Jan 9	Adv Backflow Assem Testing, Trblshting & Repair	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$285/1.4
Jan 11	Bto/Wtpo Oit And Level 1 Cert Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/0.7
Jan 12	Water Distribution Specialist Cert Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$50/0.7*
Jan 15-19	BAT Certification Class	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$645/3.0
Jan 16-18	Cross Connection Control Basics and Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$275/2.1❖
Jan 16-18	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$200/\$250/2.1❖
Jan 16-18	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Everett	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$275/2.1❖
Jan 19	Bto/Wtpo Oit And Level 1 Cert Exam Review	Spokane Valley	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$110/0.7
Jan 20	BAT Certification Exam	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$195/NA
Jan 22-26	BAT Certification Class	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$645/3.0
Jan 23-25	Cross Connection Control Specialist Exam Review	Moses Lake	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$200/\$250/2.1❖
Jan 23-25	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Spokane	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$275/2.1❖

**Operators of Group A small water systems serving 3,300 people or less will be charged a \$50 registration fee for these classes.*

❖ DOH may be able to provide this course for operators of Group A small water systems for a \$50 registration fee.

Training and Education Calendar: December 2006 - February 2007

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone #</u>	<u>Cost/CEU</u>
Jan 23-25	Water Treatment Plant Operator Exam Review	Olympia	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$200/\$250/2.1❖
Jan 27	BAT Certification Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$195/NA
Jan 29-Feb 1	Cross Connection Control Specialist Exam Review	Olympia	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$180/\$230/2.1❖
Jan 29-Feb 1	Water Distribution Certification Exam Review	Olympia	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	\$180/\$230/2.2❖
Feb 5-9	BAT Certification Class	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$645/3.0
Feb 6-8	ERWOW Annual Conference	Yakima	ERWOW	1-800-272-5981	TBA†
Feb 10	BAT Certification Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$195/NA
Feb 12-16	BAT Certification Class	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$645/3.0
Feb 17	BAT Certification Exam	Auburn	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$195/NA
March 19-22	Water & Wastewater Operations Workshop	Ocean Shores	WETRC	1-800-562-0858	\$150/2.1†

❖ DOH may be able to provide this course for operators of Group A small water systems for a \$50 registration fee.

† These classes are free for operators of Group A water systems serving 3,300 people or less.

For information about distance learning activities, call WETRC at (800) 562-0858

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

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.

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>

December 31 Deadline

New Driller, Pump and Irrigation License Requirement

A new law requires all contractors and workers doing pump and piping work on domestic water systems and irrigation water systems to get both a plumbing and electrical license or certification. Effective since June 7, 2006, only properly licensed contractors and individuals may place an electric pump motor in a well or do the associated electrical or plumbing work.

Companies and individuals have until Dec. 31, 2006 to use qualifying experience to get the proper license or certification without taking an examination. After that, contractors and workers must take an examination to be licensed or certified.

This license requirement does not apply to companies and individuals working on individual wells and water systems they own.

What is the license and certification requirement?

Substitute Senate Bill 6225 creates a new combined general contractor and electrical contractor specialty license so contractors in either the domestic pump or the pump and irrigation system business may perform this work under a single license, bond and insurance.

For workers, there is a new combined electrical and plumbing certificate.

Need more information?

Please call Roger Chick, Electrical Technical Specialist at Labor and Industries, (360) 292-5825, or e-mail Outreach@LNI.wa.gov

EPA Webcasts

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will host four Webcast training sessions in January 2007. The training covers two new drinking water regulations – the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2ESWTR) and the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBPR).

The training is designed for:

- Water systems serving fewer than 50,000 people that use surface water or ground water under the direct influence of surface water.
- Community and non-transient non-community water systems serving fewer than 50,000 people that distribute water to which a disinfectant has been added.

Web Cast Topic	Date	Time
Stage 2 DBPR & LT2ESWTR: Overview of the Two Rules	January 16 January 23	10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pacific time
Implementing the Stage 2 & LT2: Compliance and Assistance Tools for Systems	January 18 January 25	10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Pacific time

To sign-up for a Webcast, visit EPA online at
<http://www.epa.gov/OGWDW/dwa.html>
<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html>

Stage 2 DBPR and LT2ESWTR Listserv

EPA has developed a Listserv to distribute information about LT2ESWTR and Stage 2 DBPR implementation activities, guidance documents, training, and so on.

To sign up for the Listserv, please send an e-mail message to stage2mdbp@epa.gov with the following on the subject line:
 I want to sign up for the Stage 2 DBPR and LT2ESWTR Listserv.



Leave the aerator on!

The Lead and Copper Rule requires monitoring at customer taps to identify levels of lead and copper that may result from corrosion of pipes or solder in the distribution system or household plumbing.

In October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a memo advising that public water systems should not recommend customers remove or clean aerators immediately before or during the collection of tap samples. Doing so changes the sample so that it no longer reflects the normal condition of the water.



If the results from the initial sample are above the action level, the public water system may want to take a second sample to determine if the source of lead is particulate matter captured by the aerator. For this sample, the aerator should be cleaned or removed prior to sampling so the two samples can be compared.

EPA's memo applies only to samples collected for lead and copper testing. Both EPA and the industry recommend periodic cleaning of aerators as a part of normal maintenance.

- New & Revised Publications -

Uranium and Radon in Drinking Water (331-056). New! 2-page fact sheet provides information to help residents who could have uranium and radon in their wells protect themselves and others who drink the water.

Washington State Water Security Symposiums (331-055). New! 18-page report on two symposiums for water utilities designed to raise awareness about security efforts nationally and demonstrate the relationship between security and overall preparedness for all types of emergencies.

Important information for private well owners (331-349). New! 4-page publication explains private well owners' responsibility to test their water to ensure it is safe to drink; explains when to test, and touches on the rules and regulations associated with using a private well.

Water Use Efficiency Rule: Implementation Schedule (331-340). Revised. 2-page fact sheet summarizes when new requirements of the Water Use Efficiency Rule go into effect.

Drinking Water After-Hours Emergency Hotline (331-133). Revised. 1-page flyer describing the Office of Drinking Water's toll-free after-hours hotline.

Backflow prevention assemblies approved for installation in Washington state (2006) (331-137). Revised. 108-page list identifies the makes and models of DOH-approved



backflow assemblies. It is based on the Approved Backflow Assemblies List published by the University of Southern California Foundation for Cross-Connection Control and Hydraulic Research. It is not available online.

Emergency Water Supply Guidelines for Food Service Establishments (331-182). Revised. 1-page fact sheet on procedures restaurants, food stores, schools, institutions and convenience stores should take to protect public health during boil water advisories.

Getting Drinking Water Information (331-185). Revised. 2-page fact sheet listing Office of Drinking Water contacts for information: Website, publications, newsletter, technical assistance.

Testing for lead in school drinking water systems (331-261). Revised. A brochure explaining how to collect a drinking water sample to test for lead in school and non-residential building water distribution systems.

For copies of Office of Drinking Water publications, call (800) 521-0323 or visit the Web site at <http://www4.doh.wa.gov/dw/publications/publications.cfm>

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

Update: Grays Harbor Water District #1 Operator and commissioner guilty of falsifying water quality data

In September, the former commissioner and office manager for the Grays Harbor Water District #1 Water System both pled guilty to charges of falsifying water quality data at Grays Harbor County Superior Court.

Commissioner Arnold Perttula received a suspended sentence of 365 days in jail, 50 hours of community service and a \$750 fine. He must also pay restitution of \$2,920 to the utility. Perttula, 79, was on the board for more than 35 years and was, at one time, the certified operator for the district. He resigned from the commission in December 2005.

Carolee Morrell, long-time office manager, received a \$400 fine and a two-year deferred sentence. Morrell retired in December 2005.

The court also charged the district's certified operator, Chuck Chafin. In October, Chafin pled guilty to knowing that he was taking water samples incorrectly, but said that Commissioner Perttula directed him to do so.



Chafin received a \$500 fine and must perform 50 hours of community service. The prosecuting attorney acknowledged Chafin as an asset to the community. He is involved in many volunteer activities, and he was the one who brought the improper actions to the attention of authorities.

The state Department of Health (DOH) learned about the falsified coliform samples during the summer of 2005 when Chafin stepped forward to reveal the incorrect practices. He said the system was intentionally mislabeling samples drawn from the wellhead as distribution samples.

At that time, DOH suspended Chafin's operator certification for six months and required him to complete specific training. Chafin also spoke to certified operators about the situation at the 2006 Water/Wastewater Operations Workshop in Vancouver. All DOH conditions have been satisfied and Chafin continues to work for the water district and with DOH.

Two other commissioners who were in office at the time of the DOH investigation were not charged. The water district has all new commissioners in 2006.

2007 Drinking Water Week Awards Nomination Form

In celebration of Drinking Water Week, May 6-12, 2007, the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water will recognize three water systems and one operator for their commitment to providing safe and reliable drinking water.

Do you know of a water system or water works operator deserving of recognition? Please submit nominations in writing. Complete this form and attach it to a one-page summary. The summary needs to include convincing information about why the system or operator you are nominating should be selected for recognition. You may also include additional information such as newspaper clippings and other supporting documents.

An ODW committee will review nominations. Our director's management team will make final selections. Award winners will be honored during Drinking Water Week. If you have questions, please contact Donna Lynch at the address below.

If you are submitting more than one nomination, you can either photocopy this form or download it from the Web site at http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/drinking_water_nomin.htm

Category (please check one):

- Most Improved – This award has typically been presented to water systems that have overcome a bad situation and are now providing excellent service to their customers.
- Grace Under Pressure – Recognition for handling a crisis well.
- Going Above and Beyond – Recognition for providing assistance to neighboring water systems, the community, DOH, and so on.
- Operator of the Year/Lifetime Achievement – This award honors an individual water system operator for dedication and commitment.

Information about Nominee

Name of System/Individual: _____

City/County: _____

Type of System: Community TNC NTNC _____

Number of Service Connections: _____

Form Completed by: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Representing: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Nominations must be received by January 12, 2007

Please send nominations to:

Donna Lynch, Office of Drinking Water

PO Box 47822, Olympia, WA 98504-7822

FAX: (360) 236-2252

Email: donna.lynch@doh.wa.gov

Did you get your renewal notice?

The Office of Drinking Water mailed renewal notices last month to water works operators who are eligible to renew their certificates for 2007. If you must meet the professional growth requirement by December 31, 2006 and haven't done so, you did not receive a renewal notice.

However, if you do meet the professional growth requirement by the deadline, the Office of Drinking Water will send you a renewal notice.

To avoid a late fee, you must submit your renewal and your payment by January 22, 2007. ODW will mail a second and final notice to eligible operators with a late fee on January 25, 2007. The deadline for paying your late renewal fee is February 28, 2007. If you don't pay your renewal fee by February 28, 2007 your certification will be inactivated.

If you did not receive a renewal notice, check your records to ensure you have written confirmation of meeting the professional growth requirement from Certification Services at Green River Community College.

If you do have confirmation, but you did not receive your renewal notice, please call Judy Jones at (800) 525-2536, ext. 2.



In This Issue

The following people contributed to the production of this issue of *Water Tap*: Peggy Barton, Peter Beaton, Sara Brallier, Leslie Gates, Joe Godwin, Larry Granish, Judy Jones, Gael Kantz, Karen Klocke, Denise Lahmann, Donna Lynch, Ethan Moseng, Megan Nicodemus, Theresa Phillips, Rich Sarver, Ginny Stern, Amy Swecker, Teresa Walker, Linda Waring (editor), Jimmy Weber.

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

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