the Water Tap

Environmental Health Programs

Issue 32 December 1997

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Eighty Eight Water Systems Apply for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Assistance

Washington is still on track toward having the new Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) money available to water systems by March, 1998. The Department of Health (DOH) received 88 pre-applications for DWSRF funding by the October 1 deadline. The 88 systems requested $45,000,000 in capital improvements. DOH, which is responsible for determining project eligibility and developing a prioritized list of projects, forwarded 77 eligible applications to the Public Works Board (PW Board). The PW Board requested loan applications from these applicants by November 24. The PW Board will proceed with the loan application review process by starting at the top of the ranking list and continuing down the list until all of the available funds in the loan fund have been committed to eligible projects. At this time, it appears there will be enough eligible applications and interested applicants to commit the entire available loan fund of $31 million. If the full $31 million is not allocated, the remaining amount will be rolled over and made available next year. Formal loan offers will be made within thirty days after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signs the Capitalization Grant for this Intended Use Plan (IUP). DOH anticipates EPA will award the grant in February and loan offers may be made in March, 1998. Applicants will have ninety days from the date the loan offer is made to complete contract negotiations and sign the loan contract, and will then have 36 months to complete the project.

For the current fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, Washington has a total of $30,666,900 available for capital project funding. This represents 78.5% of the total capitalization grant plus all of the required state match. Washington is using $2,697,000 (8.7% of the federal grant) for current year program activities. The remaining $4,011,000 (12.9% of the federal grant) is being "banked" for possible future activities. In this first year of the Washington State DWSRF Program, the capitalization grant application is being submitted to EPA in two parts:

- The Part I Intended Use Plan (IUP) was approved by EPA in July. It covers funds for the program "set-asides" (i.e., funds for DWSRF program administration and other activities that will ensure compliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA).
- The draft Part II IUP covers capital project loan funds for water systems and a small amount of the "banked" set-aside funds for the current year.

For the second year of the DWSRF, Washington has been allocated $19.169 million, which is 2.69% of the national appropriation of $725 million. The reason for less money in the second year is that the total appropriation by Congress dropped by forty percent during the second year, from $1.275 billion to $725 million. EPA has already stated that it will ask Congress for $925 million next year, which would raise Washington's grant to nearly $25 million.

DWSRF activities for DOH and the PW Board for the next year include development of revised guidelines for project loan funds; rule development for project loan funds, which must be adopted by January 1, 1999; finalization of loan contracts for the first year's projects; solicitation of applications for the second cycle of project loans; and development of IUPs for the second year of the program.

This first year of the DWSRF Program has been highly challenging and successful. DOH has developed an excellent working relationship with the PW Board and the Department of Community, Trade and Economic Development (CTED) staff and anticipate further improvements in public health protection for the citizens of this state as this program grows.

Water Supply Advisory Committee Approves Interim Operating Permit Fee Revision

by: Skip Richards, WSAC Chair

At its regularly scheduled October 29 meeting, the Water Supply Advisory Committee (WSAC) continued to address the outstanding issues from its 1996 Report to the Legislature and the WSAC's workplan, including program funding packages, the real estate disclosure form amendment, the DOH data project, UTC regulation of investor-owned water systems, and small water system issues.

DOH Secretary Bruce Miyahara addressed the Committee, describing how the Drinking Water Program figures prominently into DOH's overall strategy for meeting the state's public health needs. The Secretary outlined his participation in the Governor's Joint Natural Resources Committee, which has water issues as its top priority. Expanded funding of the Drinking Water Program is part of that priority, but he indicated timing for advancing additional funding for the Program is not quite ripe.

At the top of WSAC's list of discussion priorities last meeting was agency request legislation to roll-in four service fees into a consolidated and restructured operating permit fee. After considering a number of variations, the Committee formally recommended a modified version of the proposal, with a two-year phase in of the changes, and a disincentive element for systems with red operating permits for health reasons only. The disincentive element would be delayed for a year to give systems time to move out of red status, and would increase annually if a system remains red. Certified Satellite Management Agencies would continue to receive a financial incentive. WSAC is hopeful that this small step will help stabilize the Program's funding, but recognizes the need to continue to seek other means to fully fund the Program.

Since they will each face fee increases even though the proposal is overall revenue neutral, WSAC representatives of the smallest and largest purveyors deserve special kudos for their commitment to working with the rest of the stakeholders to take this interim step.

At the October meeting, the Environmental Protection Agency conducted one of three national "stakeholder" meetings on its proposal to modify the public notification rule as required under the reauthorized Safe Drinking Water Act. After the presentation by EPA's Carl Reeverts, (see adjacent article) Committee members provided a wide range of useful input on the rule.

The Committee will meet again on January 8, 1998, in Olympia.

EPA Conducts National Workshop on Public Notification

On October 29, an EPA team, headed by Carl Reeverts, from EPA headquarters in D.C., presented a workshop on EPA's proposal to modify the Public Notification (PN) rule as required under the reauthorized Safe Drinking Water Act. The Rule will set the form, manner, content and frequency of the public notification required by public water systems to consumers when a violation of drinking water standards occurs.

Workshop participants discussed their ideas regarding the PN rule as well as the Consumer Confidence Report requirement, which ties in very closely. Some of the concerns that came up included:

- The level of detail that EPA would require in the notice, and how useful it might be to those receiving it.
- What the utility should say it is doing to remedy the problem;
- Identifying consumer groups that might be at greater risk from certain contaminants;
- Trying to avoid causing customers to lose confidence in the utility;
- Allowing utilities the flexibility to notify in a manner that makes sense and is not overly cumbersome; and
- Getting guidance to purveyors regarding health effects and plain English explanations of risks.

EPA and a national workgroup drafting the federal PN regulation will take comments from this workshop along with those from others held around the country and publish a proposed rule in the federal register that will be open for public comment. Congress did not set a deadline for promulgation of the final rule., but the goal of EPA and the national workgroup is to follow as quickly as possible behind the Consumer Confidence Report Rule, which must be adopted by EPA by August, 1998.

For more information contact Linda Chapman at (360) 586-8946.

American Water Works Association (AWWA)
Small Water System Operational Support Hotline
1 (800) 366-0107

Letter From the Director.....

This has been a year of transition for the Drinking Water Program. Dave Clark retired after eight years of providing excellent program development and implementation. I became the Drinking Water Division Director in August of 1997, finding many initiatives underway. Fortunately, my three years as Chair-person of the Washington State Environmental Health Director's Drinking Water Committee, the ongoing communication between the Department and the Director's Group and my past experience with the Legislature and working with the WSAC have provided the basis for a relatively easy transition.

In preparing for the *1997 Priorities Workshops*, sponsored by the Washington Environmental Training Resource Center, we worked within the Division of Drinking Water to establish program priorities for the coming year, as articulated below. For the most part, these priorities reflect the work of the WSAC as presented in its November 1996 Report to the Legislature.

Public Health Protection/Promotion: Key elements of the Division's ongoing efforts to protect community health and promote WSAC principles include:

- A compliance targeting and tracking effort updated quarterly
- Sanitary surveys to evaluate performance, assess public health needs, and determine compliance with state and federal rules
- Coliform tracking for all Transitory Noncommunity (TNC) systems to complete these efforts for all systems
- Tracking inorganic chemical (IOC) monitoring beginning with lead, copper, and nitrates
- Capacity building at the local government level emphasizing Group B systems, noncommunity Group A systems, and sanitary survey activities
- Division focus on small water systems including liaison with stakeholders, clear communication materials and added technical assistance opportunities

Data System Improvement Project: A major data system improvement project has been initiated, aimed at making data more readily available, eliminating backlogs, providing helpful and accurate applications and reports while continuing to work with constituents to develop statewide standards for using and sharing data.

Safe Drinking Water Act Reauthorization: Following Congress's extensive re-write of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in August of 1996, DOH continues to implement the rule changes by:

- Focusing on small water systems by creating a new position to coordinate small system issues and efforts
- Utilizing Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (approximately $30 million for Washington State in 1997) to finance capital improvements for water systems with identified needs
- Working to maintain maximum flexibility in administering federal programs over smaller systems

Development of Clear Requirements and Expectations: As part of the Division's ongoing commitment to participatory policy development and maintaining strong partnerships we will:

- Focus on implementation of the governor's Executive Orders on Regulatory Improvement and Quality Improvement
- Complete revisions to WAC 246-290 and development of the Waterworks Standards Guidance Manual
- Focus efforts at improving both internal and external communications
- Attend and participate in meetings with stakeholder groups including the WSAC, the Washington Water Utility Council, and the Local Environmental Health Directors

Affecting EPA Guidance/Rule Development: The Division will participate with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and its subcommittees to develop consensus positions on EPA proposals and draft documents. Some of the EPA issues affecting the Division's programs are Consumer Confidence Reporting; Annual Compliance Reporting; Microbial/Disinfection By-Products rules; Water System Needs Survey; and Operator Certification guidance.

Assuring a Motivated and Capable Staff: The key to quality customer service, prompt technical support, clear and consistent policy, and good working relationships with stakeholders is a competent and motivated staff. Professional growth and development of program staff along with advancing the leadership skills of supervisors and office managers will be emphasized across the Division.

The coming year will surely present many challenges for the Drinking Water Program. I look forward to working in partnership with groups such as WSAC and the Local Environmental Health Directors to ensure the efforts of the Drinking Water Program remain focused on public health protection and promotion. I look forward to working with the outstanding staff within the Division as we address the many challenges ahead.

Sincerely,
Gregg Grunenfelder, Director

Director Becomes Circuit Rider for a Day

by: Cas Hancock, Evergreen Rural Water

Gregg Grunenfelder, Director of the Drinking Water Division, met with several field staff members of Evergreen Rural Water of Washington and joined them on a day's circuit through several water systems in the Southwest Region. The object of the circuit ride was to become better acquainted with the people the Department regulates and to better understand some of the typical problems they face. Another goal was to become acquainted, first hand, with the services provided by Evergreen Rural Water, one of several technical assistance providers within Washington.

Jon Cleveland and Greg Caron, both Wellhead Protection Specialists, accompanied Gregg to McCleary for a follow-up visit with that City's staff and Public Works Director, Brian Shay, concerning the progress of their Wellhead Protection Plan. Together, they reviewed the required steps for the plan, what had been accomplished to date, and what is to be done in the near future.

The group then drove to the City of Aberdeen for a follow-up meeting with Mayor Chuck Gurrard and Rich Brinkman, City Manager. The visit consisted of an update of the City's progress in obtaining funding from various state and federal agencies for major renovation of the city's water system, including a water treatment plant and the installation of household meters. The City faces major infrastructure improvement on several fronts. Also included in the financial planning update were stormwater sewers, domestic sewage, dam repairs, fish and wildlife protection, and leak detection.

From Aberdeen, circuit rider Jim Watts accompanied Gregg to Potlatch and Mason County PUD #1 where water system operators Roy Munch and Steve Holloway were working on a leak detection program with Evergreen Rural Water. The Mason County PUD #1 owns 15 satellite water systems and operates about 47 others within the county. Jim Watts discussed the importance of the use of maps and locations of valves, hydrants and meters to assist with finding leaks. He also provided instruction in the use of the sonic leak detection equipment and made several searches with Gregg of suspected areas of leakage in the Town of Union.

The day as circuit rider allowed Gregg to become acquainted with several operators and decision-makers who deal with the typical multifaceted problems facing Washington's water systems today. By riding the circuit with several of the specialty service providers of Evergreen Rural Water he also gained a better understanding of what those services involve.

For questions on Evergreen Rural Water services call Cas Hancock at 1-800-272-5981.

Director Gregg Grunenfelder checks for leaks with sonic leak detection equipment

Division Creates New Small Water System (SWS) Program Manager Position

The Drinking Water Division has created a new Small Water System (SWS) Program Manager position in the planning section. Lisa Raysby, an engineer who has worked out of the Southwest Regional Office and the technical services section, is filling the position.

The new position was created to serve as liaison to an external small system stakeholder group ("SWS Advisory Committee"); coordinate with other DOH program managers on small water system program implementation activities; and promote the SWS Program "goals and objectives" within the Division and third-parties.

The Division will establish the SWS Advisory Committee to identify needs, provide policy and SWS program activity recommendations to the Division, and review and comment on technical assistance needs, including training and publications for small systems. In addition, Lisa will establish one or more county pilot programs to develop a comprehensive strategy for resolving small system technical, operational, and managerial issues, and drinking water related regulatory concerns. An internal staff workgroup will be formed to coordinate drinking water program activities related to the SWS Program, which will also focus on how best to communicate requirements and technical information to small water systems. Promoting third-party technical assistance outreach and training opportunities for small systems is also part of her work plan.

If you want to know more about the SWS Program, contact Lisa Raysby at (360) 664-3951 or email lar0303@hub.doh.wa.gov

EPA Fines Water System

The Selleck Water Company, located about 20 miles east of Kent, has been ordered by a federal judge to pay $40,000 for failing to meet Safe Drinking Water Act requirements. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) officials, after months of warnings about continuing violations, assessed these penalties in April. The company appealed, but the appeal was rejected and the court ordered the company to pay. The court also required a hearing be conducted to establish whether or not Robert Schaefer, the former owner, is no longer involved in management or operation of the system as required under an earlier Consent Decree between the company and EPA.

The Selleck Water Company was built in the early 1900's by a lumber company and uses water from a creek as its source. The system serves about 65 homes.

Violations for which stipulated penalties were assessed included improper or no disinfection; the presence of total coliform bacteria, and, at times, fecal coliform and *E-coli* bacteria; failure to have a certified water works operator; failing to notify residents of bacteria problems; and other reporting requirements. These problems have been on-going for many months following the 1995 Consent Decree, which established the requirements under which this system could operate. The Consent Decree also required the Selleck Water Company to find another source, connect to another approved water supply or make system improvements to bring the system into compliance.

EPA, King County and DOH are currently working together toward long-term resolution to this ongoing problem. The County has established a regional ground water source they hope to use to provide a reliable safe drinking water supply for this region and efforts continue to get Selleck and another small surface water system connected to this regional system.

For more information contact John Aden at (360) 664-0441.

DOH Plans To Implement Third Party Sanitary Surveys

The Department plans to implement a program in the spring of 1998 to allow qualified individuals to perform sanitary surveys of smaller public water systems and to recognize the results of those surveys as meeting the requirements for Comprehensive System Evaluations (CSE).

Currently, the coliform monitoring requirements under WAC 246-290-300 (2)(e) require a CSE or submittal of five routine coliform samples per month. Due to staff size limitations and other program priorities, Department of Health (DOH) has not, and will not be able to perform the necessary inspections. DOH has not initiated compliance activities for failure to monitor at the increased frequency. To fill this gap, DOH will certify non-DOH employees to perform the necessary evaluations. Once the third party surveyors are available, the increased coliform monitoring requirement will be phased in for those systems that have not had either a DOH or third party survey.

The program, as currently planned, would allow individuals who are certified as a Water Distribution Manager 2 (or higher) or Water Treatment Plant Operator 2 (or higher), registered as a professional engineer or registered sanitarian, or employed as an Environmental Health Specialist in a local health jurisdiction, to attend DOH sponsored training and have their names placed on a list of Qualified Sanitary Surveyors (QSS). This list would be made available to systems needing a survey.

The surveys the QSSs will do are less comprehensive than the typical DOH sanitary survey, but will focus on the basic elements of source, storage and distribution facilities and operations. A checklist has been developed that will have to be submitted to DOH in order for the utility to receive credit or recognition for having the survey completed. DOH intends to follow up directly with the utilities on major deficiencies identified in the surveys.

DOH is currently looking at utilizing willing local governmental entities (local health jurisdictions or PUDs) to coordinate the surveys between the utility and the third party surveyor.

For questions on this program, call Dan Sander at (509) 456-2457.

Two Chelan County Water Systems Replace Vulnerable Supplies

Two small water systems in Chelan County recently addressed public health concerns by developing new sources of water. The Blu-Shastin RV Park, located near Leavenworth, and Lake Wenatchee Village, located close to the Lake Wenatchee State Park, successfully completed replacement of their drinking water supplies by drilling deeper wells. The Blu-Shastin R.V. Park, owned by Richard Griffin, concluded replacement in August, Lake Wenatchee Village, owned by Fred Streib, concluded replacement in September.

Both water purveyors demonstrated high levels of cooperation and determination in replacing their water sources despite the immediate financial impact of their projects. The fact that these two small business owners went to work on what needed to be done was a tribute to their appreciation of the real cost of doing nothing. The new sources will provide a safer, more reliable source of supply to the respective owners and to the consumers they serve. According to Gregg Grunenfelder, Director, both water purveyors deserve a round of applause.

DOH Responds to Comments on Proposed Regulations

Last August, the Department received numerous comments on its proposal to amend the State Board of Health's Regulations for Group A Public Water Systems (chapter 246-290 WAC). The comments were extensive in scope and detail, and Department staff are still in the process of reviewing the comments and incorporating them into the next draft of the regulations.

In an effort to assist the program, the Water Supply Advisory Committee formed a subcommittee to address the Department's proposal to amend the regulations. Members of the subcommittee represent a wide range of drinking water interests, including public and private utilities of various sizes, professional engineers, and environmental interests. The subcommittee met in October and November to review the comments and proposals and to provide advice to the Department on future changes. The subcommittee will continue to meet as the rulemaking process continues and the Department needs additional guidance on such topics as cost/benefit analysis and consideration of alternatives.

If you have questions about the process, contact Tom Jaenicke at (360) 753-7432, Fax: (360) 586-5529, or Email: THJ0303@hub.doh.wa.gov

Education/Training Calendar

Date	Topics	Location	Contact	Phone Number
Dec. 2-4	Cross Connection Control Specialist	Tacoma	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Dec. 11	Safety and Health Manual Workshop	Sequim	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Dec. 12	Asbestos Cement (A/C) Pipe Work Practice Procedure	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Dec. 15	Safety and Health Manual Workshop	Moses Lake	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Dec. 17	Sampling and Monitoring	Ephrata	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Dec. 16-18	Basic Water Works	Lynnwood	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jan.	Chlorine Application	Wenatchee	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Jan.	Cross Control Connection	Eastside	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Jan.	Operator Certification Review	Westside	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Jan. 7-9	Water Certification Exam Review	Lynnwood	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jan. 12	Groundwater and Wells one day short course	Seattle	Katie	(888) 863-8916
Jan. 20-22	Water Certification Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jan 28-30	Basic Electrical	Lynnwood	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Feb. 3-5	Pump operation & Maintenance	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Feb. 6	A/C Pipe Work Practices	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Feb. 17-19	Evergreen Rural Water (ERW) Annual Conference	Ellensburg	ERW	(509) 962-6326
Feb. 18-20	Chlorination System Operation & Maintenance (O &M)	Lynnwood	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Feb. 26	AWWA - Lock Out/Tag Out, Trenching, Confined Space	Lacey	D. Meachan	(360) 491-9250
Mar. 18-19	Basic Hydraulics	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Mar. 24-26	WOW Annual Conference	Wenatchee	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 7-9	Basic Electrical	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 16-18	Water Works Basics	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 17	A/C Pipe Work Practices	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 20-21	Basic Hydraulics	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 22-24	Cross Connection Control Specialist Cert Review	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 23	AWWA - Underground Utility Locating, Leak Detection	Westport	D. Meachan	(360) 491-9250
Apr. 28-30	Water Works Basics	Lynnwood	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Apr. 29-5/1	Water Certification Exam Review	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
May 6-8	Water Certification Exam Review	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
May 19-21	Chlorination System O & M	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
May 22	AWWA - Electrical Troubleshooting	Centralia	D. Meachan	(360) 491-9250
May 27-29	Water Certification Exam Review	Lynnwood	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jun. 2-4	Pump Operation & Maintenance	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jun. 5	A/C Pipe Work Practices	Auburn	WETRC	(800) 562-0858
Jun. 16-18	Basic Electrical	Yakima	WETRC	(800) 562-0858

Dear Dr. Drip:

This seems to be the age of disasters. Every time I turn around, there's a flood, earthquake, tornado, power outage, landslide, and I hear Mt. Rainier might blow any time. What's a responsible water purveyor like me supposed to do? Help!!

Sincerely, Chicken Little

Dear Chicken:

Calm down! Take it easy - the sky isn't falling! Actually, the chance of anything happening to your particular water system is fairly low, but one never knows. It's a good thing to be concerned, however, and we'll try and give you a few ideas on how to prepare for an emergency and minimize its effects.

1) Take Care Of Yourself First
No, we don't mean you should be selfish. It's just that if you're having problems of your own, or if you need to take care of your family, you won't be available or be very effective in coping with the water system problems. The best way to avoid being in trouble when disaster strikes is to be prepared. Your local emergency services agency probably is the best source of information. However, the State Department of Health has a comprehensive set of disaster preparedness factsheets available at the agency website (http://www.doh.wa.gov). Click on the tab labeled "Topics" for a list of factsheets.

2) Assess Vulnerabilities & Probable Scenarios
Now that you've taken care of yourself, let's take a look at your water system. If your system has an approved Water System Plan, there should be a section on Emergency Response. If your system is not required to prepare a Water System Plan, the regulations require that a Small Water System Management Program be prepared. It is recommended that an Emergency Response plan be included as part of the Operations section.

While any of the different types of disasters may occur in your area, you should look at your situation and past experience to assess which would be more likely to impact your system. For example, if you're located in a flood plain, you're more likely to experience floods than if you're on high ground. If you're located in a remote rural area, power outages may take longer to fix than in a suburb. If your system facilities include tall structures such as standpipes there may be potential damage in an earthquake. Structures located on hillsides may be affected by landslides.

Review your Emergency Response Plan to make sure it is up to date, and have it readily available. Distribute copies to other responsible staff or community members who may be called upon to help during times of emergency.

3) Modify Conditions to Mitigate Effects
Just as one can take steps to mitigate problems at home, similar steps can be taken for your water system. For example, one of the more difficult situations to correct is contamination of the system due to entry of flood waters into a well. It may be possible to avoid this by raising the well casing to above known flood levels, or building a dike or levee around your critical facilities. If power outages are a frequent problem, consider the installation of an emergency generator or engine powered pumps. Another option would be to install an emergency intertie with a more reliable system.

Even if your source does not get flooded, there is a potential for your distribution system to become contaminated from infiltration by flood waters through leaks or flooded hose bibbs. You should consider modifying your system to facilitate emergency disinfection. The piping at the source can be equipped with a hypochlorite injection fitting and space provided for an injection pump and hypochlorite tank. It may be necessary to modify your distribution system to provide for contact time.

4) Disseminate Information
As water purveyors, or system operators, you will be looked to for help or advice regarding water supply during disasters or emergencies. The best time to inform your customers is, of course, before the emergency occurs. You need to be honest with your customers regarding the probable impact of various disasters upon the water system, and whether there will be an outage and/or contamination of the supply. If there is a likelihood of such events, your customers should be informed of what measures can be taken to secure a safe supply of water in such circumstances.

In general, the options for each customer are to store water for emergencies or to treat the available supply. A Department publication "***Drinking Water During Emergencies"*** is available for distribution to your customers. Call 1-800-521-0323 for copies of this publication.

DOH recommends you advise your customers to store one gallon per person for each day of the expected length of the emergency. To treat potentially contaminated water, they should boil it vigorously for 3 to 5 minutes, or disinfect by adding 10 drops or 1/8 teaspoon household bleach per gallon of water and let it stand 30 minutes before using. Water that is cloudy or contaminated with surface water needs a double dosage and twice the standing time.

To summarize, while you cannot prevent disasters or emergencies, there are certainly things you can do to mitigate their impacts on both your system and to your customers. We hope we have given you some ideas you can use. Now is the time to undertake such activity, rather than waiting until the emergency hits.

Tap-Tips - ATTENTION Coliform Samplers!

As Winter takes hold of our state, remember the Holiday festivities bring many lab closures. Your best bet is to sample early in the month of December and right after the New Year Holiday. If really bad weather hits, you and your lab may not be mobile or accessible, so plan accordingly and be flexible!

Another reminder to you - stay away from frost-free outdoor water taps. A tiny bit of water can stagnate in the tap and cause an unsatisfactory coliform water test - something you definitely do not want to happen during the most festive time of the year!

New Information Available on the Drinking Water Homepage

In December two new categories titled "Public Notification" and "Enforcement Actions" will be added to the Drinking Water Homepage (http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw). The Public Notification page will list public water systems that have failed to confirm to DOH that they have notified their customers of bacteriological maximum contaminant level (MCL) violations. The Enforcement page will list public water systems that are out of compliance with state drinking water regulations and have been issued departmental orders or notice of imposition of penalties. Information will be updated monthly.

For questions, call Darlene Treece at (360) 664-0328.

Have an idea for an article ?

Do you have a Drinking Water issue that you would like addressed in a future Water Tap? If so, here's your chance, the Water Tap is requesting your suggestions for future articles. Call the Drinking Water toll free line 1-800-521-0323, or fax to (360) 586-5529 or email DWINFO@hub.doh.wa.gov

In this issue: The following individuals have contributed to the production of this issue of *the Water Tap*. John Aden, Peter Beaton, Chris Gagnon, Cas Hancock (ERW), Peggy Johnson, Dave Monthie, Tom Jaenicke, Jennifer Kropack, Lisa Raysby, Skip Richards (WSAC Chair), Dan Sander, Darlene Treece, Simon Tung and Judy J. Sides, Editor.

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

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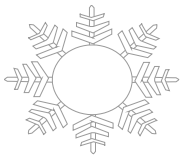

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