AQUA TALK

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

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A newsletter from the Safe Drinking Water Program of the Water Quality Control Division

Full color version available at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater

Utilities Helping Utilities Through COWARN

by COWARN Steering Committee

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Who is more likely to have that specialized pump or valve your system needs to get back on line in a hurry? That's right, another water or wastewater system.

ABOUT COWARN

COWARN is the Colorado Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) of utilities helping utilities to:

- Provide and receive immediate relief during emergencies;
- Organize, coordinate and communicate emergency response;
- Quickly share emergency personnel and other resources statewide; and,
- Recover from the next natural or man-made emergency.

Launched in September 2007, COWARN is a utility-led organization that currently has more than 140 members consisting of public and private drinking water and wastewater utilities, as well as industry support organizations and government partners. Participation in any emergency response event is voluntary and membership in COWARN is FREE and does not obligate members to offer or to accept aid.

COWARN utilizes a secure, web-based event tracking system that allows utilities to post needed and available resources and coordinate emergency response utilizing a practical mutual aid agreement designed to reduce barriers to providing support during an emergency. Once COWARN is activated with a posted emergency at www.cowarn.org, the website immediately notifies all other COWARN utility members who then can respond with resources they have to offer that match the resources needed.

COWARN's mutual aid network was critical in Alamosa's ability to effectively respond to the March 2008 *Salmonella* outbreak. Within two hours of Alamosa's request for assistance and resources, multiple utilities had organized crews, equipment, water containers and a tanker truck to deploy to Alamosa.

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Message from the Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

How Federal Revolving Loan Fund Cuts Impact the Safe Drinking Water Program

by Ron Falco, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

The article on the next page (page 3) nicely summarizes what is happening with the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) capitalization grant provided to Colorado from EPA. As you can see, the funding level to support drinking water infrastructure projects rose significantly in 2010 in response to the ongoing infrastructure needs demonstrated during the "Needs Survey" and reports by civil engineering associations. This year, when congress substantially cut EPA's budget, the DWSRF took one of the biggest hits. For next year, I am expecting the funding level will be cut to less than the $14.35 million we received in 2009. There will be less money available to help drinking water systems and operators.

Ron Falco, P.E.,
Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

Additionally, the Safe Drinking Water Program gets part of its funding from set asides based on the size of the capitalization grant. The set asides support program management, capacity development, source water protection, small systems training and technical assistance and wellhead protection. The water security grant and the operator certification expense reimbursement grant will be ending in 2012. As noted on page 11, the last chance to apply for reimbursement is May 31, 2012. After that, operators will be fully responsible for certification costs.

These changes will put additional pressure on our now-stretched-thin federal funding levels. We use the DWSRF set asides to fund staff and important activities that help water systems like the Boulder and Leadville operator training schools, advanced operator training, storage and distribution system training, etc. The reduced DWSRF funding and "double whammy" of losing the other grants means that our services will be curtailed. In particular, we will need to significantly reduce contractor support for training and other services. Furthermore, our Excellence Program position will not be filled in the near future. We will need to determine the stability of funding going forward and prioritize our activities in order to decide if and when this position will be filled.

The reduction in federal funding also jeopardizes our future plans. Instead of expanding our very popular and beneficial training programs, these will be curtailed. Our ability to get in front of new rules and help water systems like we did with the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment and the Stage 2 Disinfectant/Disinfection Byproducts Rules also could be impacted. Over the next several years EPA will be revising the Total Coliform Rule and likely enacting new Maximum Contaminant Levels for perchlorate, chromium VI, carcinogenic volatile organic compounds and fluoride. The reduced funding will hurt the ability of impacted systems to comply with new requirements and hurt our ability to assist them.

However, I want to assure you we have planned for just this sort of contingency and believe we will be able to maintain the program and provide a baseline of assistance services to water systems and operators. These remain difficult times, but the drinking water community always comes through, and I believe we will again. ♦

Impacts to the Drinking Water Revolving Fund Based on Recent Cuts in Federal Funding

by Elise Masters, Financial Services Unit

The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), as amended in 1996, established the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. This fund is available to drinking water systems to help finance infrastructure improvements. The SDWA program emphasizes providing funds to small and disadvantaged communities and to communities and facilities that promote safe drinking water.

Colorado's Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWSRF) funding is awarded every year through a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Based on Colorado's unique ability to leverage these funds through the bond market and thereby significantly increase lending dollars, we are able to provide grants and loans to Colorado's many drinking water facilities.

In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009, Colorado DWSRF's grant from EPA was $14,350,000. With that funding, the Colorado DWSRF was able to provide 12 grants and loans to water treatment facilities which totaled $10,397,721. This was 72 percent of 2009's base loan capacity. Colorado also received an additional $34,352,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). With this funding, we were able to provide an additional 22 grants and loans for drinking water projects to Colorado communities.

In FFY 2010 Colorado received a 65 percent increase in DWSRF funding from 2009, which amounted to $24,074,000. To date, four grants and loans have been funded for a total of $13,166,154. In FFY 2011, Colorado received $16,439,000, a decrease from 2010 of 32 percent, but still above 2009 funding levels. This decrease is not insignificant and will have an impact on future loan capacity and set aside activities. As we move forward into subsequent years' appropriations and with the uncertainty of the cuts to the federal budget, funding levels are going to be difficult to predict. However, it seems with the volatility of 2011 appropriation, a continued decrease in funding can be anticipated.

We continue to encourage Colorado water systems in need of additional funding for 2011 to contact us so that we may guide them through the grant and loan application process. In some cases, most of the communities' upfront work already has been completed. Preliminary engineering reports, plans and specifications often may be current and applicable to the project needs. To find out more information and to begin the DWSRF loan and grant application process, please contact one of the project managers in the Financial Solutions Unit for assistance. We may be reached at: CDPHEFSUAdmin@state.co.us or on our webpage: http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/GrantsandLoansUnit/index.html.

Utilities Helping Utilities Through COWARN

(Continued from page 1)

COWARN Update

COWARN has had an eventful year with a significant increase in volunteer involvement including the appointment of a new chairperson, Karen Shanley from Eagle River Water and Sanitation District, and the establishment of several new committees. The committees currently are working on launching a new COWARN website and making significant updates and improvements to the COWARN Operational Plan.

COWARN held two successful statewide Boot Camp Workshops in Denver and Clifton in April 2011 that included hands-on exercises involving flood scenarios. The content was focused on utilization of the COWARN website in requesting and deploying resources, use of the Incident Command System (ICS) during an event, emergency communications, mobilization/ demobilization of resources and incorporation of COWARN operational procedures into utility emergency response plans.

COWARN RESPONSE IN GEORGETOWN

Over July 4th weekend, Georgetown experienced a loss of pressure in its drinking water system due to one or more line breaks under a creek bed. This system failure eventually led to a boil water advisory for the town. Due to high flow in the creek, the town was unable to fix the line breaks and on July 3 requested aid through COWARN. Within the same day, Georgetown's request for a distribution crew and additional resources was answered and confirmed. On July 5, Denver Water deployed equipment and a distribution crew who worked alongside the Georgetown utility team to make the repairs and restore pressure to the system. Additional utilities and organizations offered help as well.

Despite a busy holiday weekend, COWARN was able to rapidly communicate the need for assistance to all other COWARN members within the state and orchestrate a quick and organized response. When asked about COWARN's assistance with the incident, Tom Hale, town administrator for Georgetown, said "COWARN was easy to join and the quick response we received was excellent for the repairs we needed to get our system back online." Ken Pollock from Denver Water added, "COWARN is an essential partnership for utilities in times of crisis. A water or wastewater utility of any size can suddenly find themselves in an emergency situation beyond their capability to resolve. We were glad to be able to assist the Georgetown community during their emergency in July."

Join your peers today in COWARN at www.cowarn.org and become part of a utility network dedicated to keeping our communities healthy by helping one another during emergencies.

COWARN Steering Committee

Jay Allen, Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

Lisa Barbato, Colorado Springs Utilities

Dale Colerick, City of Brush

Jan Cranor, Denver Water

Hope Dalton, Tri,County Health Department

David Dani, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Mark Hartman, City of Lafayette

Rich Hayes, Colorado Rural Water Association

Bill Hogrewe, Rural Community Assistance Partnership

Bobby Oligo, Aurora Water

Lois Rellergert, City of Fort Collins

Karen Shanley, Eagle River Water and Sanitation District

UPDATE: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

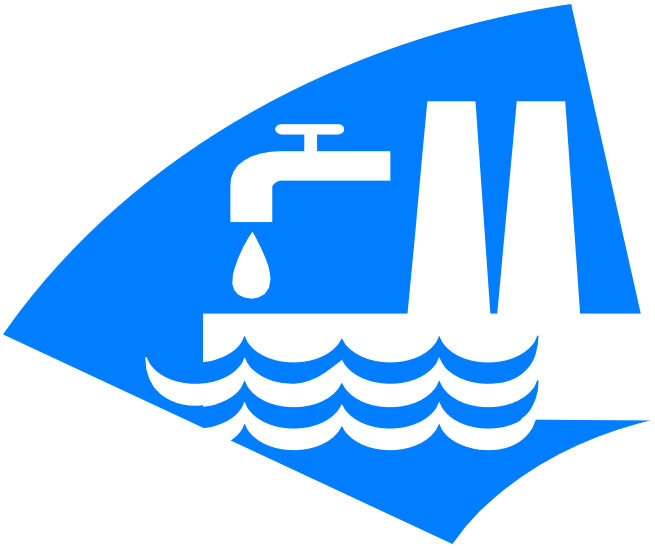
By Louanna Cruz and Dan Simpson, Financial Services Unit

It was the Spring 2010 Issue that our last ARRA update ran in *Aqua Talk.* With this update we are beginning to see the sunset on the reign of ARRA in the Water Quality Control Division. ARRA funding contributed to significant improvements for Colorado's water infrastructure, economy and unemployment. ARRA funding for drinking water projects totaled $34,352,000 and was disbursed among 22 projects statewide. Fifty percent of the $34,352,000 was awarded as principal forgiveness to 15 projects. Over 20 percent of the funding was allocated as green project reserve to 10 projects.

ARRA funding for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWRF) exceeded our annual award by over 300 percent for 2009, allowing the state to fund an additional 22 projects from our annual average of seven for the program. In addition, improvements to Colorado's water infrastructure consists of eight projects replacing 65,410 linear feet of distribution line, building one new water treatment facility, rehabilitating 12 existing facilities, saving 44.5 million gallons of water annually, adding one Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) certified building, consolidating systems and six upgrades or new water storage facilities.

Additional goals of ARRA were to stimulate the economy and create jobs. As of June 30 an average of 52.5 FTE per quarter were added to the workforce in the form of retained and new positions working directly on the projects themselves. The financial solutions unit, along with the engineering section, continues to work diligently with the ARRA drinking water projects and as of July 2011 construction is complete on 17 of the 22 projects. We are pleased that all projects concluded have been in compliance with all federal requirements, such as Buy American, Davis Bacon Act, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and 1512 reporting. In addition, all audits conducted by EPA Headquarters, EPA Region 8, Contractors for EPA, and the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) have concluded successfully. This is certainly attributed to the hard work of the ARRA recipients, consulting engineers, contractors, and the Water Quality Control Division and partnering agencies.

Communities have expressed gratitude for the benefits that ARRA funding provided with direct results of improvements to drinking water safety and quality, increase in service and potential water revenue. Additionally, there have been unforeseen advantages. ARRA has lead to increased community involvement/interest in local water quality infrastructure projects, improved accuracy of utility locate maps, enhanced knowledge and certification of plant operators, and has increased system efficiency through green project components.



The staff of the Water Quality Control Division will continue to administer this program with an aggressive goal of 100 percent project completion by the end of 2011.

Chlorine Tests for Small Systems Completing the Distribution Operator Training Series

by David Dani, Capacity Building Unit

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment sponsors a series of interactive, hands-on training courses that focus on drinking water distribution systems and water quality. The courses are FREE for operators of small Colorado public water systems that serve a population less than 3,300 people.

The first course, **Water Quality and Distribution System Essentials**, focuses on:

- Drinking water distribution system components
- Drinking water distribution system water quality and proper monitoring
- Recommended practices for disinfecting new pipes, coliform sampling and chlorine residual management
- Cross-connection and flushing programs

The second course, **Water Quality and Storage Facilities**, focuses on:

- Drinking water quality in storage facilities
- Proper inspection techniques for drinking water storage facilities
- Managing water age in the distribution system
- Cleaning, disinfecting and returning a drinking water tank to service

The third course, **Best Practices for Maintaining Distribution System Water Quality**, focuses on:

- Distribution system water quality monitoring and coliform sampling
- Chlorine residual measurement and mapping
- Drinking water disinfection and breakpoint chlorination
- Maintaining distribution system integrity
- Asset management and emergency response planning

Attendees are encouraged to complete all three courses. Colorado small system operators that complete ALL three courses receive a free Hach digital chlorine test kit.

Locations and dates of courses offered are available at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/TrainingEvents.html. Courses are guaranteed to fill quickly.

This past year, the Distribution Operator Training Series was offered in Boulder from June 2010 through August 2010 and again December 2010 through February 2011, Clifton from September 2010 through November 2010,and Dolores from March 2011 through May 2011.

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Small Systems Completing the Distribution Operator Training Series Receive Hach Colorimeter

Congratulations to the following small system operators who completed all three courses in the Distribution Operator Training Series and received a free Hach digital chlorine test kit:

- Robi Darcy – Town of Basalt
- Michael Cavanaugh – Brown Hotel
- Jim Green – Buffalo Creek Water District
- Darrel Jones and Marie Jones – Camp Colorado
- Ryan Eggelton – Chatfield State Park
- Steven Bueno – Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station
- Robert Nabors – Colorado Interstate Gas
- Clay Colvig – Colvig Silver Camps
- Amanda Martinez and Dennis Martinez – Crowley Ranch Reserves
- Anthony Ramsey – Dallas Creek Water Company, Ridgeway
- Sebastian Madrid and Randy McGuire – Town of Dolores
- Chris Kramer – Town of Dove Creek
- David Miller – Durango County Airport
- Robert Clodfelter – East Valley Metro District, Castle Rock
- Kevin Standifer – Edgemont Ranch Metro District
- John Wasserbach – El Rancho Florida
- Linda Fry – Environmental Process Control, New Castle
- Kent Chesire – Exxon Mobile, Rifle
- Cheryl Kramp – Forest Glen Sports Association, Florissant
- Bruce Bevirt – Gold Lake Resort
- Franklin Fox – Town of Hayden
- Jack Zielinski – Town of Hot Sulfur Springs
- Tim Hopwood and Ron Hough – Town of Hudson
- Tim Cavanaugh and Charles Smith – Lake Durango Water Authority
- Brian Morse – Longs Peak Water District
- William Boyle – Masonic Park
- Nick Harris, Brian Warner, and Rod Wilson – Town of Monument
- John West – Needles Townhomes Home Owners Association
- Eliot Mansk – Platte Canyon School District
- Frank Lucero – Pueblo Chemical Depot
- Don Blackstock – San Juan National Forest
- John Ohm and Richard Swaback – Shambhala Mountain Center
- Darren Dines and Thom Yoder – Tabernash Meadows Water and Sanitation
- Josh Blakeman – Telluride Regional Airport
- Marc Thompson – Telluride Ski and Golf
- Phil Morse – Waterboy, Inc.
- Brandon Waddell – Well On Wheels

Drawing by Tiffany Jackson, Water Quality Control Division

Coach's Corner

by Mike Bacon, Capacity Coach

If you ever had a sanitary survey, you know the drill. I challenge each of you to beat the next survey! How? Just remember, we are all in this together. We all have the same goal, and that is to have the best water quality possible for the public, by being the best we can be. There are a number of components that make up the sanitary survey. Some of these have been covered in past training and schools; monitoring plans, distribution, total *Coliform* rule, and the ground water rule for example.

This huddle, I am going to cover one of your least favorite topics. We have to get over this hurdle if we are going to beat the next sanitary survey! Yes, record keeping. It is a very important component of your system. It is if you will, proof in the pudding as to what you are doing for your system to produce the best water for the public. We all have an idea how long we are to keep records, but do we produce records for everything? Do we report low water pressure or water breaks that could contaminate the water supply? ALL records belong to the system, and should be kept there. Listen up team!

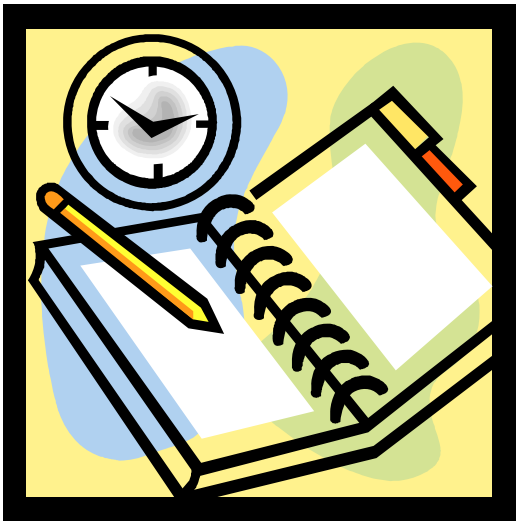
If you have a monitoring plan, you have a record of the "game plan" of your system. This includes your contact information, monitoring requirements (nitrates, total coliform, groundwater rule, lead and copper, etc.), with location and frequency of each.

If you have a cross connection control program, you should have a written record of your program, a record of your cross connections, but most important, a record of annual testing, or any other work that might have been done in your system to reduce cross connections. This is particularly true when it comes to backflow devices and pressure reducing valves. This information demonstrates how you are protecting your system!

If you have an operations and maintenance plan, record keeping is essential in recording *maintenance* that was done (pumps, control valves, hydrants, chemical feed pumps), and *operational* data (daily, weekly, or monthly tests, meter readings, psi checks). Records also can help the system justify the purchase of new equipment by recording the costs of repairing older equipment that the system is putting bandages on instead of putting the money on newer equipment that could be more efficient. Chemical feed pumps come to mind!

Finally, at the end of the sanitary survey letter there is a request for the system to "outline the course of action that has or will be taken and the date by which you propose to correct the deficiencies or violations." Failure to provide the "written" response within 45 days is an alleged violation.

Corresponding to the State is a very important part of record keeping and your role as an operator or owner. Now, let's go out there and beef up your record keeping in order to beat the next sanitary survey!



Coming Down the Pipe…

News Alerts for the Drinking Water Community

Public Water Systems Training Grants Request for Application

by Gloria Duran, Grants and Contracts Specialist

In Colorado, over 2,000 public water systems are responsible for supplying safe drinking water to the public. They range in size from a small restaurant or community of 25 people, to the service area for metropolitan Denver. Because safe drinking water doesn't happen without a well-trained workforce, the safe drinking water program has focused on ensuring the best training is available to professionals in the drinking water industry across Colorado. To continue and expand support for training services, a new public water system training grants request for applications (RFA) is being released this fall to solicit qualified applicants interested in partnering with the state to provide training services in high priority subject matter in rural areas of the state. The grants have an emphasis on encouraging public-private partnerships to provide training services to private businesses that are small public water systems such as restaurants and campgrounds and/or small public water systems located in rural areas. This RFA is open to teachers, trainers and subject matter experts to receive grants to fund training projects that promote improved technical, managerial and financial capacity in public water systems serving fewer than 3,300 people. Small businesses and disadvantaged business enterprises are encouraged to apply. Our vision is that all public water system training supported by the Colorado Safe Drinking Water Program is consistently high quality, relevant and well coordinated statewide. For more information about this exciting and new opportunity please visit us at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/. ♦

Acceptance of Alternative Filtration Technology

by Paul Kim, District Engineer

The Water Quality Control Division is proud to announce the recent acceptance of three additional alternative filtration technologies that meet Surface Water Treatment Rule (SWTR) requirements for *Giardia lamblia* and *Cryptosporidium* removal. The alternative filtration technology review process determines whether potential filtration technologies meet or exceed the requirements of the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations* (CPDWR) and *State of Colorado Design Criteria For Potable Water Systems* (Design Criteria). The division has reviewed information submitted from the following manufacturers in accordance with the CPDWR and determined the designs meet or exceed the requirements of the *Design Criteria* and is accepted for use as an alternative filtration technology:

- Siemens Water Technology Model L10V/L20V with SWT XP and CP filtration skids
- GE Power and Water ZeeWeed® 1500 Membrane Modules
- Pall Corporation Microza Membrane Modules with Pall Aria filtration skids (AP 1-6)

Each of these filters utilizes submerged, pressurized ultrafiltration membrane technology with varying water production rates. The accepted filters can be used for upgrading or replacing existing treatment techniques or for retrofitting existing facilities to meet potable water demands. The accepted filters may be used as final compliance filters as part of a multiple treatment barrier approach in order to meet SWTR requirements stated

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What Do You See?

Deficiency: Design Criteria for Potable Water Systems (DCPWS) Section 2.1.10 . Well vaults are not permitted unless a variance is granted based on positive gravity drainage of the vault through a floor drain to daylight.

In accordance with Section 2.1.10 of the State of Colorado, DCPWS , well vaults are not permitted unless a variance is granted based on positive gravity drainage of the vault through a floor drain to daylight. As depicted in the photograph, improper drainage around the exposed well casing is allowing surface water to enter the vault and pool around the casing, which then can be carried through the casing into the drinking water aquifer. To prevent source contamination the division recommends the well vault be removed or proper drainage and grading be installed.

Small Water System and Small Wastewater System Certifications: Same or Different?

by Lori Moore, Facility Operator Program

It is a common misperception that the small water system and small wastewater system certifications are not equivalent to the Water D and Distribution 1 and the Wastewater D and Collection 1 respectively. It cannot be overstated that small system certifications, both for water and wastewater, are each wholly appropriate for state mandated certified supervision of all public water and wastewater systems classified at the Water D and Distribution 1 levels, and the Wastewater D and Collection 1 levels*. Small system certifications were created specifically for systems serving fewer than 3,300 people in order to help alleviate the carrying costs and time commitment needed for multiple certifications. The exams and subsequent professional credential maintenance for small system certifications have all of the pertinent and critical need-to-know criteria to ensure that operators obtaining the small system certifications are well equipped to fulfill supervisory duties.

Because these certifications are equivalent, the question really is how to choose the most appropriate professional certification for your career needs. If your occupational calling finds you employed in smaller communities and/or for smaller systems whose treatment requires an operator certified at the D and 1 levels, then small system certifications are a good start. If you are planning on working in larger areas or for systems whose treatment is more complex and in much greater quantities, and you will be required to obtain higher levels of certification for career advancement, thus obtaining your certifications separately would be recommended for a few reasons. Systems with higher certification needs or who serve larger populations, may require its operators work in more specialized settings or have duties specifically assigned either in the plant **OR** in the field as a certified distribution or collection professional. Therefore obtaining your certifications separately may be more beneficial as your employment will be more specific to the needs of the job you have been hired to do. Another reason may be that you have not necessarily determined whether you would like to work in the plant or in the field or for water or wastewater, and the flexibility of having your certifications obtained separately may save time in the long term as your certifications will have been obtained for whatever aspect of water and wastewater management that support your long-term career goals. Again, it is not to imply that the small system certifications are in any way inferior because they are not. It's just a matter of determining where you would like to pursue your career.

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Facility Operator Program News

Exam Information : Water and wastewater treatment and small system certification exams will be in the fall/winter of 2011. Dates, locations, and application materials are available on the OCPO website at www.ocpoweb.com around October 10. **Application deadline for exams is December 1. Late applications will not be accepted!** The next cycle of water distribution and wastewater collection and small system certification exams will be in the winter/spring of 2012. Dates, locations and application materials should be available on the OCPO website around January 10, 2012. **Application deadline for exams is February 1, 2012.** Note: If you already have scheduled an examination and need to change the date or would like to schedule an online exam, contact Teresa at OCPO at 303-394-8994.

WWFOCB news: The WWFOCB has made electronic testing available at the OCPO office. Exam application deadlines are the same as for the paper-based exams. Your application must list one of the physical test sites for that exam, then call the OCPO office and make an appointment to take the exam electronically. Online testing is available for all levels. Advantages include *instantly* knowing scores, completing Affidavit of Legal presence, purchasing your certificate on site and the flexibility to arrange a test time to fit your schedule. You MUST be approved for standard paper-and-pencil exam to enroll and MUST enroll at least two weeks prior to exam date. Additional cost for online testing is $35. Details will be in the Spring letter from the OCPO office and on the OCPO and WWFOCB websites. From the OCPO website at www.ocpoweb.com, click on the "Operators" tab, choose "Certification", then choose "Pre-Approved Enrollment," and follow the instructions to enroll!

Board meetings are scheduled for September 28 and November 30 at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in the Sabin Room in Building A (unless otherwise noted). Meetings begin at 9 a.m. and are an excellent opportunity to hear and be heard. Please consider this an invaluable opportunity to bring ideas, concerns, or questions about water and wastewater certification, testing, careers, management, or any other relevant topic to people who can help effect change. Contact Nancy Horan at 303-692-3463 if you would like to add an item to the published agenda. Visit www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb/index.html, the official Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Certification Board website for more information.

Renewals: Check the renewal date of your certification! Renewal applications must be submitted with documentation of training units, completed legal presence documents and application fee **before** the expiration date. Continuing to work after your certificate expires is a serious violation for you and, if you are the Operator in Responsible Charge (ORC), you may be placing your employer in violation of the requirement to ensure their facility is under the supervision of a certified operator at all times. Please call the Facility Operator Program at 303-692-3510 if you think you may not complete your renewal by the expiration date. Remember, certificates expired for more than two years are automatically revoked.

ORC Changes: The ORC is responsible for notifying the Facility Operator Program when they terminate their employment with a system. The notice needs to include the ORC's name, the system name and PWSID, and the effective date of separation. Send the notifications by mail or email to Lori Moore 303-692-3510. The administrative contact for a system is responsible for submitting the ORC form. The form is available at: http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb/opassist/ORC/ORC.html.

Operator Certification Expense Reimbursement Grant closing!

If you work as a water treatment or distribution operator for a community water system serving a population of 3,300 people or less, you may qualify for certification cost reimbursement through the expense reimbursement grant. **The application MUST be received by CDPHE within six months of issue date on your operator certificate, but not later than May 31, 2012.**

Forms: Forms are available at www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb/index.html or by contacting the Facility Operator Program at 303-692-3469.

Ask Aqua Man

Dear Aqua Man,

I am a certified operator in Florida and am thinking about moving to Colorado. I have a wastewater A level of certification for treatment and would like to apply for the same level in Colorado. How do I go about applying for reciprocity and what can I expect?

Sincerely,

Purveyor of Clean Water

Dear Fellow Purveyor:

Congratulations on obtaining your Wastewater A level of certification. Colorado does accept reciprocity** from other states. The process is relatively straightforward. Reciprocity applications are reviewed and evaluated by a panel of experts who will either approve or deny the request based upon criteria such as Florida's requirements for education and experience when applying, what types of exams utilized (multiple choice, short answer, essay, etc.), corresponding certification levels (one state may have five levels of treatment certification while Colorado has four), examination need-to-know criteria, etc.

You may download reciprocity applications from the Operator Certification Program Office (OCPO) website: www.ocpoweb.com.

You should expect about three to four weeks for application review, after which you will receive notification by mail regarding your request and whether it has been granted or denied. If you do not agree with the decision made and would like to appeal, the directions on how to do so will be included with your acceptance or denial letter.

If you have any questions for Aqua Man, please send them to comments.wqcd@state.co.us. Enter "Safe Drinking Water Newsletter" as the subject.

Once you obtain certification in the state of Colorado, you will receive the professional credential, C.W.P. (Certified Water Professional); so any professional paperwork, reporting, record keeping, professional correspondence, business cards, etc., may include C.W.P. in order to signify your status as a professional in your field.

Good luck to you in your future endeavors as a certified water professional! The staff of the Colorado Water Quality Control Division looks forward to working with you. ♦

**For specific regulatory language and explanations of operator certification refer to Regulation 100, 5 CCR 1003-2,the "Water and Wastewater Facility Operator Certification Requirements", located at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/ocb/0911FinalReg100internal.pdf.

Small Water Systems and Wastewater System Certifications: Same or Different?

(Continued from page 10)

At any level of certification, it is important to note certified professionals are critical to the work that we do at the Water Quality Control Division, and to the protection of public health and the environment.

I hope this is helpful in clarifying the differences and similarities among certifications as well as to emphasize the validity and importance of all of our certification levels. If you have more questions please contact Lori Moore at 303-692-3510.

*For specific regulatory language and explanations of operator certification please refer to Regulation 100, 5 CCR 1003-2, the "Water and Wastewater Facility Operator Certification Requirements" or find the information on the web at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/ocb/0911FinalReg100internal.pdf. ♦

Emily Griffith Technical College Offers Water Courses

By Melanie Fahrenbruch, Get Into Water! Project Manager

The Get Into Water! Project is offering adult training courses at Emily Griffith Technical College, located in downtown Denver beginning in September. These courses are part of the Water Utility Science Program which offers introductory courses for individuals interested in a career in the water or wastewater industry. The courses being offered this Fall include:

- Water Foundations
- Introduction to Water Distribution (Level I)
- Introduction to Wastewater Collection (Level I)
- Introduction to Water Treatment (Level D)
- Introduction to Wastewater Treatment (Level D)

Scholarships are available for qualifying students through the Get Into Water! grant. Contact John Cleary at 720-423-4716 or john_cleary@dpsk12.org for registration information. ♦

Acceptance of Alternative Filtration Technology

(Continued from page 9)

in Article 7 of CPDWR. The aforementioned accepted filters are each granted 3.0 log-removal credit for *Giardia lamblia* and *Cryptosporidium* removal; however, the water system must provide an additional 4.0-log virus inactivation using chemical disinfection to meet the CPDWR requirements. To receive the 3.0 log-removal credit, the membranes must be installed and operated in accordance with design criteria and specifications stated in the division's acceptance criteria.

The alternative filtration acceptance review process provides the division with valuable information which helps expedite engineering plans reviews for installation of the technology at Public Water Systems. Please note that acceptance of a manufacturer's filtration technology does not constitute design approval for installation of the technology at a Public Water System in the state. Review and approval for the design of any Public Water System proposing to use an accepted alternative technology will be handled on a case-by-case basis by the division as required by Article 1.11.2 of the CPDWR.

For additional information concerning the accepted alternative filters or the alternative filtration approval process, please contact Tyson Ingels, P.E., Lead Drinking Water Engineer at 303-692-3002. ♦

National Pharmaceutical Take-Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration is sponsoring a third National Pharmaceutical Take-Back Day to be held on October 29, 2011. This event provides an opportunity for the public to surrender expired, unwanted or unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications to law enforcement officers for destruction. Visit www.dea.gov for more information and a frequently updated list of participating agencies.

Interns Reach Out to Small Drinking Water Systems

By Rebecca Cohen and Andrew Iltis, Capacity Building Unit

Jeff, a small water system operator, is surprised when he picks up the phone and finds himself speaking with a summer intern from the Water Quality Control Division. The voice on the other end of the line asks, “Would you like assistance with your Drinking Water System Monitoring Plan?”

Jeff can’t believe his ears, is this a joke? How much is this going to cost me? Are they really going to help?, he wonders. He knows he recently received a letter from his last sanitary survey identifying a deficiency for not having a monitoring plan. Now it’s at the top of his list of things to do and help would be great. He soon realizes that this is a genuine offer and he is not the first to be assisted by the capacity building unit interns.

Since 2009, the capacity building unit has hired interns with two goals in mind: First, to expand our ability to provide one-on-one advice and training to small water systems in Colorado, particularly to businesses that treat groundwater; second, to raise awareness and encourage college students and recent graduates to consider the water industry as an exciting career path.

So far in 2011, we have been pleased to bring three interns to the team, one in the winter and spring, and two in the summer and fall. They were teamed with professional staff to learn the ins and outs of small public water system operations and state regulations. After initial training, their specific duties include initiating contact with a target list of small groundwater systems, collecting information about those systems via internal records and secondary sources, and traveling to the system to verify information with owners and operators, ultimately assisting each system to develop a monitoring plan. Furthering their experience as a learning opportunity, they also have been able to tour several large-scale drinking water and wastewater facilities and participate in activities that broaden their understanding of water systems in both metropolitan and rural settings.

Brandon Carter, winter/spring CBU intern.

As we know in the water profession, proper water quality sampling, including sampling at the right place at the right time, is critical to ensuring safe drinking water. The comprehensive monitoring plan is a tool that assists operators in successful sampling, and is required in Article 1.12 of the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations. It also is a document that allows another qualified individual to continue operating the system successfully in the absence of the regular contract operator.

Summer and fall interns Andrew Iltis and Rebecca Cohen.

Completing a monitoring plan can be a daunting and overwhelming task for an operator. By assisting small system operators plan their monitoring, our interns will be helping them to comply with regulatory requirements and increasing their ability to provide safe drinking water to the public. Ultimately, helping them plan to succeed! ♦

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- The Drinking Water Program's home page Web address is
  www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/index.html
- For training opportunities, please visit the division's website at
  www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/trainingevents.html
- To access Aqua Talk online, go to
  www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/QuickLinks.html
- To access the district engineer county listing, go to
  www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/engineering/techhom.html
- To access the contact list for drinking water rules, go to
  http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/RegulatoryGuidance.html
- Follow the Water Quality Control Division's Enforcement activities on Twitter

  http://twitter.com/WQCD_Enforce

Aqua Talk Newsletter Information

The following people contribute to the production of each issue of Aqua Talk: Ron Falco, Sharon Williams, Julie Conroy, Gloria Duran, Jacki Main, Louanna Cruz, Paul Kim, Lori Moore, Lisa Pine, Elise Masters, Rebecca Cohen, Andrew Iltis, Melissa McClain and Mike Bacon.

We welcome comments, questions, story ideas, articles and photographs submitted for publication. Please address correspondence to Jacki Main, Aqua Talk Newsletter, Water Quality Control Division, 4300 Cherry Creek Dr. S., B2, Denver, CO 80246,1530 or email comments.wqcd@state.co.us. Enter "Safe Drinking Water Newsletter" as the subject. Past issues are available by contacting the editor or visiting the website at http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/QuickLinks.html.

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