Colorado
Safe Drinking
Water Program
Aqua Talk

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

Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment

New Monitoring Schedules for 2012!

Volume 6, Issue 2
Spring 2012

by Melissa McClain, Monitoring and Enforcement Unit

You may have noticed by now that the monitoring schedules have a completely new design and format. Based on feedback received over the past few years, we have incorporated numerous features in order to assist operators to better understand the monitoring and sampling requirements for their system(s). The two major changes are:

1) all active schedules are now displayed and
2) the schedules will indicate when a requirement has been fulfilled.

Additionally, our new, easy-to-access website for schedules is: wqcdcompliance.com/schedules.

One of the major features of the new monitoring schedules is the display of all active requirements. In the past, schedules on three-, six- or nine-year monitoring frequencies were designated a year to sample by the Water Quality Control Division. For new schedules, a year is no longer identified. Instead, the entire monitoring period is listed. This new change allows systems the freedom and ability to plan and budget for required sampling events.

The second major change is the ability to know when requirements have been satisfied. Each Wednesday, new schedules are generated and posted on the website. There is a section of the schedules titled *Satisfied Schedules* which lists all of the requirements that have been met. This allows the system to find out if we have received the data for samples that have been collected. Here is an example of how this feature is displayed:

Satisfied Schedules	
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228) Sample Schedule:	**Collection Period:**
1 sample(s) **per 9 Years**	~~January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2019~~ ****Sample Result(s) Received****
COMBINED URANIUM Sample Schedule:	**Collection Period:**
1 sample(s) **per 9 Years**	~~January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2019~~ ****Sample Result(s) Received****
GROSS ALPHA, WITHOUT RADON & URANIUM Sample Schedule:	***Collection Period:***
1 sample(s) **per 9 Years** ****Collection Restriction:*** Sample(s) **must** be collected at the **same time** as the COMBINED URANIUM sample(s)*	~~January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2019~~ ****Sample Result(s) Received****
NITRITE Sample Schedule:	**Collection Period:**
1 sample(s) **per 9 Years**	~~January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2019~~ ****Sample Result(s) Received****

(Continued on page 3)

Continuing Training Services in the Face of Funding Cuts

by Ron Falco, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

The purpose of the safe drinking water program is to provide compliance oversight, assistance, financial support and training to public drinking water systems so they can always provide safe drinking water to the public. The program's strategic goal is to prevent waterborne disease and reduce chronic public health risks from drinking water through improved implementation of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Colorado's drinking water statutes and regulations. Our motto is "Always Safe Drinking Water."

Implementing the Safe Drinking Water Act does not mean we simply enforce regulations, it also means we are the stewards of federal funds made available to help construct public drinking water system infrastructure. We also provide operator training to enhance and maintain the human infrastructure that is so critical to ensuring the physical infrastructure actually works right.

There are about 2,050 public drinking water systems in Colorado that employ over 2,300 water treatment certified operators and 2,500 distribution system certified operators in Colorado. These professionals need ongoing training to maintain their certifications. Additionally, the improvements in drinking water treatment technologies and instrumentation and the increasing complexity of environmental regulations drives an enormous demand for high quality, accessible operator training.

However, our federal funding levels appear to be headed for a reduction to about 2008 levels, meaning we must spend our limited funds wisely and leverage our partnerships. In 2010 we finalized our 2015 public water system training strategy with considerable input from a wide range of stakeholders after our training roundtable meeting in Denver. The 2015 public water system training strategy established a

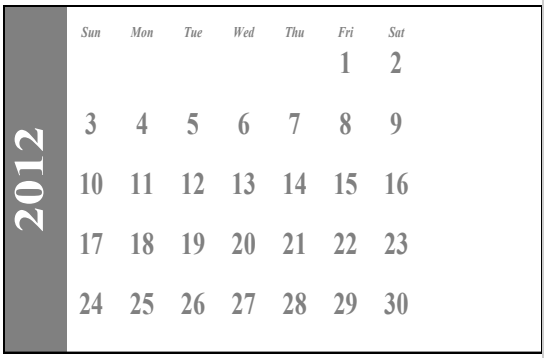
vision for developing an excellent, purposeful training curriculum and providing high quality training opportunities to meet the demand. Now, we are embarking on a collaborative project with the Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association to build an administrative framework to develop the mechanics of how to implement the 2015 public water system training strategy. We view this as an essential priority to make sure that Colorado's citizens and visitors always have safe drinking water.

I hope you get excited about our long-term plans to ensure a sustainable level of high quality drinking water operator training in Colorado. There will be many opportunities to interact and work with us and our partners along the way, and I hope our training programs will help you to do your jobs as best you can for years to come.

Thanks.

New Monitoring Schedules for 2012!

(Continued from page 1)



Another positive addition to the schedules is more detailed information regarding sampling restrictions. For example, community systems that serve greater than 3,300 people are required to collect two samples for synthetic organic chemicals in different quarters of the same calendar when a three-year monitoring frequency is granted. Previously, this requirement was difficult to interpret. Specifically having this information called out in the schedule should help alleviate any confusion.

The schedules also call out restrictions to certain times of the year that samples are required. An example of this is for systems on a three-year lead and copper monitoring frequency: these schedules not only have a seasonal requirement but they also indicate the specific year that the samples are required to be collected. An example of this is shown here:

Lead and Copper	
LEAD AND COPPER Sample Schedule:	*Collection Period:*
30 sample(s) must be collected every 3 Years	June 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012
**Collection Restriction:* Sample(s) must be collected between June 1, 2012 and September 30, 2012*	

The new schedules are intended to provide enhanced tools for staying in compliance with the sometimes complex monitoring and reporting requirements in the regulations. Aside from the schedules, the website listed on page one also houses guidance documents for how to read the schedules, as well as important information about the details the schedules contain. Please feel free to contact us if you have suggestions for improvement, positive feedback or specific questions about your schedule.

Celebrate Drinking Water Week!

Drinking Water Week 2012

May 6-12

For more than 30 years, the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives. Join AWWA in celebrating the essential by celebrating water. To learn more visit American Water Works Association website at: www.awwa.org

Refresher: Total Coliform Rule Sample Site Selection

by Bryan Pilson, Monitoring and Enforcement Unit

The total coliform rule is intended to reduce the risk of illness from disease-causing organisms such as *E. coli,* viruses and *Cryptosporidium*. Total coliform bacteria by itself is mostly harmless, but in drinking water it is used as an indicator organism ensuring that there is not a pathway for microbial contamination. Public water systems are required to collect total coliform samples at sites that are representative of water throughout their distribution system according to a written bacteriological sample plan that is subject to Water Quality Control Division (division) review and revision. The bacteriological sample plan is an important element of a system's monitoring plan. All water systems are required to have an up-to-date monitoring plan, and a copy is required to be submitted to the division. The bacteriological sample plan should include a distribution system schematic showing all of the sample sites along with the system's sources, treatment plants and storage facilities.

Negative for Coliforms and *E.coli* | Positive for Coliforms | Positive for *E. coli*

For water systems serving less than 1,000 people, rotating among three sample sites throughout the year is typically adequate in order to represent the entire distribution system. Microbial contamination can be localized, and periodic sampling throughout the system, no matter how small, helps ensure all customers are receiving drinking water free of waterborne pathogens. All water systems that collect more than one sample per month must collect samples throughout the month, unless you are a groundwater system serving fewer than 4,900 people. At a minimum, this means samples should be collected in at least two different weeks in a month.

Some sample sites do not adequately represent a system's water quality. Entry points to the distribution system and non-distribution facilities are not acceptable total coliform sample sites as they may miss potential microbial contamination from distribution sources such as from an improperly screened storage tank, a cross connection or leaking service line.

Fixed faucet and separate hot and cold handles is the best sam-

When choosing sites, also consider the actual tap you'll be sampling. Outside taps should be avoided since they are more likely to have contamination from windblown debris or animals. Sinks with gooseneck faucets or swivel handles should be avoided because they can harbor bacteria. A sink with a fixed faucet and separate hot and cold handles is the best sample tap. Remember when sampling, always remove the aerator, disinfect the tap, and run the cold water for a few minutes prior to collecting a sample. When you take the time to identify good sample sites throughout your distribution system, you can be confident that the samples taken to the laboratory truly represents the water you're delivering. ♦

Gooseneck faucets should be

2012 Changes and 2013 Proposed Changes Colorado's State Revolving Fund

by Mike Beck, Grants and Loans Unit

A few changes to Colorado's state revolving fund (SRF) program have occurred in 2012, including a realigning of the program funding cycle, initiating a "Notice of Intent" (NOI) to apply for SRF funding and proposed modifications to the existing state revolving fund pre-loan planning and design grant (P&D Grants) effective Jan 1, 2013.

Prior to 2012, the SRF program historically had seven loan application deadlines throughout the year but with the approval of the 2012 intended use plan (IUP) those deadlines have gone to four annual dates to better align the loan capacity and requirements with the loan application deadlines. For 2012 funding requests there will be three application deadlines: June 15, Sept 15, and Dec 15. However, if there is remaining 2011 SRF funding in the program prior to March 15, 2012 the program will accept direct loan applications on March 15. It is important to note the June 15 deadline is the only application deadline in 2012 to be included in the prioritization process for principal forgiveness, which is estimated to be around $4.8 million. June 15 also will be the application deadline for leveraged loan (applications greater than $2 million) applications for potential funding for the fall 2012 bond issue and any direct loan (applications less than $2 million) applications.

As identified in the 2012 IUP, a NOI document will be requested from potential applicants that are expected to apply for SRF funding within the next 12 to 18 months. The information obtained through the NOI will be used to better assist the SRF program for evaluating loan demand versus loan capacity. Over the years, the program has faced challenges with accurately identifying which entities and/or projects are seeking SRF funding within the next 12 to 18 months, which ultimately proves difficult when communicating funding levels and requirements to potential applicants.

For 2013 changes are being proposed in how the $10K planning & design grants are distributed. Currently, they are distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis, however due to the popularity of these grants that process has proved to be very challenging. The Water Quality Control Division is proposing in the 2013 IUP to have an application cycle between Jan 1 to Jan 30, 2013. This provides applicants a better opportunity and equity to the limited number of available grants. It is expected the division will see more applications than available funding, so applications will have to be prioritized based on a set of criteria listed in the 2013 IUP. More importantly, the eligibility requirements are proposed to be revised. The proposal is to reduce the current population requirement from 10,000 to 5,000 with median household income less than 81-percent of the state median household income. In addition, a local match of 20 percent of the grant is being proposed to better promote good utility management. Again these are being proposed in the 2013 IUP that will be subject to an administrative action hearing by the water quality control commission in October 2012.

Compliance Assurance Reminders

New Requirements for Groundwater Systems with Hand-Pumped Wells

by Alison Brinton, Drinking Water Policy and Planning Unit

To reflect the November 2010 revisions to the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations, an updated version of the "Monitoring and Operational Guidance Handbook for Colorado Public Water Systems Utilizing Hand-Pumped Wells Which Do Not Provide Continuous Disinfection" was released in June 2011. Unless operating under a separate set of department approved criteria, all public groundwater systems operating hand-pumped wells that are not continuously disinfected must comply with this guidance. The revised guidance and an associated quick guide are available on the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website (www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/RegulatoryGuidance.html). Please make sure to review the new requirements before opening for the season and to continue to comply throughout the year.

Reminder: Groundwater Entry Point Residual Requirements

by Alison Brinton, Drinking Water Policy and Planning Unit

Beginning in July 2011 the Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations require all groundwater sources operating without a disinfection waiver to be chemically disinfected anytime water is being served to the public. This is reflected in maintaining an entry point (EP) residual of at least 0.2 mg/L as measured weekly. If the EP residual is below 0.2 mg/L, samples must be taken every 24 hours until the residual is restored. If the residual is not restored within 72 hours, a treatment technique (TT) violation has occurred, the water system must notify the department by the end of the next business day. All EP residual disinfectant measurements must be recorded and available for review during a sanitary survey.

Reminder: Stage 2 DBP Starts This Year

by Julie Kreyche, Drinking Water Policy and Planning Unit

It's finally here, the start to stage 2 disinfection byproduct rule (stage 2 DBP) compliance sampling! Beginning in the second quarter of 2012 many systems will be required to comply with stage 2 DBP sampling in place of stage 1 DBP sampling. By the fourth quarter of 2013 all systems required to comply with stage 2 DBP will have moved to stage 2 DBP compliance sampling. If you are required to sample in 2012, your annual monitoring schedule will reflect your stage 2 DBP sampling schedule.

Certified Water and Wastewater Professionals: You've Obtained Your Certification, Now What?

by Lori Moore, CWP and Jackie Whelan, Facility Operator Program

Congratulations! You have taken and passed the certification exam and obtained your Colorado state certification for water treatment and distribution system operators. You are now a certified water professional (CWP). You are charged with protecting the public health and the environment of Colorado, operating and maintaining the water system in a manner that ensures the system's integrity and producing the highest quality drinking water. You are qualified to oversee, administer and take charge of drinking water treatment plants and/or distribution systems whose classifications do not exceed your new operator's certification level.

Every water treatment facility and water distribution system is required to be under the supervision of a certified operator, holding a certificate in a class equal to or higher than the class of the system. System classifications are determined by the complexity of treatment, plant

Aurora Water Plant

design flow (MGD) and population served (distribution). The water system owner designates a certified operator to be the operator in responsible charge.

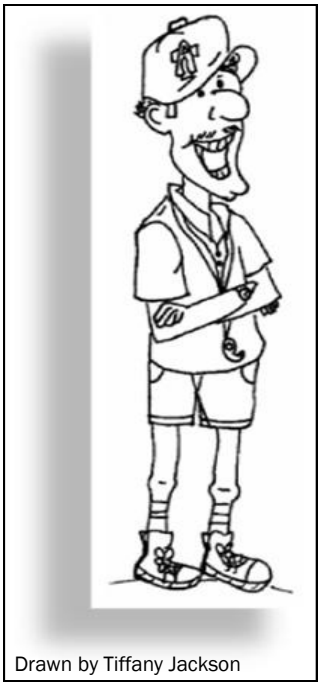
What does that mean to be an operator in responsible charge? Among other things, your responsibilities include operating and maintaining the system in a manner that is compliant with regulatory requirements, such as, monitoring requirements (fluoride, nitrates, chlorine residuals, DBPs, turbidity, radionuclides, etc.), raw and finished water characteristics (pH, hard water, soft water, etc.), system specific monitoring and sample siting plans and a written cross connection control plan. For best management practices, you should have written standard operating procedures (SOPs) and an operation and maintenance (O&M) manual for each system you supervise. Clear communication of expectations and decision making authority from you through SOPs and O&Ms assist you and your staff to always provide safe drinking water.

It is your responsibility to exhibit the highest levels of professionalism and to maintain your professional credentials. Each certification is valid for three years. To maintain your credentials you must seek professional development opportunities through state-approved continuing education courses specific to the water and wastewater industry. You also are required to renew your certification before it expires. Continuing to work as a certified operator with an expired certificate is a misdemeanor offense; if you are the operator in responsible charge it also places your employer in violation of Regulation 100 (5 CCR 1003-2).

Becoming a certified operator is only the beginning of the professional obligations and responsibilities for supervising water systems. ♦

Coach's Corner

by Mike Bacon, Capacity Development Coach



Drawn by Tiffany Jackson

You all know what time of year it is. That is right! It is time for training! Time to beef up your training units (TUs)! The safe drinking water program capacity building unit (CBU) will be providing training to small water systems as early as this spring! The CBU coaches provide on-site assistance to small water systems to troubleshoot and assist operators in improving their water system, address technical questions, help systems understand complex regulatory requirements and provide training to small systems on how to do a self-assessment and prepare for their regular sanitary survey inspections.

The coaching workgroup has developed new training methods. These methods include the "coaching for TUs program." This program aims to increase the overall value of coaching site visits by ensuring consistency and comprehensiveness in guidance and materials provided by the CBU coaches. The coaching for TUs program will rely on a standard procedure for delivering on-site training materials and technical guidance to small water system operators and will incentivize operator participation in the program with the delivery of operator training units (TUs) recognized by the Colorado water and wastewater facility operator's certification board. The coaching for TUs program will enhance the quantity and quality of safe drinking water training opportunities, and will help ensure the continued success of our coaching program. Elements of a sanitary survey will be one of the trainings available. Interested operators should look for more information coming soon!

Another series of trainings available will be the technical, managerial and financial (TMF) capacity building training series. This training is free, and is focused for all small groundwater systems with populations less than 3,300. Training courses will include:

- Operator and maintenance manual (0.6 TUs)
- Monitoring plans (0.6 TUs); and,
- Building better planning and communication strategies (0.6 TUs).

Pre-registration is required for these free workshops.

To learn more about these and other training opportunities from the capacity building unit, please visit our web site at: www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/TrainingEvents.html

The operator certification program office (OCPO) also has a searchable database of state approved courses that apply toward certification. Visit www.ocpoweb.com to learn more.

See you at training!

Safety Hint:

If you do not have your own personal protective equipment (PPE), then I would encourage you to protect yourself even if you have to buy it. I am referring to: gloves, respirator, goggles, safety glasses, steel-toed boots, and yes, a hard hat! Be safe out there!

Coming Down the Pipe...

News Alerts for the Drinking Water Community

Regulation 100 Revisions

by Jackie Whelan, Facility Operator Program

At its Feb 14 rulemaking hearing, the water and wastewater facility operator certification board (board) gave preliminary approval to the proposed changes to regulation 100, water and wastewater facility operators certification requirements, 5 CCR 1003-2 (regulations). Final approval is anticipated at the board's April 24 regularly scheduled meeting. The addition of sections 100.16.3 (g), (h), section 100.16.4, and modifications to section 100.18.2 in the proposed changes were not adopted and will be addressed in a later rulemaking proposal.

Generally, the changes added clarifications where appropriate, deleted obsolete language, corrected referenced citations and made grammatical corrections. Where possible, the changes reorganize and combine like requirements into unified sections, i.e., section 100.9.9 describing the special rules for satisfying the minimum experience requirements for class D, class 1, class S and class T certifications. Because the minimum experience requirement is the same for these classes, sections 100.9.9(a), 100.9.9(b), and 100.9.6 have been combined into 100.9.9. Many provisions in the board's policies also were added.

Other changes include the addition of a $50 late fee for certificates renewed after the expiration date or applications submitted 61 or more days after the date of the letter notifying the applicant of eligibility to receive initial certification and the definition of a timely appeal to the board as submitting the request for hearing within 30 days of notice of a decision by the board's designee or the Water Quality Control Division.

Operator Certification Reimbursement Grant Closing

by Jacki Main, Capacity Building Unit

Reimbursement of $230 for new and renewal operator certifications is available until May 31.

Make the most of this reimbursement opportunity. Enroll in a certification exam preparation class. Schedule your exam on-line or in-person.

To qualify for reimbursement:

- Application must be received by CDPHE within six months of date on operator certificate.
- Operator must work for a community or non-transient non-community water system serving fewer than 3,300 persons.
- Grant applies to water treatment and water distribution certifications only - NOT wastewater.

Reimbursement application must be RECEIVED by May 31. No reimbursement requests received after that date will be accepted.

Additional information and application form available at: www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb

Ask Aqua Man

Dear Aqua Man,

I need training units to renew my water and wastewater certifications. I want to make sure to renew on time. Are there websites that will provide information on training courses that are water and wastewater facility operator certification board approved for training units? I know that only training units from approved courses may be used toward Colorado's operator certification renewals.

Thank you for your help,

Amanda Reckonwithe, CWP

Dear Ms. Reckonwithe,

Excellent question; for training unit information, the following websites are helpful in locating training in Colorado. The training listings should be pre-approved by the water and wastewater facility operator certification board (board), a key consideration when choosing which training is best for you. It is your responsibility to ensure the training you choose for certification renewal has been approved by the board. However, if you take a training that isn't board approved, you may go to www.ocpoweb.com and follow the directions on how to get approval for the course you've taken. Please contact the operator certification program office (OCPO) at 303-394-8994 for guidance on how to have a training approved. There are fees and necessary paperwork associated with the approval process.

- Colorado Rural Water Association, www.crwa.org
- Indigo Water Group, www.indigowatergroup.com
- Operator Certification Program Office, www.ocpoweb.com
- Pikes Peak Community College, www.ppcc.edu
- Red Rocks Community College, www.rrcc.edu
- Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association, www.rmsawwa.net
- Rocky Mountain Water Environmental Association, www.rmwea.org
- Rocky Mountain Water and Wastewater Plant Operator Short School, www.waterwastewater.org

The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division's "Colorado Listserve" provides training information through email notifications. It's an easy way to receive notifications from many training entities regarding relevant water and wastewater training. In order to sign up, please go to co-h2o-info@listserve.com, follow the prompts and you will begin to receive training notifications by email.

Of course there are many other sites and training offerings, those listed above are just some that will help with renewal training units.

It's so important to reiterate that **ALL** renewal paperwork must be submitted complete and on time. Make sure to send copies of your training certificates; DO NOT send originals and make sure to sign the affidavit for proof of citizenship and provide a notarized copy of your identification. Neither OCPO nor the division keep track of the training that you take, so it's your responsibility to document and verify your training. How you track your training is up to you, but you must have copies of all your course completion certificates. It's a good idea to have a list of the course name, date and location of class, the instructor's name and the sponsoring organization or company in case you misplace a certificate and need to contact them for course verification. And as always, be sure to send your applications to the address provided on the application: Operator Certification Program Office, 2170 South Parker Road, Suite # 290, Denver,

(Continued on page 11)

What Do You See?

by Paul Kim, Engineering Section

Chemicals and materials in contact with the water must be ANSI-NSF Standard 60 or 61 certified, respectively. Liquid chemicals must be stored in appropriate containers that are chemically compatible. State of Colorado Design Criteria for Potable Water Systems (DCPWS), Sections 1.2.11

At the time of the inspection, the chlorine solution tank did not appear to be in compliance with ANSI-NSF Standard 61 or chemically compatible for materials that come into contact with potable water. The "Brute" trash can used to store sodium hypochlorite has not been properly tested and may potentially leach chemical compounds into the drinking water supply. The Colorado Design Criteria for Potable Water Systems Part 1.2.11 requires that any materials that come into contact with the water be certified under ANSI Standard 61 or chemically compatible. The system is expected to discontinue the use of the trash can and utilize a container that is compatible with sodium hypochlorite. The system is also expected to demonstrate chemical compatibility by providing the Water Quality Control Division evidence upon request. This evidence can be a statement from the manufacturer documenting that the material is compatible with sodium hypochlorite. Alternatively, the system can provide evidence that the solution tank is constructed of appropriate material as documented in the Chlorine Institute's Pamphlet 96. For example, the Chlorine Institute identifies high density polyethylene (HDPE) tanks as being compatible with sodium hypochlorite. For more information, the system may access the pamphlet from the Chlorine Institute's web site at: www.chlorineinstitute.org.

(Continued from page 10)

Colorado, 80231.

Thank you again for this important question and good luck with your renewals!

Sincerely,

Aqua Man

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.

Facility Operator Program News

By Lori, Moore, CWP, Facility Operator Program

Exam Information

GREAT NEWS REGARDING CERTIFICATION EXAM CYCLES! Examinations for certifications, all levels and all types, are now offered during three test cycles per year; deadlines for applications for the next three cycles are March 1, July 1 and Nov 1. Schedules of dates and test locations, and applications for the upcoming test schedules are on the operator certification program office (OCPO) website (www.ocpoweb.com) as well as renewal and reciprocity applications. If you have questions, please call the helpful, knowledgeable OCPO staff at 303-394-8994 for your application and associated certification-related questions, including the computerized testing option and to request changes for a previously approved test date. Application deadlines must be met; late applications cannot be accepted!

Water and Wastewater Facility Operator Certification Board (Board) News

The board meetings are an opportunity to learn about and participate in the processes and decision making that define and affect certified operators and regulated facilities.

As a certified operator, you may appeal to the board any final decision for exam, renewal and/or reciprocity application denials if you feel the decision did not adequately take into consideration your education and experience. You also may present to the board your suggestions, ideas and concerns that affect your day-to-day duties and responsibilities. Your input is a critical part of the process that effects the future of water and wastewater certified operator professionals and facility owners and permittees.

The board invites contributions from the many stakeholders with vested interests in the water and wastewater management industry; such as certified operators, system owners and managers, community constituents, governmental agencies, testing agencies, occupational volunteers, partnering administrative contractors, division programs and units and others. The board gains important insights from vested stakeholders who support the objectives of the facility operator certification program.

If you would like to provide comments to the board, contact Nancy Horan at 303-692-3463. Agendas are posted at www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb/Meetings/Meetings.html. For all other inquiries visit www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb/index.html (the water and wastewater facility operators certification board website).

EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT GRANT, ENDING MAY

For several years there has been federal grant money offered for reimbursement of exam or renewal application costs to eligible systems or operators. The grant money is available to small non-transient non-community (NTNC) and community (C) public water systems serving fewer than 3,300 people. Certification costs may be reimbursed for any level of water treatment or distribution certification. Unfortunately, the grant does not apply to transient non-community (TNC) public water systems or TNC certifications, any public water system serving more than 3,300 people or any wastewater facility or operator certifications.

Your application must be received no later than May 31, to be eligible for reimbursement.

If you have any questions about the expense reimbursement grant application, please contact Jacki Main with WQCD's capacity building unit, at 303-692-3665. To expedite your application, download the application at www.cdphe.state.co.us/op/ocb/OpAssist/OpAssist.html and be sure to include a W-9 for the party seeking reimbursement.

Savings Through Wage Reimbursement for Eligible New Hires

by Melanie Fahrenbruch, Get Into Water! Project Manager

Utilities hosting on-the-job training (OJT's) opportunities can access serious bottom line savings through wage reimbursement for eligible new hires. The Get Into Water! Project, sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Section American Water Works Association and the Rocky Mountain Water Environment Association, is offering an opportunity for employers to hire graduates of our water quality management and water utility science programs. The training programs provide students with a broad knowledge of water and wastewater systems and specific curriculum to prepare them for level I (distribution/collection) and/or class D (water/wastewater treatment) certification exams.

Utilities can hire students and receive assistance with partial wage reimbursement. Job seekers benefit from the opportunity to gain valuable work experience, increased skills and employment.

Workforce centers in Arapahoe, Boulder, Denver and Douglas Counties are providing resources to match students and employers, provide free specialized recruitment and placement of qualified candidates to organizations. Employers statewide are eligible to participate. For additional information, please visit: www.getintowaterco.org/student-resumes

Contact: Melanie Fahrenbruch, 303-912-3358 or mel@mjconsult.com

Getting Started with Knowledge Management for Water and Waste Water Utilities Workshop

Join us for this opportunity to assess your organization's approach to knowledge management, learn common practices in other organizations and identify new knowledge management activities that are easy to implement.

When: Tuesday, April 17
from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Where: Denver Water
1600 West 12th Avenue
Denver, CO 80204

Cost: $75 including lunch

To Register: www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?EventID=1060882

The Get Into Water! Mission:

The Front Range water and wastewater industry will sufficiently recruit, train and retain personnel to ensure mission-critical positions are filled with qualified, trained & technically skilled employees. This project will address Outreach & Recruitment; Training; Knowledge Retention; and Human Resource and Operations Staff Collaboration.

Water Treatment Plant Waste Regulatory Changes

By Paul Kim, Engineering Section

The hazardous materials and waste management division (HMWMD) has recently completed an extensive stakeholder process to revise the HMWMD section 9 (waste impoundment) regulations concerning waste impoundments, which includes water treatment plant backwash ponds. The revised section 9 regulations were adopted at the Feb 21 meeting of the solid and hazardous waste commission. The Water Quality Control Division (WQCD) has assisted HWMMD to ensure industrial facilities, such as water treatment facilities that produce waste by-products, commonly referred to as sludge, backwash or brine have waste impoundments that will be appropriately classified to prevent adverse impacts to the environment. Water treatment facilities and operators should be aware of the new regulatory requirements and future information inquiries from HWMMD.

Commonly, the waste stream from water treatment processes is collected within an impoundment for storage, treatment, evaporation or discharged. HMWWD defines waste impoundments as a facility or part of a facility that is a natural topographic depression, excavation, pit, pond, lagoon, trench or diked area. An impoundment, which may be lined with earthen material or synthetic material, is designed for storage, treatment or final disposal of solid waste. The section 9 regulations require water treatment systems managing waste byproducts (e.g., from iron filtration, ion-exchange, reverse osmosis) in impoundments to have the impoundments evaluated. The evaluation process allows HMWMD to classify the waste impoundments depending on design details of the impoundment, chemical characteristics of the waste stream and operational practices to determine the appropriate design and permitting requirements for the impoundment. Water treatment facilities and operators also should be aware of section 9 exemptions, such as impoundments that contain backwash water that is recycled for further treatment. Regulatory requirements will vary based on the purpose of the impoundment, design and classification. To better understand the industrial impoundment regulations, please contact Roger Doak with the HMWMD at 303-692-3437.

In addition, some water treatment plants include processes that can create waste streams with technologically enhanced naturally occurring radioactive materials (TENORM). As water is treated to remove impurities, radionuclide materials may collect and eventually build up in filters, which may be concentrated in the sludge during backwash cycles. For example, iron filtration units remove precipitated iron, and radionuclide materials (if present), from drinking water prior to distribution. The water system or its operators may need licensure through the radiation program of the HMWMD to ensure treatment and waste handling is conducted in accordance with the pertinent regulations. Please contact Jennifer Opila with the HMWMD at 303-692-3403 with any questions pertaining to disposal of TENORM residuals.

The Water Quality Control Division (WQCD), permits section remains the sole regulatory authority over discharges to surface water. If a waste impoundment has a discharge or potential discharge to surface water or an unlined impoundment is hydraulically connected with an adjacent creek/stream, a discharge permit is needed from the permits section of the WQCD. ♦

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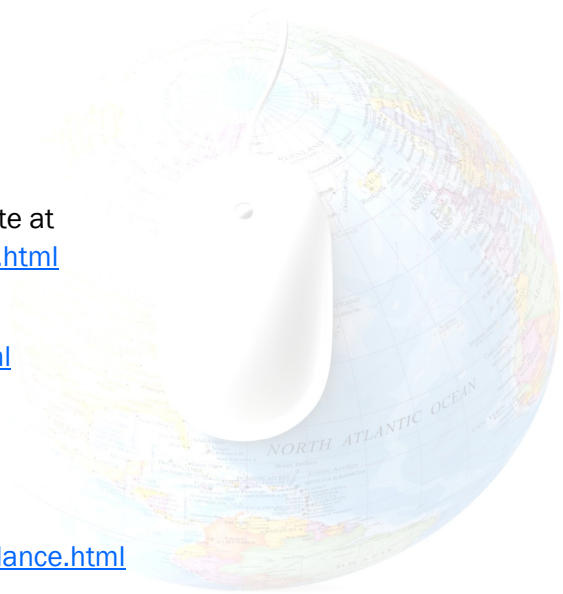

Colorado Safe Drinking Water Program
Aqua Talk

Aqua Talk Newsletter Information

The following people contribute to the production of each issue of Aqua Talk: Ron Falco, Jacki Main, Tyson Ingels, Paul Kim, Lori Moore, Jackie Whelan, Julie Kreyche, Lisa Pine, Dan Simpson, Melissa McClain, Jennifer Miller, Bryan Pilson 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 www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/drinkingwater/QuickLinks.html.

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Safe Drinking Water Program
Water Quality Control Division
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South
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