Aqua Talk

A newsletter from the Safe Drinking Water Program

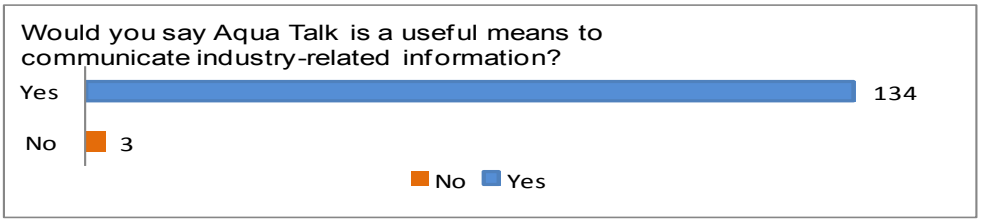
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

The Results Are In!

Volume 7, Issue 2
Spring 2013

by Jacki Main, Safe Drinking Water Program

According to the 142 readers responding to the survey presented in the fall 2012 issue, *Aqua Talk* continues to meet its primary objectives of communicating water related issues and providing interesting, informative articles. When asked if *Aqua Talk* is a useful means to communicate industry-related information, 94.3 percent responded 'yes' with 70 percent reading something of interest in each issue. Ninety-five percent of readers either read the entire issue or skim for articles of interest.



Aqua Talk debuted winter 2006 with a four-page publication announcing: "We are excited to be able to bring you a new way to stay up to date on division drinking water related issues. We hope you find our newsletter both fun and informative." A second issue followed summer 2007 promising to publish quarterly due to the positive feedback the initial newsletter received. As promised, *Aqua Talk* began its quarterly publication schedule in 2008. Entering its seventh year, it is time to pause and ask our readers what, if any, changes should be made. Overall, readers enjoy the regular features. Based on feedback, a few tweaks are forthcoming, stay tuned!

When asked if readers could add something, suggestions included highlighting small water system and operators, compliance and regulatory issues, Colorado water facts and training opportunities. The editorial team will work to include many of these suggestions in future issues. An in-depth resource for drinking water related topics is the water quality control division website www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd.

When asked if readers could delete something, the majority said they would not delete anything. Some suggested specific regular features be

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Our Relationship with EPA

by Ron Falco, Safe Drinking Water Program Manager

The safe drinking water program maintains a strong relationship with EPA in our effort to implement the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in Colorado, via the specific implementation of Colorado's statutes and regulations. Why have a relationship with EPA at all? There are several reasons, not the least of which is financial. First of all, EPA oversees our efforts and ensures we not only have authority to enforce standards at least as stringent as the SDWA, but that we actually are doing so. In this oversight role, EPA reviews the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations* after each rulemaking hearing before the Water Quality Control

Commission. EPA checks to make sure that our regulations are at least as stringent as the federal requirements, and that we also have the statutory and regulatory authority to enforce them. Based on these regulatory reviews and governing statutes EPA grants primacy to the state of Colorado to implement the SDWA.

With primacy, comes money to help run the program and provide assistance to public water systems. Federal support comes in two major grants. First, there is the performance partnership grant (PPG). This aptly named grant establishes and provides about $1.5M in funding to the state.

As you might expect, there are strings attached. Each year we enter into a performance partnership agreement (PPA) with EPA which defines the activities Colorado must undertake to implement the SDWA and continue receiving this financial support. The PPA typically specifies that we complete the following activities:

- Adopt new federal regulations in a timely fashion
- Maintain an inventory of regulated public water systems
- Systematically review the status of groundwater sources to make sure they are not under the direct influence of surface water
- Require public water systems to complete water quality monitoring
- Determine compliance with sampling requirements and water quality standards
- Report violations to EPA
- Conduct sanitary surveys at least as frequently as specified in the SDWA
- Take enforcement action when necessary to secure compliance

As you can tell, the effort to do all these things is considerable. I believe the words "performance partnership" describes our relationship with EPA very well. We do consider EPA to be our partner. EPA provides substantial funding to our program. Our partnership also is based on each party meeting its performance responsibilities. EPA provides considerable database support to most states including Colorado. EPA Region 8, which is headquartered in Denver, keeps us informed about what is going on nationally and has helped resolve some thorny regulatory issues with specific water systems from time to time. In an emergency, EPA also could help secure federal resources to assist with response efforts.

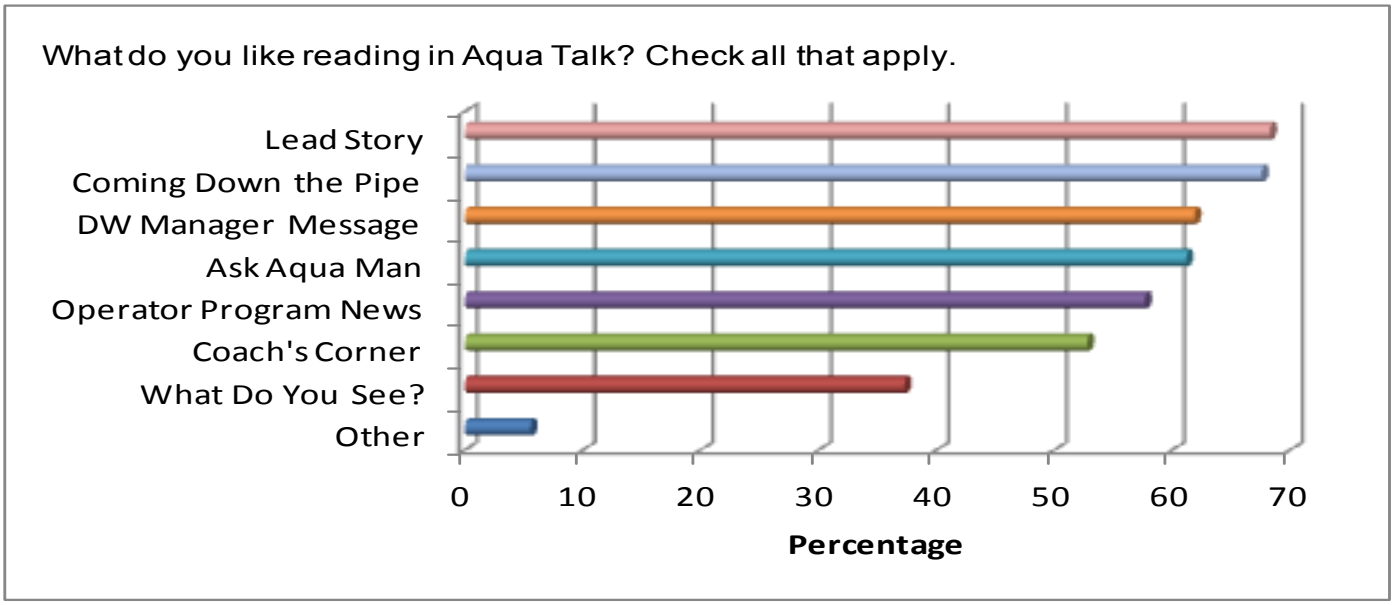
In addition to the PPG, EPA also provides Colorado with annual drinking water state revolving fund (DWSRF) capitalization grants. This grant, and the revolving loan fund, provide financial assistance

(Continued on page 5)

Readership Survey Results

(Continued from page 1)

removed, such as “What Do You See?”, make articles shorter and refrain from opinions and non-factual information. As the editorial team strives to keep readers informed of potential changes which could impact public water systems and operators, we will be implementing changes.



The majority of *Aqua Talk* readers are water treatment and distribution operators, supervisors and management staff of public water systems. Other readers include contract operators, small business owners, water haulers and employees of engineering consulting firms and county health departments.

	water system operator	water system mgmt	municipal mgmt	consultant	other
public water system	36	42	10	0	10
consulting firm	0	0	0	4	0
co health dept	0	1	3	0	6
contract operator	2	1	0	0	1
other	8	4	2	0	5

Two-thirds of readers prefer to receive an electronic version. The remainder is content with a printed and mailed newsletter. If you are currently receiving *Aqua Talk* in print and would prefer an electronic version, please contact Jacki Main at 303-692-3665 or send an email to jacklyn.main@state.co.us. Readers are welcome to contact Jacki with comments or suggestions for future issues.

Thank you for your comments and suggestions to assist the safe drinking water program in improving *Aqua Talk*! ♦

It Only Takes Two

by David Dani, Capacity Building Unit

Part I of IV part series

You wake up to find yourself still feeling ill and not wanting to get out of bed. This marks the third day of having explosive diarrhea that shows no signs of slowing down. As if you thought it couldn't get any worse, sharp pains in your side remind you that your cramping hasn't subsided.

The thought of spending another day vomiting in the bathroom is enough to finally convince you to give in to your greatest fear and see a doctor. While waiting in the doctor's office, thinking about whether you might have undercooked the chicken from last week or shouldn't have eaten at that sketchy restaurant, the front page of a local newspaper catches your eye. You pick it up and read an article commemorating the 200th birthday of John Snow, a medical detective famous for tracing the source of a deadly cholera outbreak in 1850s London that killed more than 500 people. That source: a water pump. What amazes you about his story is that he essentially ended the outbreak by simply removing the pump handle.

John Snow memorial on Broadwick Street

But, back to you. Two days pass before you receive a call from your doctor informing you the results of your stool sample tested positive for *Giardia*. That evening while watching the five o'clock news, you learn you are not alone … *"Lab results reported to local health officials confirm multiple cases of* Giardiasis *in a Colorado town. Further investigation has linked this recent outbreak to the town's water supply."* ♦

Facts about waterborne disease outbreaks:

- It only takes two people getting sick from their drinking water to create a waterborne disease outbreak.
- Outbreaks are very hard to detect since most people who are infected don't go to the doctor. According to a study done by the Center for Disease Control in 2011, there are 29 unreported *Salmonella* cases for every reported case and 99 unreported for every *Cryptosporidium* case.

For more waterborne disease outbreak information please visit the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website and search for "public health threats."

Thoughts on National Drinking Water Week

by Chet Pauls , Safe Drinking Water Program

Spring is the time for national drinking water week – this year to be celebrated May 5-11. It provides an opportunity to celebrate the many gallons of safe drinking water provided to citizens and visitors. The continuing professional education and recertification of staff who skillfully design, install and control treatment processes and repair or replace worn system components under demanding conditions; and the many measurements and samples successfully collected, analyzed and reported that document this success.

National drinking water week and its theme: "What do you know about H20?" is designed to encourage consumers to learn more about the value of safe drinking water and the complex issues surrounding its provision at an affordable price. Drinking water systems know a whole lot about these topics and are in a unique position to share this information with their consumers and citizens in a variety of formats: printed bill stuffers, treatment facility tours, local library exhibits and press

releases just to name a few.

Drinking water systems face multiple significant emerging challenges, including increased demand for safer water, drought-stressed water sources, constrained budgets, aging infrastructure and a workforce moving towards retirement. The outreach efforts listed above provide water professionals valuable opportunities to share their unique knowledge so community members are more capable of participating in efforts to develop solutions to these challenges. Simultaneously, these educational efforts provide an opportunity for system decision-makers to learn from the wisdom of the community so that their existing internal knowledge is augmented and their ability to conceive of solutions expanded.

All public water systems are encouraged to celebrate national drinking water week May 5-11, and to leverage the week to celebrate their successes, share valuable information with their consumers and to use this occasion to expand mutually beneficial communication pathways with citizens and consumers. ♦

EPA Relationship

(Continued from page 2)

to public water systems to support infrastructure projects. The safe drinking water program also takes set asides from the capitalization grants to help run the program and assist public water systems. This funding provided to all 50 states for both clean water and drinking water programs actually constitutes a substantial percentage of EPA's total budget.

Our personal working relationships with EPA staff in Region 8 always have been solid. However, in early 1990s, partly due to a lack of resources within the program, EPA began the process of removing primacy from the state of Colorado. That problem was eventually solved, and today we have a very strong relationship with EPA on all fronts. We consider EPA to be a crucial funding and performance partner for our program. EPA plays an important role in ensuring that people across the nation and in Colorado have safe drinking water.

Thanks.

Simple Fixes

by Cameron Wilkins, P.E., Field Services

Springtime in Colorado, a great time to discuss water system wells. A large number of water systems in Colorado have a groundwater well somewhere within their system. Most groundwater wells consist of chlorination-only as treatment, which puts a large burden on the well itself as a barrier to prevent contamination to the potable water system.

The integrity of the well is important in preventing contamination; routine inspections should be conducted. In addition, water quality control division staff will visit your wells during a sanitary survey. As part of routine well inspections, each groundwater well should be inspected for common sources of potential contamination.

Improperly screened vent

Issues typically observed by division staff that have a potential for introducing contaminants to the water, include broken sanitary seals, not having a sanitary seal, vents improperly screened, broken electrical conduits and grading around the well itself. Section 2.1 of the *Design Criteria for Potable Water System* outlines the division's stance on minimum protection for ground water wells. One of the biggest concerns is to keep your system's groundwater free of surface water contamination. Please venture out, locate your wells, inspect them on a regular basis and correct any issues which could allow for possible contamination of the water you work so hard to keep clean. ♦

Visual inspection of a well

To all readers:

Have some time saving helpful hints or tips to share with fellow operators? Can Aqua Man answer your question? Is there a topic you would like discussed? Contact Jacki Main by

- email: jacklyn.main@state.co.us
- phone: 303-692-3665
- fax: 303-782-0390
- mail: WQCD, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80247

State Revolving Fund Agencies Participate in 'Lean' Process

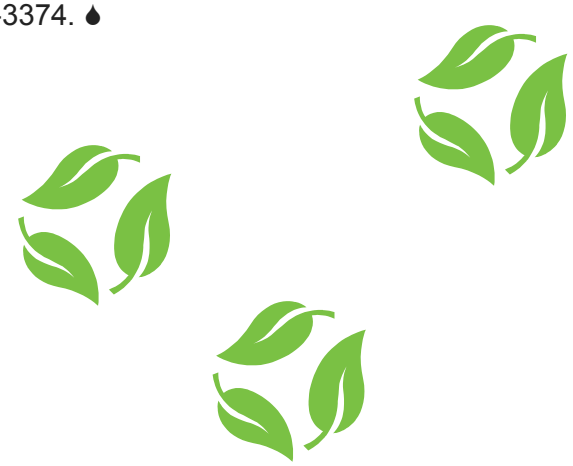
by Michael Beck, Grants and Loans Unit

In December 2012 the Water Quality Control Division in conjunction with the Colorado Water Resources and Power Development Authority (CWRPDA) and Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), conducted a Lean process improvement event for the state revolving fund (SRF) programs. Lean is a process improvement methodology that reduces waste, improves workflow and focuses on how the customer perceives value.

The Lean process helped recognize areas of inefficiency and identified value to each step in the process in order to reduce, or in some cases, eliminate low-value wasteful activities. In addition, as part of this process it was important to maintain efficiency for the borrower and to maintain program transparency. Through a detailed process-mapping of current processes, the group identified work flows, critical tasks, hand-offs, obstacles to the loan approval process and areas of redundancy.

The Lean process allowed for a clear picture of where value was added, not added, or regulatory requirements in each process in order to understand what could be reduced or eliminated. Further, the analysis allowed the group to take an in-depth look at the eligibility survey, loan application process, applicant eligibility evaluation, readiness to proceed indicators, establishment of firm commitment dates and performance deadlines that would create a more self-service oriented platform for the borrower. This also will provide a balanced approached for more timely project completion , allowing approvals to be more parallel and rapid expenditures of SRFs funds.

This Lean event resulted in an intended future state for the SRF programs that reduces major handoffs and approvals by about 50 percent and transfers more preliminary project planning activities to the front of the process. Other streamlined approaches may include changing the current procedures for the annual intended use plan eligibility list, reducing unrelated planning activities and adding self-certification for certain types of projects. Implementation of all the process improvements will take the program approximately a year, however the net benefit to the borrowing agencies of the program should be less "red tape" with a more efficient and effective process. If you are interested in learning more about this particular Lean event, please contact Michael Beck at michael.s.beck@state.co.us or by phone at (303)-692-3374. ♦



Capacity Building Unit Renamed

The Capacity Building Unit is being renamed as the Local Assistance Unit. This name provides a more intuitive sense of the purpose, services and responsibilities of the unit.

As of April 1 the scope of the Local Assistance Unit's services will also include the vital source water protection component provided by source water assessment and protection (SWAP). This will position the SWAP program to better utilize resources and enhance operator training and public drinking water system assistance.

The Local Assistance Unit's purpose is to provide training, technical assistance and management support services to public water systems to strengthen its ability to supply safe drinking water to the public. ♦

Drinking Water Quiz

by Serenity Valdez, Compliance Assurance Unit

Are you the drinking water guru at your facility? Test your knowledge with our new interactive feature! Each issue of *Aqua Talk* now includes a quiz you can take to demonstrate you are the guru. For this issue, the topic is general drinking water questions. You may go online to Form Site to record your answers. Answers to all of the questions will be provided in the next issue of *Aqua Talk*. Enjoy!

1. You download a copy of your monitoring schedule from www.wqcdcompliance.com/schedules. Upon review, you notice there is no requirement for nitrate monitoring. What do you do?
   A. Ignore it because if it isn't on your schedule you don't have to do it.
   B. Call the division and ask if you should do it?
   C. Collect a sample anyway, submit the results to the division and call the division to report the error.

2. You just received a letter with the subject: "Compliance Advisory – Monitoring and Reporting Requirements." The letter states the division did not receive a sample result, but you have the sample results in front of you. What do you do?
   A. Call the lab and order new sample bottles. Collect and analyze another set.
   B. Ignore it because you told the lab to send the results and the lab will send it eventually.
   C. Fax, email or mail the results immediately to the division.

3. You just started your shift at a surface water filtration plant and you notice the data system is showing the entry point residual at 0.12 mg/L. What do you do?
   A. Add disinfectant and watch the data to see if the disinfectant residual increases.
   B. Verify that chlorine residual is low using a chlorine test kit. If necessary, investigate the treatment/ data system to determine the cause, make repairs/changes as needed, call the division to report a low residual.
   C. Issue a tier 1 public notice to all consumers instructing them to boil their water.

4. You receive fully treated water from a groundwater wholesaler. The wholesaler is not "4-log certified." You collect a total coliform sample from your distribution system and the result is total coliform positive. Who does the groundwater rule apply to?
   A. Your water system is subject to the groundwater rule.
   B. Both the wholesale water system and the consecutive system are subject to the groundwater rule.
   C. Neither because the groundwater rule only applies if you are "4-log certified."

Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations Stakeholder Meetings

by Julie Kreyche, Policy and Planning Unit

The increased readability rulemaking hearing is scheduled for Nov 4 to adopt revisions intended to simplify language and clarify requirements of the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations (*CPDWR).

The Water Quality Control Division intends to maintain the current article structure of the CPDWR which is organized by drinking water rule. However, within each article, the CPDWR will be reorganized in a logical manner providing requirements in the order in which they are relevant. This new structure will be consistent throughout the CPDWR so readers can easily navigate the requirements.

These revisions to the CPDWR are not substantive in nature and will not change any current implementation practices or requirements. These readability revisions will make the CPDWR easier to comply with and to understand.

The division began its efforts on these revisions during the summer of 2012. Subsequently, five stakeholder meetings were held throughout the state to discuss the concepts of the rulemaking. The proposed revisions were supported by the stakeholder community. A group of volunteers, made up of representatives from various water systems and other interested parties, then participated in a series of stakeholder advisory group meetings which gave them the opportunity to provide more specific input on the draft language.

Two statewide stakeholder meetings are scheduled for May 7 in Denver and May 9 in Grand Junction to review and comment on the final proposal of the revisions. All interested stakeholders are welcome to attend and provide input on the final draft of the proposed revisions. For those unable to attend in person, webinar and conference calling services will be available. For more information about this rulemaking and the stakeholder meetings please visit our webpage.

Safety Tip:

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is important to wear, mainly for your protection. You only have two eyes...so wear PPE to protect them when working around chemical or mechanical equipment. Wear your respirator when working with carcinogenic chemicals to protect your respiratory system.

But most important, remember the ABC's of safety...**A**lways **B**e **C**areful!

Spotlighting the City of Fort Morgan

by Mike Bacon, Capacity Building Coach

This is a good thing!! From time to time, in my coaching visits and training, I have the opportunity to see a number of great water treatment facilities. When I was at a water operator training at this facility, I was impressed with their water quality, teamwork and cleanliness of the water plant. I congratulate the City of Fort Morgan's water treatment facility for the great effort in providing the public with the best water possible, not only from the treatment plant, but through the distribution system as well.

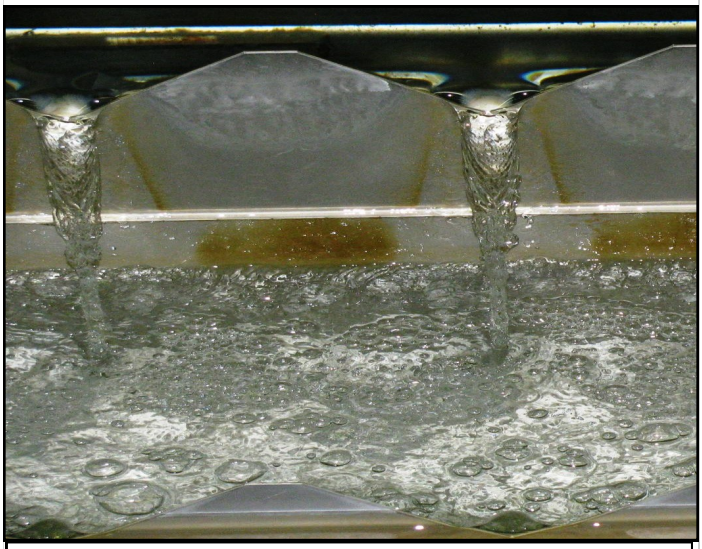
A bird's eye view of Fort Morgan's water treatment

The Fort Morgan water treatment plant has been in operation since December 1999. The facility is a 10 million gallon a day (MGD) conventional surface water treatment facility, which includes rapid mix, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration. The chemicals used in these processes are: aluminum sulfate, PACL polymer blend, cationic floc aid, chlorine, sodium fluorosilicate and soda ash.

Laboratory of Fort Morgan's water treatment plant.

The source water to the facility comes from Carter Lake via a pipeline. The water plant also operates an on-site 30 million gallon raw water reservoir primarily for an emergency supply when the pipeline is out of service. In the summer, the plant produces an average of 6.5 MGD, and in the winter, the plant produces about 4.0 MGD. Fort Morgan operates two 3.5 million gallon finished water storage tanks. The water plant serves a population of approximately 11,500 residents.

Thanks City of Fort Morgan water plant for doing a great job!!



Pristine!

If you know of a water facility that should be spotlighted because they have demonstrated high quality water, stellar performance or made other improvements, call 303-692-2605 or email michael.bacon@state.co.us. ♦

Coach's Corner

Drawn by Tiffany Jackson

Proper Backflow Prevention

by Jorge Delgado, P.E., Field Services Section

Protecting the potable water system from contamination after the drinking water has been treated and delivered is an integral part of keeping the public safe. Backflow events that endanger the public do occur. In 2012 there were two known incidents in the state where cross connections were created and public health was affected.

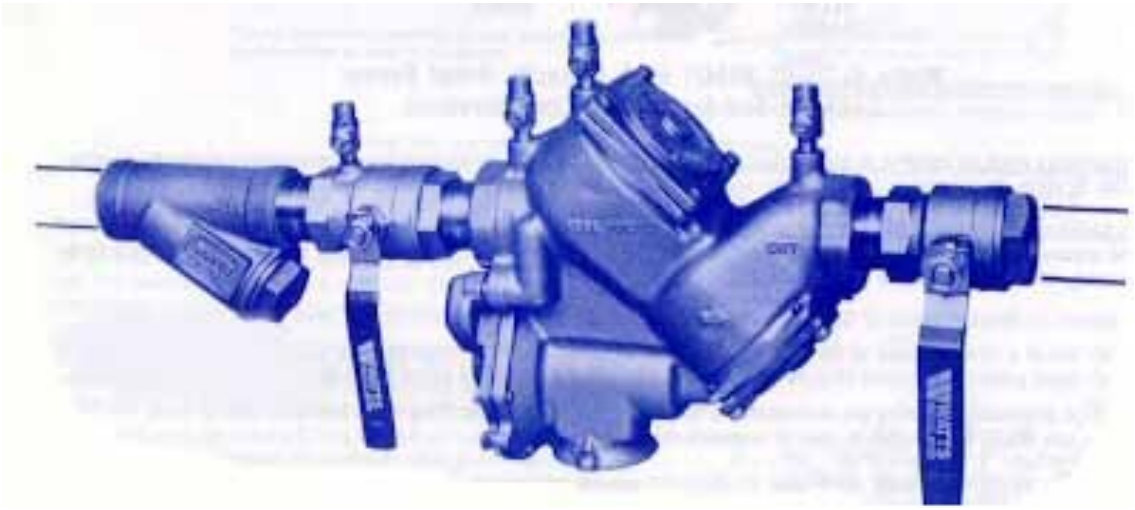
Public water systems (PWS) are required to provide cross-connection control within their own treatment plant and protect their distribution system in accordance with Article 12 of the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations*. Commercial and residential facilities are required to protect the potable water supply in accordance with the local jurisdictional plumbing code. If there is not a local code the *Colorado Plumbing Code* applies.

It is important that newly constructed and renovated buildings are built in accordance with the local plumbing code. The code is intended to protect the internal potable water system and its occupants from contamination that can be introduced via restrooms, kitchens, boilers, irrigations, HVAC systems and the like. It is equally important for PWS to protect their distribution system from contamination that can be introduced via car washes, auxiliary water sources, fire suppression systems, irrigation and many other hazards. PWS need to perform cross connection identification surveys to identify potential cross connections within their distribution system.

The Water Quality Control Division expects cross connections to be controlled with:

- air gaps
- reduced pressure zone assemblies (RPZ)
- pressure vacuum breakers (where device shall not be subject to back pressure)
- double check valve assemblies (in instances where there is not adequate drainage for a RPZ or it is subject to flooding or where retro fits create an unreasonable burden) or
- where the device is installed in accordance with the local jurisdictional plumbing code.

When determining which type of device to install, PWSs should use industry standards outlined in various cross-connection control manuals. When a testable device is chosen by a PWS for protection of the water system; the division requires the device be tested annually by a certified cross connection control technician. PWS should contact the WQCD field services section at 303-692-3596 with questions regarding backflow prevention and cross-connection control.



Ask Aqua Man

Dear Aqua Man,

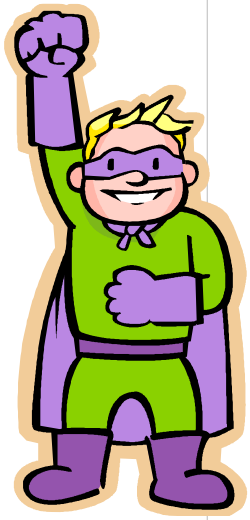
I am a water hauler and my truck holds 4,500 gallons. I need to know how much 5.25 percent bleach to add to dose my truck an additional two ppm (mg/L) of free chlorine. Can you help?

Sincerely,

Pemdas Sohcahtoa

Dear Mr. Sohcahtoa,

Great math question! Here is the equation you use: $V_1 \times C_1 = V_2 \times C_2$



Where:

V_1 = 4500 gallons

C_1 = 2 ppm (mg/L)

C_2 = 5.25% or 52,500 ppm (mg/L), and

V_2 is the unknown volume of bleach

Rearrange the equation to find V_2:

$$V_2 = \frac{V_1 \times C_1}{C_2} \quad \text{or}$$

$$V_2 = \frac{4500 \text{ gallons} \times 2 \text{ ppm}}{52{,}500 \text{ ppm}}$$

= 0.17 gallons or approximately 22 ounces of 5.25% bleach

This is an interesting equation in which the units need to agree from one side of the equation to the other, but won't always make sense on a mass basis. It can be solved for either an unknown volume or concentration. The only trick in using it, is remembering which concentration corresponds to which volume.

Happy hauling!

Dear Aqua Man,

The time has come for me to move on down the road and I don't know how to let people know about changes to my water system. Can you help?

Thanks!

- Gotta Boogey

Dear Mr. Boogey,

Great question! It is very important to notify the programs within the Water Quality Control Division anytime changes occur with administrative contact, operator in responsible charge, ownership or emergency contact(s) of a public water system.

The compliance assurance unit requires notification to ensure continued ability to reach appropriate system personnel should issues arise, including emergencies. A water system contact update form can be downloaded from the drinking water forms and templates tab at www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcompliance.

Notification of any changes to a water system's operation or facilities, such as activation of emergency sources or changes to treatment types, can be accomplished with an inventory update form. This form also is found on the forms and templates tab.

If your personal contact information is changing, notify the Operator Certification Program Office (OCPO) separately. OCPO is not affiliated with the division and must receive separate notification. Contact OCPO at 303-394-8994 or visit its website at www.ocpoweb.com for more information.

Consider updating these changes to the monitoring plan for your systems before you go!

Have a great trip,

Aqua Man

Coming Down the Pipe…

Electronic Consumer Confidence Reporting

by Nicole Graziano, Jennifer Miller and Ron Falco

Pursuant to the *Colorado Primary Drinking Water Regulations* Article 9.1.5(a), "each community water system (CWS) must mail or otherwise directly deliver one consumer confidence report (CCR) to each customer." In January EPA issued a memorandum describing how this requirement could be met with electronic reporting and leaving it up to the primacy agency in each state to develop more specific requirements as it deemed necessary.

The safe drinking water program decided to allow electronic CCR delivery in accordance with the EPA's memorandum as a means for CWSs to comply with Article 9.1.5(a).

The following three methods meet the requirements for electronic delivery of the CCR reports:

1. *Dedicated email for the CCR*. There are three options that a CWS may select:
   a) Email customers a direct URL to the CCR.
   b) Email customers the CCR as an attachment.
   c) Email customers with the CCR embedded as an image in the email.
2. *CCR link included in an electronic or paper bill.* Prominently display a message within electronic or paper billing statement and include the CCR URL.
3. *Alternate method approved by the department.* All electronic CCR submittals must clearly and prominently display the required information.

CWS still must provide the CCR to the customers who are unable to receive an electronic CCR.

CWSs may choose to undertake additional communication activities beyond electronic CCR delivery as specified above. However, these additional measures are not substitutes for the required methods outlined above.

The following delivery methods do not meet the delivery requirements for the CCR:

1. A URL that does not take the customer to the entire CCR but requires navigation to another webpage(s) to find the CCR content.
2. The use of social media (e.g., Twitter or Facebook) since these are membership Internet outlets. However, social media may be used as an additional communication activity, as discussed above.
3. The use of automated phone calls to distribute CCRs because the entire content of the CCR cannot be provided in a phone call.

A detailed guidance document is available on the division's web page by clicking on the "guidance" link and navigating to the consumer confidence rule guidance, available under drinking water regulatory guidance. ♦

Save the date

In August 2012 ten workgroups began updating the *State of Colorado Design Criteria for Potable Water Systems.* Workgroup results will be presented at stakeholder meetings:

May 14 in Glenwood Springs

May 21 in Denver

May 23 in Pueblo West

Visit www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd and select "What's New" for additional information.

Sunset Review and Legislation

by Ellen Graham, DORA Regulatory Analyst, and Jackie Whelan, Facility Operator Certification

What is a sunset provision?

A sunset provision repeals all or part of a law after a specific date, unless the legislature affirmatively acts to extend it. The *Water and Wastewater Facility Operator Requirements*, 25-9-103(4), C.R.S., includes an automatic repeal provision.

> This article is repealed, effective July 1, 2013. Prior to such repeal, the water and wastewater facility operators certification board shall be reviewed as provided for in section 24-34-104, C.R.S.

What is the effect of a sunset clause?

The program would actually cease to exist on July 1, 2014, after a wind-up period, as a result of:

Affirmative legislative action to sunset;

Lack of affirmative legislative action to continue; or

Failure to pass the senate bill by the legislature

CDPHE's goal is to ensure the legislature continues the water and wastewater facility operators certification board.

What is a sunset review?

A sunset review is a periodic assessment of state boards, programs and functions to determine whether or not they should be continued by the legislature. Sunset reviews focus on creating the least restrictive form of regulation consistent with protecting the public. In formulating recommendations, sunset reviews consider the public's right to consistent, high quality professional or occupational services and the ability of businesses to exist and thrive in a competitive market, free from unnecessary regulation. The Colorado Department of Regulatory Affairs conducts the sunset review and produces a report.

What are the recommendations in the sunset review report?

The sunset review report made four recommendations:

1. Continue the water and wastewater facility operators certification board for seven years, until 2020.
2. Change the seat on the board for the Colorado Rural Water Association to a more general small-systems seat.
3. Allow the board to exempt certain domestic wastewater facilities from the requirement that they operate under the supervision of a certified operator.
4. Create separate statutory sections delineating the responsibilities of the board, the division, and any nonprofit corporations under contract with the board.

What will happen during the legislative session?

The 2013 legislative session convened on Jan 9. Senate bill 13-150 will continue the water and wastewater facility operators certification board and includes the recommended changes to the statute. At the department's recommendation, the bill was amended in committee to expand the exemption authority in recommendation 3 to include drinking water facilities at the department's recommendation. At the time of this writing, the bill is on its way to the house. From there it will move the legislature. ♦

Visit Us on the Web

Follow safe drinking water program on Twitter!
twitter.com/CO_SafeWater
The water quality control division's home page web address is
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd
For training opportunities, please visit the division's website at
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/dwtraining.com
To access Aqua Talk online, go to
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/aquatalk.com
To access inspection services go to:
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqinspectionservices
To access the contact list for drinking water regulations go to
www.colorado.gov/cdphe/wqcd
Follow the water quality control division's enforcement activities on Twitter
twitter.com/WQCD_Enforce

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Aqua Talk

Aqua Talk Newsletter

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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.colorado.gov/cdphe/aquatalk.com

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