



ARKANSAS DRINKING WATER UPDATE

Maintaining Water Quality During Underwater Tank Inspections

The Engineering Section routinely receives inquiries from water utility personnel about the feasibility of allowing specialized contractors to conduct an underwater inspection or cleaning of a water storage tank. Past recommendations from the Section have been that any entry into a storage tank be allowed only when the tank is physically isolated (valved off), and that bacteriological testing be conducted to assure the safety of the water before the tank is returned to service.

That is still the recommendation of the Engineering Section. However, to allow greater flexibility to water personnel and to align with AWWA Standard C652 that deals with such tank entries, guidelines have been developed by the Engineering Section on maintaining water quality during and after a tank entry, particularly if the tank is not isolated.

Water superintendents typically utilize such contractors out of concern for maintaining storage during peak demands or potential fire flows, or because the system has no alternative for storage. However, any tank, no matter how critical to a system's operation, should have a contingency plan for being taken off-line. Maintenance, repairs, painting, and cleaning are activities which, while not frequent, can nevertheless be anticipated with all tanks.

The guidelines were reviewed and, after some modifications, approved by the Arkansas Drinking Water Advisory and Operator Licensing Committee at its

See Tank Guidelines page 9

Revisions Proposed to Lead & Copper Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed on July 18 modifications to the Lead & Copper Rule (LCR) largely as a response to compliance problems experienced in 2004 by the water utility serving the District of Columbia.

The proposed changes don't affect the basic LCR requirements such as the 15 micrograms/liter action level, but instead are aimed, according to EPA, at strengthening the implementation of the LCR including its public education requirements. EPA and the LCR came under scrutiny by Congress following allegations that the D.C. utility was misleading in its reporting of high lead values as well as improperly notifying its customers.

The proposed LCR modifications affect seven areas.

- Minimum samples. EPA proposes that systems with fewer than five taps sample all five at least once and repeat sampling at some to collect the minimum number of required samples.
- Compliance periods. A compliance period is clarified to mean the three-year period within each nine-year compliance cycle, and that the term monitoring period refers to the specific four month period within the compliance period when water systems must collect samples from target taps. Deadlines for completing tasks if an action level is exceeded are to be from the end of the four month monitoring period.
- Reduced monitoring. The proposed modification would prohibit systems that exceed the lead action level from beginning or remaining on reduced

See LCR page 8

2006 Marks 30 years for PWSS Program Grant

With the award by the Environmental Protection Agency of the 2006 Public Water Systems Supervision Program Grant to the Department of Health & Human Services, a 30 year milestone has been reached. The first grant from EPA to the Department of Health occurred in 1976, following approval by EPA of Arkansas' application for primacy for the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Safe Drinking Water Act was enacted by Congress, and signed by the President, in 1974 as Public Law 93-523. Arkansas's application for primacy was one of the first approved by EPA among the 50 states.

The grant received in 1976 was for part of federal fiscal year 1977, in the amount of \$252,500. With those funds, a number of Engineer Technicians were hired to assist in implementation of the drinking water program as it expanded to utilize the National Interim Primary Drinking Water Standards. Two of those initial employees, Martin Nutt and Kyle Phillips, remain with the drinking water program today.

The 2006 EPA PWSS Program Grant is for \$911,600, and while this appears to be a major increase from 1976 it actually barely covers the cost of inflation since that time. The state

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25¢ PWSS Fee – Purpose and Explanation

Cathy Gaston, Administrative Assistance

In accordance with Act 903 of 1993, fees are collected each year from public water systems for the state Public Water System Supervision Program. This program is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services, Engineering Section, and includes the supervision of all public water systems. Activities under this program include, but are not limited to: conducting sanitary surveys; collecting and analyzing water samples and interpreting the results; training water system operators; investigating water complaints; reviewing applications, engineering reports, and construction plans for water facilities; and implementing the myriad of rules under the EPA Safe Drinking Water Act.

The fees are calculated annually based on the state fiscal year which begins July 1 and invoices were recently mailed to all water systems. Systems are billed based on the number of active service connections, and whether or not persons are served year round or only a few months of the year. Fire sprinkler connections, dry taps (even where a meter exists), commercial and residential lawn sprinklers used solely for that purpose are excluded from each system's meter count. The calculations are derived from the following:

- "Community public water system" means a public water system which serves at least fifteen (15) service connections used by year round residents or which regularly serves at least twenty-five (25) year round residents. Such systems are assessed twenty-five cents per service connection per month with a minimum of \$200 per year.

- "Nontransient noncommunity water system" means a public water system which serves at least twenty-five (25) of the same, nonresidential individuals at least one hundred eighty (180) days, or portions thereof, per year. These systems are assessed a twenty-five cents per service connection per month with a minimum of two hundred (\$200) dollars per year. The number of connections for

nontransient noncommunity water systems without discrete service connections for each customer is calculated by dividing the population served by 2.5.

- "Transient noncommunity public water system" means a public water system serving at least fifteen (15) connections or twenty-five (25) persons who vary on a time basis at least sixty (60) days during the year or a public water system which is utilized as a source for bottled water. These systems are assessed one hundred dollars (\$100) per year.

Fee schedules vary and are determined by the following.

- Annual fees of \$1,000 and less shall be payable in a single payment due on January 1 of each year.

- Annual fees greater than \$1,000 and less than \$5,000 shall be payable in quarterly payments, with the payments due on October 1, January 1, April 1, and July 1 of each year.

- Annual fees of \$5,000 and greater shall be payable in monthly payments, with the first payment due on August 1 of each year. Successive payments shall be due on the first day of each month.

- An annual fee can be paid in one lump sum in lieu of the fee schedule proposed above by any water system upon receipt of an invoice.

In June, each public water system received a letter from the ADHHS containing what our records show to be the contact information and the number of service connections. Since the annual fee assessment is based on the number of total connections, it is important that you check the number shown to make sure your system is being correctly assessed.

Based on this information, billing letters were prepared and mailed in July. Within the billing notice are coupons to identify your water system's account number which is critical in posting the payment to the correct account. Please be sure to include this coupon when remitting payment.

Your cooperation in this process of funding the Arkansas Drinking Water Program is greatly appreciated. We

have encountered almost no problems from water systems in complying with this Act. You have our sincere thanks for this superb level of support.

If you have any questions about the fee Act, or the amount of your fee please feel free to contact Cathy Gaston at (501) 661-2623 or email Cathy.Gaston@Arkansas.gov. A copy of the Act, along with additional Drinking Water information, is posted on our Web site for your reference at www.healthyarkansas.com/eng.

Grant *continued from page 1*

drinking water program has had to rely on other funding sources in addition to the program grant since 1976. The most notable of these has been the PWSS fee (see adjacent article) which started in 1991 at 15¢ per meter and was last increased in 1993 to 25¢ per meter. The program also received, beginning in 1998, set aside funds from the Safe Drinking Water Act State Revolving Loan Fund.

Concurrent with the increase in fees and federal grant funding has been a decrease in state general revenue funds. In the state fiscal year of 2006 which ended June 30, the Engineering Section program received \$141,000 state general revenue funds out of a total program budget of \$3.93 Million.

ARKANSAS DRINKING WATER

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Beaver Lake Watershed Ordinance Tabled by County

A two year effort by Benton County officials on an ordinance that proposed restrictions on future land uses around Beaver Lake as well as the streams that feed it was tabled in March. The ordinance had been promoted as a way to protect the water quality in the lake. The decision to table the ordinance was made following public hearings to solicit citizen's input and the formation of organized groups who opposed the proposal.

The ordinance had called for graduated density and land-use restrictions in one-quarter mile increments around the Benton County portions of Beaver Lake. Existing legal uses of the land would have been grandfathered under the proposed ordinance.

Questions about the existing water quality arose among the Benton County Environmental Committee, a subgroup to the Quorum Court, which was reviewing the ordinance. The Committee requested the Beaver Water District and the Northwest Arkansas Conservation Authority hire contractors to determine the current water quality conditions before making a decision on whether to proceed with the ordinance. The decision in effect killed any further consideration of the ordinance since the collection of that information is estimated to take at least 18 months.

While the draft ordinance had many supporters, it also generated considerable opposition. In addition to a number of individuals who spoke out against it, the Northwest Arkansas Property Rights Association was formed last year specifically to oppose the ordinance. In the May electoral primary in Benton County, five of six candidates for the Quorum Court who were endorsed by the Association won their positions. Four of the candidates are unopposed in the fall general election. The group also supported an opposition candidate who failed in an attempt to oust Benton County Judge

See Ordinance page 4

Beaver Board Promotes Source Water Protection

In its Summer 2006 newsletter, *The Source*, the Beaver Water District declared in a headline, "Watershed Protection is Not a Dead Issue". The article advertised two position papers passed by the District's Board of Directors, and appeared to be a declaration that while a Benton County ordinance on watershed protection for Beaver Lake had been temporarily stopped, the promotion of watershed protection had not.

The Board adopted in May a *Philosophy on Source Water Protection* and a *Position Paper on Source Water Protection*, both centered on Beaver Lake. The lake is the source of supply for the district as well as three other regional water districts which, in total, furnish water to 340,000 persons in northwest Arkansas.

The *Philosophy on Source Water Protection* explains why the Board is taking an active role in protecting Beaver Lake. It maintains that while the lake's water quality is generally good, episodic water quality problems seen at the District's intake include excess algae, taste and odors, increasing disinfection by-product precursors, low oxygen, and excessive turbidity.

Declaring that the protection of the lake is not just about drinking water, the paper asserts that the lake is a legacy to be left for future generations and an outstanding resource that will suffer if proactive measures are not taken. It commits the Board to taking a leadership role in that effort.

The *Position Paper on Source Water Protection* outlines the District's stance in seven areas related to the protection of Beaver Lake. A summary of each is described below.

- Monitoring and Assessment

Assessing the current condition of the lake and identifying emerging threats is dependent on physical, chemical and biological data on the lake, its tributaries, and the watershed. Such data will be collected by the District and in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies.

- Water Quality

While some of the nutrient, organic, and sediment loadings to the lake that cause its degradation are naturally occurring, the District believes the majority are man made and need to be eliminated or managed at their source. Support is expressed for the establishment of nutrient criteria for the lake by the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality and for continued research on emerging pollutants.

- Watershed Management

Rapid development in the watershed is a threat to water quality, and source water protection should be a factor in decisions on land use. The District supports local and state agencies in their implementation of existing regulations to protect water quality and in the development of new rules where appropriate. Through collaborative efforts with stakeholders, effective management measures can be developed that are attractive to land owners but also protective of water quality.

- Reservoir Management

The manner in which a reservoir is operated can have a significant impact on the quantity and the quality of the water. The District encourages additional research on the impact of reservoir operations in Beaver Lake, and for the Corps of Engineers to consider water quality in its reservoir operations plan for the lake.

- Public Education

Increased education of the public and stakeholders is needed on the

See Board page 4

Ordinance *continued from page 3*

Gary Black.

Kenneth Schossow, vice president of the Association, stated in a newspaper report that the group intends to broaden their lobbying effort to appeal to state legislators in order to prevent the General Assembly from passing watershed protection plans on the state level. The group's members agree that Beaver Lake should be protected but believe that the extent of the problem, if there is a problem, should first be determined by a scientific study, and that the existing land owners around the lake who derive aesthetical or economic benefits from the lake are in the best position to protect water quality.

Following the tabling of the ordinance, the Beaver Water District Board of Directors adopted in May two papers advocating continued watershed protection for Beaver Lake (see text box page 3).

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direct impact they can have on the quality of Beaver Lake. The District will continue its outreach efforts in this area both to the general public and to targeted interest groups.

- Research

The District supports peer reviewed research into the physical and ecological processes at work in the lake, and will participate in such research, when appropriate.

- Evaluation

Periodic reviews of the lake's water quality status and the efforts to sustain it are necessary. In order to continually improve its efforts, the District will conduct such reviews and meet with stakeholders to review these issues.

A copy of either paper can be obtained from the website for the Beaver Water District:

www.bwdh2o.org .

SRF Loans Total \$17 Million in FY 2006

Mike Chandler, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission

The United States has one of the safest water supplies in the world. This fact is a testament to the efforts of people at the local, state, and federal levels. Ensuring that drinking water remains safe in the future is the shared responsibility of local citizens, private business, local government, and state and federal agencies. To ensure the continued level of high quality drinking water, the Nation's water systems must make significant investments to install, upgrade, or replace infrastructure. Installation of new treatment facilities can improve the quality of drinking water and better protect public health.

In the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Congress authorized a new federal funding program to give states resources with which to address their most pressing drinking water needs. The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund program represents the first significant federal source of funding for drinking water infrastructure administered by states. Through federal capitalization grants and state match, states have been able to make billions of dollars available for funding infrastructure projects needed to help protect public health and ensure compliance with the SDWA.

The State of Arkansas through Act 772 of 1997 established the Safe Drinking Water Fund to be administered by the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC), formerly the Arkansas Soil and Water Conservation Commission. In April 1996, ANRC established the rules governing the Safe Drinking Water fund which are contained in Title XV. The responsibilities for the DWSRF are divided among the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, the Arkansas Department of Health & Human Services (ADHHS), and the Arkansas Development Finance Authority (ADFA). Under an interagency agreement, ANRC administers the loan fund and the administrative set-aside portion of the DWSRF. The ADHHS, as primacy agent for the State's Public Water System Supervision Program, has oversight of the DWSRF and develops the comprehensive project priority list. Fiscal responsibilities for the Program reside with ADFA. Loans are available for the planning, design, acquisition, construction, expansion, equipping and rehabilitation of water systems or parts thereof.

Before an entity can apply for funding from the DWRLF they must first be placed on the Comprehensive Project Priority List which is developed and administered by the ADHHS's Engineering Section. In order to be placed on the priority, you would need to contact Raymond Thompson with the ADHHS at 501-661-2623. Once this has been done, then you may proceed to the Water/Wastewater Advisory Committee with a pre-application to continue the funding process. The proper steps to receive funding for any water project may be found at www.aswcc.gov. Once at this site please click on Rules and Regs and go to Title XV for complete information.

Loans made available under the Fund may be obtained for an eligible project by any duly constituted and existing political subdivision of the State, including but not limited to counties, cities, towns, public facilities boards, regional water distribution districts, rural development authorities and public water authorities. In fiscal year 2006 which ended June 30, ANRC closed loans in excess of \$17 million dollars. An estimated 22 projects in Arkansas have been funded by the SRF since its inception. Nationally, the SRF program has funded almost \$9.5 billion for 4400 projects.

To find out more about the Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund, please refer to the ANRC web site or contact Mike Chandler at 501-682-0547, or Raymond Thompson at the ADHHS to be placed on the priority list.

WCIT Website Provides Contaminant Database

The Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) is a secure, on-line database that provides current, reliable information on chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants of concern for water security.

Access to this password-protected tool will be granted to personnel from drinking water and wastewater utilities, State Primacy (primary enforcement) Agencies, and federal officials. EPA is granting access to these individuals because they represent the primary organizations that will be involved in water contamination planning and response. In addition, these groups have the necessary expertise to accurately interpret the data in the database. EPA may grant access to other types of users in the future depending on the need.

The WCIT database includes some contaminants that are not regulated because they are not typically found in drinking water, but could cause harm if intentionally introduced into a drinking water system.

The WCIT database assists in planning for and responding to drinking water and wastewater contamination threats and incidents. As a planning tool, WCIT supports vulnerability assessments, emergency response plans, and site-specific response guidelines. As a response tool, WCIT provides contaminant data to help responders (including utilities) make appropriate response decisions. WCIT also helps EPA to identify gaps in contaminant data, which will, in turn, help inform future research efforts.

To apply for access to the WCIT database, visit: <https://cdx.epa.gov/>. Once you have been granted access to the WCIT database, login at: <https://cdx.epa.gov/SSL/cdx/login.asp>.

Guidelines for Regulation of Submetered Properties

The EPA published a *Federal Register* notice on December 23, 2003 revising a previously published policy on how it evaluated submetered properties under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Such properties typically consist of apartment complexes or mobile home parks located within the service area of an existing, regulated public water system. Under the language of the SDWA, entities which bill individual tenants for water as a separate item were considered public water systems subject to full regulation.

The 2003 EPA notice advised that the agency had reconsidered its position in light of the water conservation potential that submetering could achieve. It also stated that in EPA's opinion, Congress did not intend such submetered systems to necessarily be subject to full regulation as a public water system. The notice concluded by deferring to state primacy agencies the manner and the degree of regulation that would be applied to these systems.

The Engineering Section has prepared guidelines for how it will view such properties. A property which submeters will not be subject to the regulatory requirements for public water systems provided its owners comply with and sign a statement affirming their intent for the following:

1. Be within the service area of a currently regulated public water system and receive all of its water from that system.
2. Serve a specific property under the ownership of a single individual, business entity, or an association of property owners (not including rural water associations or similar entities).
3. Contain no water source or treatment facilities.
4. Consist of a limited distribution system and not serve a large population. The term 'limited' shall apply to the distribution system's geographical area and complexity. The term 'large' means equal to or greater than 400 submetered units, or a population equal to or greater than 1000.
5. Maintain water quality that is in compliance with all primary and secondary drinking water standards. Provide access to the supplying public water system or the state primacy agency for inspection or monitoring of the property's water system.
6. Maintain compliance with the state Plumbing Code and have no cross connections without proper protection devices.
7. Provide a copy of the supplying public water system's annual Consumer Confidence Report to each submetered unit or post the Report in conspicuous locations on the property.
8. Receive written approval from the Department of Health & Human Services, prior to construction, for the plans and specifications of any additions or modifications to the onsite water or sewer mains.

The owner's statement acknowledges that the failure to meet these conditions could subject the submetered system to full regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

The Engineering Section has begun notifying and educating regulated entities which resell their water of the existence of the guidelines. A copy of the guideline can be obtained at the Engineering website: www.healthyarkansas.com/eng/download.htm, or by calling Robert Hart, Chief Engineer, at 501-661-2623.

Focus on Nonprofit Groups

Martin Nutt

The following organizations provide training materials and technical assistance to water operators and water utilities.

CSUS Office of Water Programs

The Office of Water Programs (OWP) at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) is a non-profit organization operating under the California State University, Sacramento Foundation. OWP develops and implements operator training programs and training manuals for operators of water treatment plants, water distribution systems, and various environmental facilities. Some of these manuals are recommended for Arkansas water operator license exams.

CSUS offers correspondence training courses, distance learning courses (Internet/CD-ROM), and certificate courses. Many of these can be used for license exam preparation or for renewal training opportunities by operators, supervisors, managers and administrators.

For additional information, contact CSUS at: (916) 278-6142 or visit their website at: <http://www.owp.csus.edu/>.

Community Resource Group

Community Resource Group, CRG, is a hands-on organization that works to meet the changing needs of communities and apply creative solutions to long-term problems. Its goal is to model solutions that can be duplicated and applied in communities across the country and throughout the world. CRG's office is in Springdale, Arkansas. Its motto is "Helping people in the rural south build a future in their own home town."

CRG provides the eBulletin – a free e-mail publication dedicated to providing staff and board members of small water utilities the management tools and regulatory information they need to successfully run their system. CRG also provides assistance on financial and managerial matters including rate studies, and has loan funds available for small projects. Their website is at www.crg.org and includes specific information about the services CRG provides to public water

Division of Health Updates

E-Mail

As part of its merger with the Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Health employees have changed their e-mail addresses. The new addresses consists of a person's first name.last name followed by @Arkansas.gov. [Example John Smith: John.Smith@Arkansas.gov.] There are some exceptions to this if, for example, a person uses a middle name or abbreviated first name. A directory of all state employees e-mails and phone numbers can be accessed at <http://www.arkansas.gov/directory/>. E-mails sent to the old address (HealthyArkansas.com) will be forwarded to the new address but only for an indeterminate amount of time. The address for Engineering's website (www.healthyarkansas.com/eng/) has not changed.

Lab Relocation

The Public Health Laboratories in the Division of Health, including those labs which perform drinking water analyses, will be relocating to the new laboratory building located adjacent to the Division of Health building this fall. The tentative date for the relocation is mid to late September. It is possible that there will be an interruption of analytical services to water utilities for a brief period of time. The Engineering Section will make every effort to notify water utilities with more details as they are made known and well in advance of that time.

Bacteriological Samples

The Public Health bacteriological laboratory continues to receive a significant number of bottles which are filled above the 100 ml mark. Such overfilling reduces the efficiency with which samples can be processed and delays the time for completion and reporting of results. Bacteriological samples need to be filled to the 100 ml mark on the bottle – no more and no less. Your cooperation is requested and appreciated.

Postal Mail & Private Carrier Deliveries

US Post Office	Delivery service such as UPS & Fed Ex
Engineering Section Division of Health, Slot H-37 AR Dept Health & Human Services P.O. Box 1437 Little Rock, AR 72203	Engineering Section Division of Health, Slot H-37 AR Dept Health & Human Services 4815 West Markham Little Rock, AR 72205
Public Health Lab Division of Health, Slot H-47 AR Dept Health & Human Services P.O. Box 8182 Little Rock, AR 72203	Public Health Lab Division of Health, Slot H-47 AR Dept Health & Human Services 4815 West Markham Little Rock, AR 72205

systems. Their phone number is 479-443-2700.

Montana Water Center

The Montana Water Center (MWC) is located at Montana State University in Bozeman. Its mission is to sponsor water related research, and provide training and education materials. Their web site address is <http://watercenter.montana.edu/>.

Through an EPA funded grant they provide a CD-ROM based training titled *National Version 2005 Small*

Public Water System Courses: Ground Water, Surface Water & Wastewater Lagoon Systems. They have provided the Engineering Section with multiple copies of this CD. If you would like a copy of the CD, please contact either Jeremy Rowe or Martin Nutt at 501-661-2623 or by e-mail at Jeremy.Rowe@Arkansas.gov. This same program can be accessed via their website and is approved for ten hours direct renewal training.

NATIONAL

* EPA's Office of Inspector General found in a May report that the challenges facing small water systems have not changed in recent years in spite of public and private initiatives to assist in overcoming those challenges. The IG found that the challenges, while many, fall into two basic categories: financial/management matters and regulatory/compliance matters. The report recommends that EPA work closer with states to identify best practices and to improve the dissemination of information to small systems. The report can be found at www.epa.gov/oig/reports/water.htm.

ARKANSAS

* Arkansas Rural Water Association will hold its annual conference in Hot Springs on September 10-13. Attendance at the conference will earn 16 hours of direct training. Basic Water Math, Applied Water Math, and the ADHHS's PWS Compliance Course as well as other technical sessions will all be presented concurrently at the conference. Attendance at all sessions is required to receive a course completion certificate. For registration, call 501-676-2255.



Beaver Water District's new raw water intake

* A circuit judge in June dismissed a lawsuit filed in opposition to a multistory condominium project on Beaver Lake which was issued a permit by the Benton County Planning Commission last November. The judge

News of Note

agreed with a Benton County appeal board finding that the plaintiffs in the lawsuit did not have standing to challenge the permit since they did not personally own property adjacent to condo site. The adjacent property is owned by a corporation whose principals were the plaintiffs. The judge's decision frees the project to proceed although state permits for the project have yet to be issued.

* Beaver Water District's new raw water intake has been awarded a National Award for Excellence in Engineering by the American Council of Engineering Companies. The award was presented in Washington, D.C. on May 3 at the organization's annual

convention. The project included the design and construction of two vertical shafts, each 30 feet in diameter by 95 feet deep, eight 60 inch microtunnelled pipelines into Beaver Lake, and a 140 MGD, 10,000 horsepower pump station. MWH Engineers designed the project along with subconsultants McGoodwin, William and Yates, and Bennett Staheli Engineers. The recognition is the most prominent of several state and national awards given to the project.

ENGINEERING SECTION

* Linda Kendrick, 53, a long time colleague in Engineering, died on July 6 as the result of complications from a long-term illness. Linda began work in Engineering in 1974 as a Secretary I and advanced to the position of Administrative Assistant. Her most recent position was as a Grants Coordinator in which she worked on a part time basis. While her illness in recent years took a physical and emotional toll on her, Linda's work ethic and institutional knowledge were invaluable to the drinking water program, and her fun-loving personality never left her short of friends. She is survived by her husband, Mike, her parents, and a sister. Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association.



* Kent Blankenship has joined the Engineering Section as an Environmental Specialist for District 4. Kent will assist with sanitary surveys, operator training and other district duties for nine counties in eastern Arkansas.



He holds a Biology degree from UA – Monticello and was previously employed as an assistant biologist with the Fort Smith Water Utilities.

Southwest Section Ballot on Dues Assessment Passes

from the *Southwest Water Works Journal*

During the early months of 2006, the Southwest Section of AWWA (Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma) conducted an election to determine whether or not the Section should place an assessment on AWWA dues paid by section members. The Section Board had determined that the Section needed an Executive Director / Business Manager type of position in order for the Section to grow and to better serve its members. Election results from the 1258-members showed 321 ballots cast with 292 voting in favor of the proposal. As a result of the election, an assessment of 10% will be collected starting in calendar year 2007, with the proceeds being used to finance the hiring of a business manager / executive director.

The Section currently employs a secretary and a treasurer on a part-time basis. The Section utilizes the multitude of volunteers to manage the annual conference, programs and activities. This position will assume the many administrative duties and responsibilities of the Section, as well as assist in coordinating the annual conference and attending other functions supporting the Southwest Section.

Section Chair Don Broussard (Lafayette, LA) has appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a listing of duties and responsibilities for the position, to evaluate the option of contracting for these services or to hire an individual as an employee of the Section. Ken Hill, Section Vice-Chair (Tulsa, OK), will chair the committee. Also serving on the committee will be Gary Hum, Chair-Elect (Little Rock, AR), and Donna Skidmore, Section Director (Oklahoma City, OK). It is planned that the position description and announcement will be finalized at the annual conference in Baton Rouge, LA in October.

AWWA Plans WARN Workshops

Harold R. Seifert, Director

AWWA has received EPA approval to support state drinking water program (and other state and local agencies) participation in a series of workshops on the Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARN). In a gesture of collaboration, AWWA is inviting selected states to participate (at no cost). The workshops will cover, among other things, the history of WARN, how and why it formed, AWWA's white paper on the mutual aid development process, and lessons learned from states that have existing WARN Programs. Time is also being set aside for each state to split into state-based work groups to develop an action plan for assembling a WARN Program in their state.

Delaware, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington, D.C. are likely to have their workshop in October or November, and Arkansas, Missouri, and Illinois will probably have a workshop in early December.

For the workshop, each participating state will be invited to send a "team" of about 10 people to attend. Ideally, this team will consist of representatives from the following agencies, organizations, and associations: AWWA Section (Southwest Section), WEF Member Association (AWEA), National Rural Water Association state affiliate (ARWA), state Operator's Association (AWW&WEA, AW&WWMA), the largest water utility(ies) and waste water utility(ies) in each state, as well as officials from each state's Emergency Management Agency (ADEM) and the State Primacy Agency (ADHHS).

The Southwest Section has provided AWWA headquarters with contact information for all the organizations mentioned above, as well as some of the larger water & wastewater utilities in Arkansas. The other states in the Southwest Section, Oklahoma and Louisiana, have already begun development of a WARN system in their states.

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monitoring based solely on the results of water quality monitoring.

- Prior approval of treatment changes. Water systems would have to obtain prior state approval to change treatment processes or add new sources
- Reporting results. Water systems would have to report test results from home tap sampling to the owners within 30 days as well as explain lead health effects, the meaning of lead action levels, and steps the homeowner can take to minimize lead exposure.
- Public education. The proposal would simplify mandatory language for notices from systems which exceed the lead action level and allow them to draft alternative statements. However, the rule would expand the list of organizations receiving education materials and require the direct contact of public health agencies. Systems serving 3300 or more population would have to complete at least three additional actions from a list of nine options. Any system that detects lead above 1 ug/l in more than 5 percent of tested homes would have to include a statement about lead in their annual Consumer Confidence Report.
- Lead service lines. Water systems would have to re-evaluate any lead service line determined to be 'replaced' based on a finding that the lead level in water passing through the service did not exceed the action level.

The agency is seeking comments on several alternatives within the proposed modifications and on other possible changes. A copy of the proposed rule changes can be found at www.epa.gov/safewater/lcrmr/index.html. Comments will be accepted by EPA on the proposed changes until Sept 18.

Update & Additions Proposed for Public Water System Regulations

The Engineering Section requested permission in July from the State Board of Health to begin the Administrative Procedures Act process for making revisions to the *Rules & Regulations for Public Water Systems*. The primary purpose of the revisions is to obtain a new adoption date which will then incorporate by reference newly promulgated federal regulations including the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment, the Stage 2 Disinfection By Products Rule, and, possibly, the Groundwater Rule (if EPA has promulgated the rule prior to date on which the Board of Health adopts these proposed revisions).

A secondary purpose of the proposed revision is to make minor modifications to certain paragraphs to clarify or strengthen the existing rules. The proposed language modifications or additions are listed below in italics.

Section V.B Water Quality – Approval (add the following language)

Production of water that poses no threat to the consumer's health depends on continuous protection. Because of human frailties associated with protection, priority should be given to selection of the purest source. Polluted sources should not be used unless other sources are not feasible and then only when adequate personnel, equipment, and operating procedures are proposed or in-place to purify and otherwise continuously protect the drinking water supply.

Basis: This language codifies what has been the Engineering Section policy for decades in regards to source water development. The text is taken almost verbatim from Appendix A of the 1976 National Primary Drinking Water Regulations. With an increased debate being waged over watershed protection versus higher levels of treatment, the default position of the agency should be the selection of the source with the least manmade activities within the watershed.

Section VII.B Operation – Records (add the following language)

Unless a longer retention period is specified elsewhere or required by the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations, all records including analyses results, reports, forms, charts, daily logs, and electronic files shall be retained for a minimum of three (3) years and shall be made available for review if requested.

Basis: Engineering staff working with public water systems to solve water quality problems have encountered difficulties because recent historical records have not been available for reference.

Section IX.D – Surface Water Supplies – Determination of Level of Treatment Required (modify the following language)

Determine the contact time *or other operational parameter* associated with each treatment plant *and its equipment*, based on information submitted by the owner or established by the staff of the Arkansas Department

of Health & Human Services, for assigning the level of inactivation of enteric cysts and viruses provided by the disinfection system.

Basis: This would clarify that operating parameters other than disinfection contact time may be specified by the agency for individual pieces of equipment, such as an alternative disinfection process (UV disinfection).

Section XIV.A. (modify & add the following language)

Sanitary and Safety Hazards

A minimum horizontal distance of three feet shall be maintained between water lines and other underground utilities of a nonsanitary nature (gas, electric, etc.). Exceptions to this must be approved in writing by the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services.

Basis: In the past few years, the agency has become aware of a number of circumstances where developers of subdivisions and commercial properties are co-locating electrical cables and natural gas pipelines within the same trench in which is located the water supply pipe. ADHHS and public water utilities believe such co-location presents a hazard to the water utility staff when it is necessary to dig up a water line for repair, for connection of a new service line, or for connection of new water mains. The proposal would not prohibit such co-location, but would establish a minimum distance between the water line and the electric cable or natural gas line to lessen the potential safety hazard.

A public hearing on the changes will be held in September and written comments can be submitted to the Engineering Section, c/o Harold Seifert, Director. Assuming no significant comments, the proposed changes will be presented to the State Board of Health for approval in October.

Tank Guidelines *continued from page 1*

July meeting. A key component of the guideline in allowing a tank to be online during an inspection without a boil water notice is the verification of water quality by an onsite Engineering Section representative.

Listed below is the main text of the guideline. A complete copy can be downloaded from Engineering's website: www.healthyarkansas.com/eng/download.htm. If questions, contact Robert Hart, Chief Engineer, at 501-661-2623.

◆ These guidelines concern the maintenance of water quality during an underwater tank inspection or cleaning by divers, remote operated vehicles (ROV), or rafts. They do not apply to newly constructed tanks, or tanks which are removed from service and drained for cleaning or inspection.

Improperly disinfected divers, inspectors, and equipment

Continued next page

can contaminate the water. Additionally, tank sediment may contain microorganisms which, if resuspended during the inspection or cleaning, can cause contamination of the water.

Observing and measuring water quality, and taking the appropriate actions if water quality is not maintained, including the notification of customers, is the responsibility of the water utility. Advanced notice to the Engineering Section, ADHHS is to be made by the utility of the proposed date of an underwater inspection or cleaning. The availability of Engineering Section staff for onsite water quality measurements is not guaranteed.

I. Public Notification

Notification of the proposed tank entry is to be provided to customers served by the affected tank in a manner appropriate for the area and the utility.

II. Tank Isolation

A. Isolation of the storage tank during underwater inspection or cleaning is strongly recommended and may be required for safety reasons. If operational conditions necessitate an underwater inspection or cleaning without isolation, then the work should be done during periods when positive flow into the storage tank is maintained, or flow rates into or out of the tank are minimal.

III. Water Quality Monitoring

A. Before entry - the chlorine residual and turbidity of the tank contents shall be measured and recorded by the water utility. Samples should be taken from several depths, if possible. At least one bacteriological sample shall also be collected from the tank, analyzed by a certified laboratory, and test negative for coliform bacteria (coliform absent). If the chlorine residual is less than 0.5 mg/l, sufficient chlorine solution or granules shall be added to raise the residual to at least 0.5 mg/l but not to exceed 3 mg/l.

B. After entry – the chlorine residual and turbidity of the tank shall be measured and recorded at the same locations, and at least one bacteriological sample collected and analyzed for coliform bacteria.

IV. Acceptable Water Quality

A. Water returned to the distribution system from a tank which has undergone an underwater inspection or cleaning must meet one of the following criteria:

1. If the tank is isolated: A negative bacteriological analysis (coliform absent) from a certified drinking water lab; and after-entry chlorine residual and turbidity measurements that show no degradation when compared to the before-entry measurements.

2. If the tank is not isolated: After-entry chlorine residual and turbidity measurements that show no degradation when compared to the before-entry measurements, as determined by an onsite Engineering Section, ADHHS representative. The water utility shall also collect and submit a sample from the tank for coliform analysis to a certified drinking water laboratory, the results of which (24-48 hrs later) must be negative (coliform absent).

Degradation is defined as a reduction in the chlorine residual by 0.2 mg/l or more, or a turbidity increase of 2 NTU or more.

B. If after the tank entry the water fails to meet these criteria, the utility shall immediately:

1. Isolate the tank, reestablish the chlorine residual in the water in the tank, and collect subsequent bacteriological samples until the results are negative (coliform absent); or,

2. Issue a Boil Water Advisory (BWA) for the distribution area served by the tank. BWA is to remain in effect until bacteriological samples from the tank and the distribution system are negative (coliform absent).

V. Equipment and Personnel Requirements

A. All equipment to be used shall be available for inspection.

B. All equipment exposed to water shall be dedicated for potable water storage facilities only and shall be stored in a manner that prevents both chemical and bacteriological contamination.

C. All equipment shall be constructed and maintained so that water quality is not affected.

D. Divers shall be completely encapsulated with no bare skin exposed. There shall be no contact of the mouth or head with the water.

E. Diving clothing shall be of the dry-suit type, in good condition, and free from tears or other imperfections that may impair the integrity of the suit.

F. Float down inspectors must wear a dry suit that can be properly disinfected.

G. Unless explicitly approved by the utility to do so, divers or ROV's shall not disturb tank sediment.

H. All personnel entering a storage tank shall be free of communicable disease and shall not have been under a physician's care within the previous 7 day period. No person who knowingly has an abnormal temperature or symptoms of illness shall work in a storage tank.

VI. Disinfection of Equipment

A. All equipment exposed to water shall be suitable for disinfection.

B. Before opening, the access hatch and its immediate area shall be cleaned of all loose dirt and debris

C. A diver and clothing shall be disinfected after the diver is suited up and on top of the tank.

D. A solution of 200 mg/l available chlorine shall be applied to all surfaces immediately prior to entry to the water. Application can be by submersion, spray, sponge, or brush and shall remain in contact with the solution for at least 30 minutes. Any excess, runoff, or spillage is to be controlled so that it does not enter the storage tank.

E. Any equipment that makes contact with the roof shall be redisinfect prior to entering the tank.

VII. Certifications

A. The contractor shall have a comprehensive safety manual on site which addresses all potential hazards for the particular storage tank. The manual shall include certifications for onsite employees for diving, OSHA confined space entry, first aid, and CPR.

B. The contractor shall have a method and equipment readily available for extraction and lowering of an injured diver.

VIII. Logistics

A. A pre-job meeting involving the contractor and water utility representatives shall be held to ensure that the personnel understand the inspection or cleaning procedures, the configuration of the reservoir, disinfection procedures, maintenance of water quality, and the consequences if such quality is not maintained. ♦

WATER OPERATOR LICENSES ISSUED

March 1 through June 30, 2006

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TYPE/GRADE</u>	<u>PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM NAME</u>
ALLEN DAVID LYNN	D - II	ADC - CUMMINS UNIT MAINT
ANGELLE CHARLIE	D - III	CLINTON WATERWORKS
ASHENBERGER BRETT ALAN	D - IV	JACKSONVILLE WATERWORKS
BUSHONG WILLIAM	T - II	LAKE VILLAGE WATERWORKS
CALHOUN SUE ANN	T - III	DES ARC WATERWORKS
CAMBLIN LAWRENCE CAHILL III	T - III	SILOAM SPRINGS WATERWORKS
CAMPBELL JOSHUA STEVEN	D - II	DELIGHT WATERWORKS
COGBURN JASON A	T - II	AMITY WATERWORKS
DEJARNATT JON	D - IV	MALVERN WATERWORKS
DICKEY DREW A	T - III	CENTRAL ARKANSAS WATER
DUNCAN DANA DENISE	T - III	JACKSONVILLE WATERWORKS
DUNHAM MICHAEL L	D - I	MAUMELLE WATER MANAGEMENT
FARMER CHARLES ALBERT	T - II	LONOKE WATERWORKS
FAULKNER BRIAN K	D - I	ELAINE WATERWORKS
FRY JR BUDDY NELSON	D - IV	GREEN FOREST WATERWORKS
GLOVER WALTER D II	D - I	LADD WATER ASSOCIATION
GREEN GARY ALLEN	D - II	EAST LOGAN CO RURAL WATER
HAREL ROBERT TODD	D - I	NO AR PWS PROVIDED
HAYES KEN E	D - IV	PEA RIDGE WATERWORKS
HAYNIE DENNIS PAUL	D - II	BRYANT WATERWORKS
HEER MICHAEL E	D - III & T - III	EAST END WATER
HERRINGTON CHARLES MICHAEL	T - IV	MOUNTAIN VIEW WATERWORKS
HIBBARD BRIAN DAVID	T - II	POCAHONTAS WATERWORKS
HIPP BRUCE ALAN	D - IV	WEST STONE COUNTY WATER ASSN
JOHNSON STEVE	D - IV	UNITED WATER ARKANSAS
JONES JOHN F	D - IV	CENTRAL ARKANSAS WATER
JONES MICHAEL HOWARD	D - II	BRADLEY CO WATER & SE BRADLEY CO WATER ASSN
LONG JOHN LEON	D - VSS	OIL TROUGH WATERWORKS
MCCARROLL THOMAS	D - II	HARDIN WATER ASSOCIATION
MCCRARY JEREMY SCOTT	D - IV & T - IV	BENTON-WASHINGTON REGIONAL PWA
MC FALL CORY	T - IV	NORFORK WATERWORKS & NORFORK VILLAGE WATERWORKS
MORSE BRAD A	T - II	MULBERRY WATERWORKS
NASH RALPH ODELL	D - II	HARRELL WATERWORKS
NIDA MICHAEL GENE	D - II	PEA RIDGE WATERWORKS
PATE JOHN WESLEY	T - III	GOSNELL WATER ASSOCIATION
PATRICK BRANDON LEE	D - III & T - II	HWY 63 WATER ASSOCIATION
PATTERSON JEFFERY LEON	D - II	HELENA WATER SEWER
PENDERGRAST DENNIS PAUL	T - II	LITTLE RIVER WATER ASSOCIATION & VISKASE CORPORATION
PRICE CHRIS G	D - III	CLARKSVILLE WATERWORKS
REARDON COREY NEIL	D - I	GRAVETTE WATERWORKS
ROE DAVID M	T - I	WOODSON-HENSLEY WATER COMPANY
RUDDER JON ERIC	D - III	NORTH EAST PUBLIC WATER AUTH
STEPHENS DAVID ALAN	D - II	BRYANT WATERWORKS
TAYLOR STEVE M	D - II	PEA RIDGE WATERWORKS
TAYLOR VIRGIL LE	D - III	CENTRAL ARKANSAS WATER
THOMPSON MICHAEL EDWARD	D - IV & T - IV	NO AR PWS PROVIDED
TUSZYNSKI GARY	D - IV	PEA RIDGE WATERWORKS
WALRAVEN BRANDON DALE	T - III	TEXARKANA WATER UTILITIES
WHITWORTH BRIAN KEITH	T - IV	MC CRORY WATERWORKS
WILEY ROBERT PORTER	D - III	CITY CORPORATION
WINNER KEVIN WILHAM	T - II	ARSENAL WATER SYSTEM
ZIMMER DARRELL LEON	D - I	VIOLA WATERWORKS

Major Monitoring, MCL, Treatment Technique, & Licensing Violations

Community & Nontransient Noncommunity Public Water Systems – January through March, 2006

ALLPORT WATER	Dmon 1	MOUNT SHERMAN WATER	RMCL 1,2,3
BIGGERS BLUFF DEVELOPMENT	Dmon 3	NAIL-SWAIN WATER	Dmon 1
BOONEVILLE DEVELOPMENT CTR	Dmon 1	NAIL-SWAIN WATER	Bmon 3
BOYDELL WATER	DMCL 1,2,3	NEW LONDON WATER	BMCL 3
BRINKLEY WATER	DMCL 1,2,3	ODEN-PENCIL BLUFF WATER	TMCL 1,2,3
BUENA VISTA-OGEMAW WATER	DMCL 1,2,3	ODEN-PENCIL BLUFF WATER	OperLic 1,2,3
BUENA VISTA-OGEMAW WATER	Dmon 1	OLD UNION WATER	DMCL 1,2,3
CASA WATER	Dmon 1	OZARK WATER	TMCL 3
CHARLESTON WATER	Dmon 1	PANGBURN WATER	SWTR 2
CHICOT JUNCTION WATER	DMCL 1,2,3	PIKE CITY WATER	DMCL 1,2,3
DENNING WATER	Bmon 3	PLAINVIEW WATER	Dmon 1
DERMOTT WATER	BMCL 1	PLAINVIEW WATER	DMCL 1,2,3
EARLE WATER	Bmon 1	PRESCOTT WATER	DMCL 1,2,3
EARLE WATER	Dmon 1	READLAND GRAND LAKE WATER	BMCL 3
EARLE WATER	OperLic 2,3	RIVIERA UTILITIES WATER	Bmon 1
EAST MONROE CO WATER	DMCL 1,2,3	RIVIERA UTILITIES WATER	Dmon 1
EUDORA WATER	BMCL 3	SDM WATER	RMCL 1,2,3
FELSENTHAL WATER	BMCL 3	SDM WATER	FMCL 1,2,3
FIFTY SIX WATER	Bmon 2	SDM WATER	Bmon 2
FLIPPIN WATER	Bmon 2	SEDGWICK WATER	Dmon 3
FLIPPIN WATER	Dmon 2	SOUTH MOUNTAIN WATER	RMCL 1,2,3
FOUNTAIN HILL WATER	OperLic 1	SUBIACO ACADEMY WATER	TMCL 1
GILLHAM REGIONAL WATER	DMCL 1,2,3	SUBIACO ACADEMY WATER	DMCL 1,2,3
GREENWOOD WATER	Dmon 1	SUBIACO ACADEMY WATER	Dmon 1
HOLLY GROVE WATER	Dmon 1	UNITED WATER ASSOC	DMCL 1,2,3
HOLLY GROVE WATER	Bmon 1	WALDRON WATER	Dmon 1
HORSEHOE LAKE WATER	BMCL 2	WHEATLEY WATER	DMCL 1,2,3
HOUSTON WATER	BMCL 2	WIRE ROAD WATER	DMCL 1,2,3
HUMNOKE WATER	Dmon 1		
LAFE RURAL WATER	Dmon 1		
MALVERN WATER	SWTR 1		
MARION COUNTY REGIONAL WATER	DMCL 1,2,3		
MORNING STAR WATER	FMCL 1,2,3		
MORNING STAR WATER	Bmon 2		
MOUNT HOLLY WATER	Bmon 2		
MOUNT IDA WATER	DMCL 1,2,3		

KEY: Bmon = Bacti Monitoring; BMCL = Bacti MCL; Dmon = Disinfection By Product Rule Monitoring; DMCL=Disinfection By Product Rule MCL; Tmon = SWTR Major Monitoring; TMCL = SWTR Treatment Technique; SWTR= Failure to Filter; RMCL = Radiochemical MCL; FMCL = Fluoride MCL; SMCL = Synthetic Chemical MCL; OperLic = Operator Licensing; 1=January, 2=February, 3=March.

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

BENTON WASHINGTON REGIONAL PUBLIC WATER AUTHORITY: construction of a 4500 gpm booster pump station to serve the south portion of the service area and replace the existing Booster Pump Station No. 1.

BONANZA: 30,000 L.F. of 6 & 8 inch mains and a 0.8 MG standpipe to improve distribution pressures and flows. Water supplied by James Fork Regional Water District.

BRADFORD: 6 inch main replacement & upgrades, and a water treatment plant rehabilitation including new aerator and solids contact unit.

CONWAY COUNTY REGIONAL WATER DISTRIBUTION DISTRICT: 106,000 L.F. of 3 – 8 inch mains, two booster pump stations, and two standpipes to serve approximately 90 additional customers in the Ragsdale Mountain, Tucker Mountain, and Woolverton Mountain areas of Conway County.

CONWAY CORPORATION: intake structure modifications to raise the level of Lake Brewer by four feet and increase the yield by 2.5 MGD.

DEER: construction of a treatment plant building, and the addition of pressure filters along with related improvements.

EARLE: construction of a 0.5 MG elevated storage tank.

NORTHEAST YELL COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION: 30,000 L.F. of 10 & 12 inch transmission mains and a 550 gpm booster pump station to purchase wholesale water at a second location from Danville.

RUSSELLVILLE CITY CORPORATION: distribution system 2 MG ground storage tank.

WASHINGTON WATER AUTHORITY: 261,000 L.F. of 2 – 8 inch mains, two new booster pump stations and an upgrade to an existing station, and two standpipes to serve approximately 300 new customers in the Blackburn, Brentwood, and Bunyard Road areas of southeast Washington County,

Mandatory Training Course Schedule

MANDATORY COURSE NAME	START DATE	END DATE	OPCERT GRANT ELIGIBLE COURSE	CITY	LOCATION All courses begin at 8 a.m.	SPONSOR
Intermediate Water Treatment	08/15/06	08/17/06	No	Batesville	Fire Training Center	AEA
Advanced Treatment	08/22/06	08/24/06	No	Rogers	Rogers Convention Center	ARWA
Intermediate Water Distribution	08/28/06	08/30/06	No	Camden	AR Environmental Academy	AEA
Basic Water Math	09/05/06	09/05/06	Yes	Mtn. Home	Baxter County Training Facility	ARWA
Intermediate Water Distribution	09/05/06	09/07/06	No	Clarksville	Clarksville Water & Light Ops Bldg	ARWA
Basic Water Treatment	09/05/06	09/07/06	No	Little Rock	Ark Dept of Environmental Quality	AEA
Applied Water Math	09/06/06	09/06/06	Yes	Mtn. Home	Baxter County Training Facility	ARWA
ADHHS Water Compliance	09/07/06	09/07/06	Yes	Mtn. Home	Baxter County Training Facility	ARWA
ADHHS Water Compliance	09/11/06	09/12/06	No	Hot Springs	Hot Springs Conv. Center (2 day Course)	ARWA
Applied Water Math	09/11/06	09/12/06	No	Hot Springs	Hot Springs Convention Center	ARWA
Basic Water Math	09/11/06	09/12/06	No	Hot Springs	Hot Springs Convention Center	ARWA
Basic Water Math	09/18/06	09/22/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Applied Water Math	09/18/06	09/22/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Basic Water Treatment	09/19/06	09/21/06	Yes	Camden	AR Environmental Academy	AEA
Basic Water Distribution	09/26/06	09/28/06	No	Siloam Springs	Water Treatment Plant	AEA
Intermediate Water Distribution	10/02/06	10/13/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Intermediate Water Treatment	10/02/06	10/13/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Intermediate Water Distribution	10/03/06	10/05/06	Yes	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	ARWA
Basic Water Math	10/03/06	10/03/06	No	Jonesboro	Contact AEA for location information	AEA
Advanced Water Distribution	10/03/06	10/08/06	No	Clarksville	Clarksville Water & Light Ops Bldg	ARWA
Applied Water Math	10/04/06	10/04/06	No	Jonesboro	Contact AEA for course location	AEA
ADHHS Water Compliance	10/05/06	10/05/06	Yes	Jonesboro	Contact AEA for course location	AEA
Intermediate Water Treatment	10/10/06	10/12/06	Yes	Monticello	University of Arkansas-Monticello	AEA
Advanced Water Distribution	10/23/06	10/25/06	No	Hot Springs	Wastewater Treatment Plant	AEA
Basic Water Distribution	10/24/06	10/26/06	No	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	ARWA
Intermediate Water Distribution	10/31/06	11/02/06	No	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	ARWA
Basic Water Distribution	11/06/06	11/08/06	Yes	Camden	AR Environmental Academy	AEA
Applied Water Math	11/06/06	11/10/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Basic Water Math	11/06/06	11/10/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Basic Water Treatment	11/13/06	11/24/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Basic Water Distribution	11/13/06	11/24/06	No	Internet	Contact AEA for registration information	AEA
Advanced Water Treatment	11/14/06	11/16/06	No	Ft. Smith	Contact AEA for course location	AEA
Intermediate Water Treatment	11/14/06	11/16/06	Yes	Malvern	Ouachita Technical College	ARWA
ADHHS Water Compliance	11/21/06	11/21/06	No	Little Rock	DOH, 4815 W. Markham, L137	ADHHS

*OpCERT Grant Eligible Course – Meal and lodging expenses may be reimbursed for operators from Grant Eligible Public Water Systems. Grant eligible systems must be a Community or Non-Transient Non Community Public Water System serving a population of 3300 or less. The course is space limited, with eligible system operators given preference.

All courses require pre-registration. The course sponsor must be contacted to register for each course and to confirm course information that is subject to change or cancellation. Contact information for the sponsors is shown below.

ADH – Arkansas Department of Health – Contact Martin Nutt – (501) 661-2623 – mnutt@healthyarkansas.com

AEA – Arkansas Environmental Academy – Contact Letitia Rusch – (870) 574-4550 – lrusch@sautech.edu

ARWA – Arkansas Rural Water Association – Contact Carol Shaw – (501) 676-2255 – arkwa@sbcglobal.net

Additional courses are shown on the internet at: <http://www.healthysarkansas.com/eng/autoupdates/oper/opcert/opcertmg.htm>

REPORT OF THE

Arkansas Drinking Water Advisory and Operator Licensing Committee

A. Martin Nutt, Training and Certification Officer

The Committee held its quarterly meeting April 12, 2006 at the offices of Arkansas Rural Water Association in Lonoke, Arkansas. All Members were present.

Standing Business

The Committee approved three high school education waivers, and reviewed the progress on its goals set for the 2006 fiscal year. Those included the training database for which Harold Seifert, Engineering Section Director, reported not a lot of progress had been made, and two policies for which Martin Nutt, Training & Certification Officer, received approval. One was incorporating ABC's Guidelines for Distance Education and one was for license exam materials.

Seifert reported on the Section's efforts to address its funding needs, and that Bob Makin, Assistant Director, had developed a presentation to be used at operator training meetings on the uses of the fee money and what future funding needs must be met.

Nutt reported that little progress on the image capture of the program files had been made but that the compliance summary revisions and the development of exam preparation materials on a CD-ROM were progressing.

Old Business

Seifert shared under budget concerns that the Section may not get as much SDWA Supervision grant as last year and that the ADHHS overhead percentage for grants no longer covered the cost for copying, phones and other similar expenses.

Seifert also discussed under his report on the OpCert Training grant possibly allowing outside courses to have travel expenses reimbursed. He noted any changes in the grant must follow administrative procedures and be approved by EPA. Dennis Sternberg of Arkansas Rural Water Association suggested allowing money to attend AWW&WEA and ARWA conferences. Nutt noted the Arkansas

Environmental Academy had training labs for electrical, pumping, and wet chemistry, and that ARWA had equipment for hands-on training for distribution systems. Committee member Les Patterson suggested additional math courses.

Nutt and Committee member Steve DiCicco reported on their attendance at the annual conference of the Association of Boards of Certification in Las Vegas. DiCicco noted he had learned much about what ABC did, and about how other states operate. Nutt said his two notable items from the conference were discussions on the validation of continuing education, and on-line exams as an up-coming technology.

Patterson reported on AWW&WEA efforts to better track attendance at their meetings. He provided a handout on a proposed concept of a training database with ID Wallet Cards. The proposal came from an AWW&WEA Northwest District Committee chaired by Scott Bounds of Benton/Washington Regional Public Water Authority. The idea is to combine attendance data, tied to one combined wallet card, for water operators, waste water operators and possibly other related licenses. The card would be used to record an operator's attendance of all renewal training attended. ARWA and AEA representatives stated they would support such a system. Committee member Chuck Nickles motioned to create a goal of facilitating an overall training tracking web-based database to be addressed at each meeting with Patterson spearheading the goal. The motion passed.

New Business

The Committee reviewed two proposed guidelines presented by Robert Hart, Engineering Section Chief Engineer.

The first concerned the regulation of small water systems, typically apartment buildings, which are regulated solely on the basis that they resell their water. The guidelines (see page 5) proposed a series of stipulations for dealing with such

systems in response to federal guidance issued by EPA in 2003. The Committee discussed the policy's purposes and limitations. Nickle motioned to approve policy and the policy was approved.

The second guideline presented by Hart dealt with maintaining water quality during an underwater storage tank inspection & cleaning. He provided copies of the proposed guideline which was based on AWWA Standard C652: Disinfection of Storage Tanks. The Committee quizzed Hart about the guidelines and expressed concern about prior notification of the Engineering Section when such an inspection was proposed, verification of water quality, and notification of customers about a tank's entry. The Committee moved that the guideline be reworked and presented at the next Committee meeting.

Nutt requested the Committee to review new exam study guides for Treatment and Distribution. He stated that he considered their draft and requested the Committee's comments in reference to format and operator ability to understand the study guide. When he noted that revised formula sheets had been used since January 2006, but that trainers had inadvertently not been furnished copies, Sternberg asked to address the Committee. He said the change in the formula sheets had been made without their knowledge and was confusing to the operators. His comments were seconded by Dwayne Huff of ARWA and Jim Phillipp of AEA. Committee member Gary Hum inquired how this could be corrected and Nutt volunteered that he was in control of the formula sheet and had not correctly handled the distribution of the new sheet. Considerable discussion followed on the development and review of a new formula sheet.

Seifert motioned that the new formula sheet be removed and the old sheet be reinstated until such time as a Committee workgroup including the training organizations could rework it. The motion passed.

Nutt then returned to the study guide review stating that the study guide would have the new guide with the old formula sheet. The Committee accepted the study guides.

Sternberg then requested if the old style of exam summary master report could be obtained. Debbie Beatty, Administrative Assistant responded that she was furnishing what Engineering received from ABC except for the operator master reports which could be added to the information being furnished. The trainers indicated the additional master report would be helpful.

A proposed revision to the license application form was approved. The revision will replace the reference section with an Operator in Charge/Mayor sign off indicating that the experience and education described for the applicant is representative of the job duties.

Nutt reported that the nomination process for outgoing Committee Chair Butch Bartholomew's had resulted in one nominee from the water industry groups - ARWA, Water Managers and AWW&WEA, that responded. That nominee was Scott Borman, Benton / Washington Regional Public Water Authority. His nomination went before the State Board of Health in April and was approved.

Reports to the Committee

Seifert, in his Executive Secretary and Section's report, stated that Financial Management was in disarray making it difficult to get anything purchased, determine spending levels, etc.

Nutt, in his Training and Certification Officer's report, introduced new hire Jeremy Rowe, Training Coordinator. He also reviewed exam performance data, and enforcement actions with the Committee. He noted the program was continuing to function to the best of its ability.

Gary Oden with Arkansas Environmental Academy reported the training center is in the best shape that it had been in a long time. New administrative offices have been completed, and the Academy's re-organization was working well. He introduced Randy Harper who had recently been promoted to Assistant

WATER OPERATOR LICENSE EXAMINATIONS

Listed below are the dates and locations of examination sessions as scheduled, as of mid-July. All Treatment and Distribution exam grades will be available at the sessions. Acceptable photo identification (Drivers License or equivalent) will be required to sit for an Exam. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices are not allowed in exam sessions. Non-programmable calculators are allowed

DATE	CITY	LOCATION	TIME
8/4/2006	Forrest City	Wastewater Treatment Plant	9:00 AM
8/11/2006	Clarksville	Clarksville Water & Light Operations Building	9:00 AM
8/11/2006	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	9:00 AM
8/18/2006	Batesville	Fire Training Center	9:00 AM
8/25/2006	Rogers	Rogers Convention Center	9:00 AM
8/31/2006	Camden	AR Environmental Academy	9:00 AM
9/8/2006	Clarksville	Clarksville Water & Light Operations Building	9:00 AM
9/8/2006	Little Rock	Ark. Dept. of Environmental Quality	9:00 AM
9/22/2006	Camden	AR Environmental Academy	9:00 AM
9/29/2006	Siloam Springs	Water Treatment Plant	9:00 AM
10/6/2006	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	9:00 AM
10/6/2006	Clarksville	Clarksville Water & Light Operations Building	9:00 AM
10/13/2006	Monticello	University of Arkansas-Monticello	9:00 AM
10/26/2006	Hot Springs	Wastewater Treatment Plant	9:00 AM
10/27/2006	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	9:00 AM
11/3/2006	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	9:00 AM
11/9/2006	Camden	AR Environmental Academy	9:00 AM
11/17/2006	Malvern	Ouachita Technical College	9:00 AM
11/17/2006	Fort Smith	Contact AEA for location information	9:00 AM
11/30/2006	Paragould	Wastewater Treatment Plant	9:00 AM
12/8/2006	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	9:00 AM
12/15/2006	Lonoke	ARWA Training Facility	9:00 AM
12/15/2006	Camden	AR Environmental Academy	9:00 AM

The above exam session information is subject to change. You should confirm this information just prior to the scheduled examination period or see our website: <http://www.healthyarkansas.com/eng/autoupdates/oper/operexam.htm>

Please verify that your license application has been filed with this office and that the required exam fee for each exam has been paid. The license exams require significant preparation prior to sitting for the exam. The preparation must include extensive study utilizing the study guide and recommended reference materials. Credit for the mandatory Certification Training Courses must be obtained prior to sitting for an exam.

PREPARATION = SUCCESS

Director. Harper briefly addressed the Committee stating he looked forward to working with the Committee. Philipp then provided a written report of training progress since he had been instructing.

Sternberg reported for the Arkansas Rural Water Association. He passed out a training report that recapped ARWA's recent training that included training attendance numbers. He had no further updates to report.

Other Business

Patterson brought forth a concern about ADHHS Engineering Section personnel. He stated presently Engineering Staff are not allowed to be licensed and he felt they should be.

Hum agreed that it would be beneficial since Engineering's staff are the ones approving specs, providing technical assistance and enforcing the regulations on Public Water Systems and operators. Seifert indicated that the experience requirement had been the reason licenses were withheld. Bartholomew asked if the Committee wanted additional review on the subject. A subcommittee, of Patterson, Hum, and DiCicco, was formed to research this matter further and report back to the Committee.

Bartholomew had some "end of term" farewell comments. The Committee concluded its meeting by setting its next meeting for July 10, 2006.

AWW&WEA District Meetings

See also the Division's web site www.healthyarkansas.com/eng/ for updates.

DATE	TIME	CITY	LOCATION	SPONSOR
August 2006				
3	5:00PM	Benton	Senior Center	Central District, AWW&WEA
3	6:30PM	Fort Smith	Golden Corral	Western District, AWW&WEA
10	5:30PM	Russellville	Western Sizzlin	AR Valley District, AWW&WEA
10	5:00PM	to be announced	to be announced	Eastern District, AWW&WEA
11	5:45PM	Batesville	Western Sizzlin	North Central District, AWW&WEA
15	6:30PM	Crossett	Western Sizzlin	Southeast District, AWW&WEA
16	9:00AM	Harrison	Comfort Inn	Northwest District, AWW&WEA
17	1:00PM	Jonesboro	Ed's Catfish	Northeast District, AWW&WEA
24	6:30PM	Prescott	Hope Western Sizzlin	Southwest District, AWW&WEA
September 2006				
7	5:00PM	Benton	Senior Center	Central District, AWW&WEA
7	6:30PM	Fort Smith	Golden Corral	Western District, AWW&WEA
14	5:30PM	Cass	Job Corp Center	AR Valley District, AWW&WEA
14	5:30PM	Batesville	Western Sizzlin	North Central District, AWW&WEA
14	5:00PM	Helena	Delta Area HEC	Eastern District, AWW&WEA
19	6:30PM	Barkada	Young's Catfish	Southeast District, AWW&WEA
20	9:00AM	Springdale	Jones Center	Northwest District, AWW&WEA
21	1:00PM	Jonesboro	Western Sizzlin	Northeast District, AWW&WEA
28	6:30PM	East Camden	SAU Environmental Academy	Southwest District, AWW&WEA
October 2006				
5	5:00PM	to be announced	to be announced	Central District, AWW&WEA
5	6:30PM	Fort Smith	Columbus Acres	Western District, AWW&WEA
12	5:30PM	Russellville	Western Sizzlin	AR Valley District, AWW&WEA
12	5:30PM	Batesville	Western Sizzlin	North Central District, AWW&WEA
12	5:00PM	West Memphis	Southland Greyhound Park	Eastern District, AWW&WEA
17	6:30PM	Hamburg	Catfish Inn	Southeast District, AWW&WEA
18	9:00AM	Eureka Springs	Inn of the Ozarks	Northwest District, AWW&WEA
19	1:00PM	Paragould	City Light & Water Bldg	Northeast District, AWW&WEA
26	6:30PM	Waldo	Magnolia Western Sizzlin	Southwest District, AWW&WEA
November 2006				
2	5:00PM	to be announced	to be announced	Central District, AWW&WEA
2	6:30PM	Fort Smith	Golden Corral	Western District, AWW&WEA
2	5:00PM	Marianna	Fire Station	Eastern District, AWW&WEA
9	5:30PM	Clarksville	Western Sizzlin	AR Valley District, AWW&WEA
9	5:30PM	Batesville	Western Sizzlin	North Central District, AWW&WEA
15	9:00AM	Berryville	Community Center	Northwest District, AWW&WEA
16	1:00PM	Jonesboro	Ron's Catfish	Northeast District, AWW&WEA
16	6:30PM	Hope	Western Sizzlin	Southwest District, AWW&WEA
21	6:30PM	Crossett	Western Sizzlin	Southeast District, AWW&WEA

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