



# D i g e s t e r

## o v e r t h e s p i l l w a y

*"for optimum operation/maintenance of all water and wastewater facilities"*

## Drinking Water Information About to Flow to Consumers

**Reports will tell users "what," "when," "where," and other things about tap water**

When the federal Safe Drinking Water Act was re-authorized in 1996, it was amended to include a provision that all community water systems must report to their customers annually about the water coming into their homes. Working from the principle that people have a right to know where their water comes from and what's in it, the SDWA mandated consumer confidence reports (CCRs) and spelled out what they must contain as well as some suggested but not required supplements.

Designed to reassure users about overall quality, and to identify potential threats to the water that flows from their taps, the CCRs are also seen as an educational tool that can inform consumers about the complexity and cost of keeping their drinking water both safe and plentiful.

It is expected that if users better understand what is required to provide them every day with drinking water that meets state and federal standards for safety, they may be more supportive when potentially costly upgrades are necessary to continue those efforts.

### **Reports must tell users about the system, its sources and its track record**

Supply operators will be faced with the challenge of providing required information in a user-friendly format that will not daunt consumers

and deter them from reading what it offers. U.S. EPA estimates that most reports, not including required tables, will fit on a maximum of two sheets of paper.

Each CCR should have four parts: sections that provide an introduction, information on the specific water system, educational statements, and a compliance history, as well as a table listing all state and federally regulated contaminants that were detected over the CCR reporting year. These components are mandatory.

In addition, supplies may provide a table listing all contaminants that were detected during the reporting period even if they are not regulated and not required to be monitored for, and a table listing all contaminants that were monitored for but not found. These provisions are optional, but the Illinois EPA is encouraging supplies to provide this information. The Agency is assisting supplies with guidance and providing data for their first reports.

### **Reports will be based on calendar-year information.**

The first report, covering sample data collected between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 1998, must be delivered to consumers by Oct. 19, 1999. Starting with the year 2000, systems must provide reports for the previous year by July 1. New community water systems must deliver their first reports by

July 1 of the year following their first full year of operation, and annually thereafter.

Supplies must provide a name and phone number for a contact person to answer questions raised by the report, information on public participation and, when applicable, information for non-English speaking populations. The type and location of water sources must be identified, and information must be provided on any violations that occurred, including their potential health effects and a description of corrective actions taken. If supplies have been given variances or exemptions from certain regulations, the variance or exemption must be explained. Specific warnings must be included for vulnerable populations about Cryptosporidium and radon, if applicable.

There are specific requirements for nitrate, lead, arsenic and trihalomethanes. If a supply collected 20 or more samples during its most recent round of monitoring, and detected

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lead above the action level in more than 5 percent, but fewer than 10 percent of the homes sampled, the CCR must include an informational statement in the footnote page. The statement must provide information about potential threats to infants and young children from elevated lead exposure, as well as information about steps the homeowner may take, and the number for U.S. EPA's Safe Drinking Water hotline.

Comparable informational statements are required on the footnote page for supplies that have detected nitrate levels below the MCL but above 5 mg/l; if arsenic was detected at 25 ug/l (50 percent of the MCL), or if trihalomethanes were found at above 80 ppb (the new MCL that will become effective in 2001).

Even small systems must provide consumer confidence reports. Every community water system that serves at least 25 residents year round or has at least 15 service connections must prepare and distribute a consumer confidence report. Community water systems that sell water to another community water system must provide monitoring data and other information necessary to enable the satellite (purchasing) supply to produce its CCR.

To ensure that as many consumers as possible have access to the information, every supply is required to deliver a copy of its CCR to each customer. Supplies may opt to send the reports by direct mail, include them in monthly newsletters sent to users, include the reports with water bills, or hand deliver them.

In addition, supplies must make a "good faith" effort to reach non-bill-paying consumers, like apartment dwellers, with the information. Suggested ways of doing this would be posting the report on a publicly accessible Internet site, mailing reports to all postal patrons, advertising its availability in local newspapers, on radio or tv, or posting it in public places. A n y system that serves 100,000 or more people must post its reports on a publicly accessible Internet site.

To assist operators in preparing their CCRs, the Illinois EPA has prepared a manual that will walk operators through the process step-by-step. It is designed so it can be kept in a ring binder for future use. Copies of the manual have been sent to all community water supplies.

The manual in electronic format (Microsoft Word 97, Word Perfect, and Rich Text Format (RTF) can be obtained by calling the Agency's CCR coordinator at 217-785-0561 or by from <epa1140@epa.state.il.us>. Additional information about CCRs can be found on USEPA's website at <<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/ccr1.html>>

#### ***Seminars will provide information and answers to CCR questions***

The Illinois Section American Water Works Association is offering a series of update seminars around the state during April and May that will cover not only the CCR requirements, but information on public notice, lead and copper regulations, acidification,

operator certification, the disinfectants/disinfection byproducts rule and the interim enhanced surface water treatment rule. The CCR will be a main topic during the daylong events which start promptly at 9 a.m. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Operators should take with them the CCR information they received from Illinois EPA during the last week of March.

Cost, which includes lunch, is \$35 for AWWA members and \$50 for non-members. Payment can be made by Visa/Mastercard or check. Advance registration is required, and can be sent by mail to ISAWWA, P.O. Box 10, Wedron, IL 60557, or faxed with credit card information to 815-246-7077, or through the Illinois Section AWWA website at <http://www.isawwa.com>

#### ***Seminar dates and locations include:***

- April 27: Holiday Inn,  
Rochelle
- May 4: Raddison Suites  
Hotel, Champaign
- May 11: Camelot Restaurant,  
Hickory Hills
- May 12: DuPage County  
Water Commission,  
Elmhurst

#### ***Editor's note:***

Charles Bell retired as head of the field operations section in the Agency's Division of Public Water Supplies last December 4, a day proclaimed by Gov. Jim Edgar as "Charles Bell Day in Illinois." Among the tributes paid to Charlie at his retirement dinner was this poem by Sandy Sands. Sandy works for PWS in the Rockford regional office and generously agreed to let us reprint her creative efforts here.



*Charles R. Bell, Jr.*

# 387 Community Water Systems Honored for Fluoride Achievements

**Studies show each dollar spent on fluoridation saves up to \$56 in dental care costs**

Consistent efforts to protect children's teeth by maintaining optimal levels of fluoride in drinking water have earned 387 community water systems state recognition. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Department of Public Health have released the names of community water supplies that met the state's mandated fluoride level in their drinking water every month during 1998.

Among the 387 are three that have earned the commendation for at least 15 years. Another 13 have had perfect records for at least 10 years, and 70 of this year's honorees have met the mandated levels monthly for at least five consecutive years.

An additional 94 received honorable mention for maintaining the levels for 11 of 12 months in 1998.

Fluoride occurs naturally in water, but in many communities the amount of the mineral is too low to protect children's teeth. For these public water supplies, fluoride must be added and maintained at specific levels. Presently, 950 Illinois water systems must add fluoride to their drinking water.

Samples must be submitted monthly for testing to ensure compliance. Studies have shown that for every dollar spent on fluoridation, as much as \$56 in dental care costs is saved. Fluoridating a community water supply costs an average of 20 to 30 cents per person.

Congratulating the public water supplies for their successful efforts to promote children's dental health, Illinois EPA Director Tom Skinner said: "We are happy to join with IDPH in

recognizing the many water plant operators whose everyday efforts ensure that Illinois residents of all ages are receiving tap water with proper levels of fluoride. Proper fluoride levels in community drinking water supplies are particularly efficient and cost-effective in improving our children's dental health."

Dr. John R. Lumpkin, state public health director said: "Oral health is an important part of an individual's total health. By ensuring that state fluoride requirements are met consistently, these water systems enhance the oral health of the citizens they serve."

A list of the communities being recognized follows on page four.

## Ode To - Charles R. Bell, Jr.

*Field Operations Manager  
Illinois Environmental  
Protection Agency  
Division of Public Water Supplies  
Retiring December 31, 1998*

*We wish you well, Mr. Bell.  
It was swell, Mr. Bell.  
Out of hell, Mr. Bell.  
You set your sights,  
to greater heights.*

*California could not you hold,  
to Illinois you set your mold.  
Rockford was too small for you,  
so on to Springfield with much to do.*

*Paperwork amassed in vast piles,  
littered desk, walls and  
overfilled files.*

*Somewhere in that coherent mess,  
Mr. Bell was at his desk.*

*Reports and regulations passed  
through his hands,  
some to sign and some to the  
round cans.*

*Not much got past his eagle eye view,  
as all the Regions well knew.  
His mouse flew fast on its little pad,  
typing letters and memos, some good,  
some bad.*

*His writing was poor, the computer  
was there, volumes of paperwork then  
went out with care.*

*The public water supply operators  
knew him well, and all thought that  
he was swell.  
Anyone could call and get his help,  
Mr. Bell was there with no  
verbal welt.*

*His voice of authority rang out from  
the podium - with speeches on regula-  
tions; lead, radium and sodium.*

*The groans from the audience were  
heard loud and clear,*

*with understanding and compassion,  
Mr. Bell was near.*

*Little could be done to soften the  
pain, of the new regulations which  
were sometimes insane.*

*Mr. Bell called out, "I know how you  
feel, we will somehow get through this  
deal."*

*A mentor, a father, a confessor you  
have been, fair in your dealings with  
us till the end.*

*We will miss you Mr. Bell,  
Brett Hanson, Kirk Bergstrom, Sandy  
VanFleet & Sandy Sands, as well.*

*Sharlene has you now, so keep this in  
mind, help with the housework and be  
ever so kind.*

*Good luck in your future, good luck  
Sharlene too, please keep us in mind  
at the EPA Zoo.*

*By: Sandy Sands  
Rockford Regional Office*

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# Operator News

## Mid-Central Water Pollution Control Operators' Association

The Mid-Central Water Pollution Control Operators' Association has set the schedule for its 1999 meetings. Membership is open to wastewater operators in Cass, Christian, Greene, Jersey, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Menard, Montgomery, Morgan, Sangamon, Scott and nearby counties.

Meetings usually begin at 1 p.m. following a lunch provided by the host facility at noon. Members and other interested persons are invited to contact association officers to suggest topics or speakers for upcoming meetings.

A March 30 meeting at Taylor Springs kicked off the yearly agenda. The group's annual picnic will be held July 30 at Hillsboro. The date for the Christmas dinner event will be either Dec. 10 or Dec. 17.

Speakers and topics will be announced later for meetings scheduled for May 25 at Stonington; Sept. 28 at Waverly, and Nov. 23 in Springfield.

Officers of the group, and numbers where they can be reached, are: Mark Odorizzi, of Van Devanter Engineering, president, 314-343-8880; Ron Merriman, Hillsboro STP, secretary/treasurer, 217-532-2951; and John Wells, IEPA/DWPC, Springfield regional office, 217-786-6892.

## Central Illinois Professional Wastewater Operators

Approximately 80 wastewater treatment plant operators attended the third meeting of the recently organized group, a lunchtime meeting at Alexander's Steakhouse in Champaign held in late January.

Greg Gress is the new president for the group which expects to finalize its mission statement in coming weeks. Larry Dorn, Newton, was elected vice president and Billie Kinnett, Rossville, is new secretary-treasurer.

Guest speakers included John Colletti, biosolids team leader from U.S.



*John Colletti gestures as he discusses federal sludge regulations during the morning session.*



*Greg Gress will not only wield the gavel as 1999 president of CIPWO, he'll be entitled to wear a special, custom-designed piece of head gear. Since the pick goes all the way through, actually wearing the classy crown is optional.*

EPA's Region 5 office; Al Keller, northern municipal unit manager, Illinois EPA; Charlie Williams, operations manager for the Sanitary District of Decatur; Frank McPherson, Fairbury superintendent; Valdis Aistars, Region 5 biosolids enforcement coordinator, and Jeff Hutton, Environmental Protection Engineer, permits section, Illinois EPA.

During the morning session, Colletti and Aistars presented a brief overview of the federal 503 sludge program and addressed specific areas of concern to operators. Keller discussed new state regulations and the status of state delegation of the 503 program. The afternoon program was a panel discussion of sludge management.

## Wastewater Plant Operator Candidates Pass Exams

Those passing the examinations for certification as wastewater treatment plant operators between October 1 and Dec. 31, 1998, are listed here by category, as well as their places of employment where these are known. The -0- symbol indicates this information was not available.

### Class 1

Duke, Steven J.	Villa Grove WWTP
King, Billy E.	Crest Hall WWTP
Konopka, Joseph S.	Elmhurst WWTP
Lindstrom, Jeffrey B.	Joliet
Newill, Todd D.	Elizabeth WWTF

### Class 2

Beard, Robert W.	Carlinville WTF
Bernardowicz, James M.	Peotone WWTF
Biggs, Shelby D.	Casey WWTF
Dennison, James B.	Village Grove WWTF
Gregory, Matthew P.	Mahomet WWTF
Kraft, Richard G.	Sauget WWTF
Little, Douglas R.	Caterpillar/Mossville
Morphey, Christopher P.	Fox Metro WRD
Richardson, Donald L.	CIPS/Taylorville
Straub, James G.	Waterloo WWTF

### Class 3

Bunch, Darrell L.	E. Alton WWTF
Heron, Michael E.	Fox Lake Regional WWTF
Monson, Mark T.	Hampshire WWTF
Rivett, Paul E.	Seneca WWTF
Weber, Mark O.	Pontiac WWTP

### Class 4

Bacho, Steven C.	Glenbard
Blickensderfer, Mark A.	Cerro Gordo WWTF
Brecklin, Richard L.	Germantown Hills WWTF
Cottrell, Jonathan A.	Mackinaw WWTF
DeRose, Anthony L.	Harvard WWTF
Dhamers, Jason C.	Salt Creek SD
Dixon, L. Wayne	Mason City WWTF
Earll, Wally L.	U.S. Penitentiary/ Menard
Foster, Clarence R.	-0-
Gearing, Daniel E.	Vienna WWTF
Gunning, Kenneth W.	Carlinville WWTF
Hull, David K. Jr.	Citizens Utility Co.
Kaufman, Jon J.	Mendota WWTF
Klossing, Mark D.	Plano WWTF
Kompanowski, Daniel A.	Itasca WWTF
Miller, Brian C.	Marseilles WWTF
Pew, Gaylon S. Jr.	Caterpillar/Mossville
Planinsek, James	Rockdale WWTP

Royer, Tyson B.	-0-
Shepherd, Brian R.	E. Peoria WWTF #1
Winka, Gary A.	Nashville WWTF

## Digester/Over the Spillway

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Editor.....Joan Muraro

October, November, December 1998 **Class K Pass**

Beautz, Bryan F. Marathon Ashland  
Blackburn, Richard J. Kerr McGee  
Blackledge, Brian E. Craftsman Plating  
Booher, Matthew Northern Illinois Gas  
Brady, Maurice A. Amax Plating  
Brennan, Michael J. Birmingham Steel Corp.  
Brown, Leonard R. L.R. Brown Specialities  
Bryarly, Patrick S. Midwest Metal Coatings  
Burnett, Tim Brunswick Roadmaster  
Bushore, Kenneth R. Shell Oil  
Cameron, James W. PDC Laboratories  
Chelini, Michael E. Amoco Chemical  
Gheranichit, Hank Warner Lambert  
Doshi, Narayan Akzo Nobel Chemical  
England, Christopher Nobert Plating  
Flary, Robert C. Jr. Quanex Nichols Aluminum  
Gomex, Domingo Nobert Plating  
Griffith, William B. Com. Ed.  
Grimm, David M. Dixline Corp.  
Halen, Matthew F. Joy Technologies  
Hall, Jake API Industries  
Hillenburg, Douglas C. Warner Lambert  
Hodge, Devin S. Envirite of Illinois  
Hopkins, Jeff C. Central Soya

Hrubec, Stephen F. Mobil Oil Refinery  
Im, Kong Been Warner Lambert  
Jacobs, Dennis J. Omni Services Rental  
Johnson, Margaret Cooper Power Systems  
Johnson, Larry G. Rich Products  
Kaminsky, John L. Envirite of Illinois  
Kohon, Steve Modine Mfg.  
Krones, Steve Swissland Packing  
Larkowski, Kevin L. Excel  
Laskey, Martin J. Steiner Co.  
Maddox, Michael E. Metal Finishing  
Mahmoudi, Sasan D. Rich Products Corp.  
Mapp, Shannon R. Shell Oil  
McCallister, Mar R. Caterpillar  
McCarrey, Carl J. Kerr McGee  
Mendoza, Juan Able Casting Inc.  
Michener, Charles W. Kerr McGee  
Moran, Joseph Marathon Ashland  
Nisita, Vittorio F. Wisconsin Tissue Mills  
Palm, William J. Rich Products  
Proulx, James C. Gen. Chem. Corp.  
Rajdl, George CP Hall Co.  
Ramirez, Sergio Meco Metal Finishing  
Reed, Michael T. Robbins Resource Rec.  
Richmond, Bruce A. Sr. Rockford Prod. Plant 2  
Saban, Heather F. Daubert Chem. Co.  
Schumacher, Peter N. Modine Mfg.

Schwalenberg, Hope M. Wisconsin Tissue Mills  
Simoncini, Richard M. MG Industries  
Smith, Larry W. Amax Plating  
Sprinkle, Frank D. Ill. Central RR  
Stealey, Dennis N. Marathon Oil  
Stork, Tim M. Minwax/Sherwin Williams  
Szadziwicz, Henry P. Richardson Electronics  
Tarchala, Marian Electronic Plating  
Thompson, Michael MRATHON Ashland  
Thomsen, Eric W. Case Corp.  
Torres, Antonio Cameo Container  
Veruchi, Bryan T. Warner Lambert  
Warner, Jerry F. Case Corp.  
Weight, John G. Siemens & Furnas Control  
Welsh, Randall S. O&K Midway Wire  
Weslow, David K. Nissan Forklift  
Weter, Dale R. Sterling Labs  
White, Joe L. Decatur Container  
Whitman, Richard F. Ace Hardware  
Williams, Lindsay K. Vancom  
Wittler, Robert Jr. Knapheide Mfg.  
Yaman, Suha Ibidem Circuits of America

## Bureau of Water Annual Hearing

The Illinois EPA Bureau of Water will hold its annual hearing starting at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 1999, in the training room at the Illinois EPA offices, 1021 N. Grand Ave. East, Springfield, Illinois. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the following programs:

Revolving loan funds for waste water and drinking water, and the Water Quality Management Plan update.

Additional information is available from: Bill Hammel, e-mail: [epa8123@epa.state.il.us](mailto:epa8123@epa.state.il.us) or telephone 217/785-3924.

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